

West Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2022/23 Consultation

Appendix to consultation analysis report

December to February 2022

Author: Consultation & Engagement Team, West Northamptonshire Council

Owner: Finance, North Northamptonshire Council

Contents

Appendix 1: Draft budget consultation questionnaire full results.....	3
About you	6
Proposed increase to Council Tax.....	7
Fees and charges.....	65
Draft Capital Programme 2022-26.....	84
Other comments	90
Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2022/23	96
Demographics.....	110
Appendix 2: Other responses	118
Feedback receive via letters / emails	118
Feedback received via social media	151

Appendix 1: Draft budget consultation questionnaire full results

West Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2022/23 Consultation

Overview

At a meeting held on 21st December, West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet approved for consultation its draft budget for 2022-23 and we are now seeking views on these proposals.

The main proposals are:

- To increase the average Council Tax by 2.99%, comprising 1.99% core tax and a further 1% adult social care precept, which is the maximum amount permitted. This would contribute around £9.77m per annum and would represent an average Band D level of Council Tax of £1,613.23 in 2022/23, or the equivalent of £31.02 per week.
- Fees and charges schedule review
- Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2022/23 review, including an increase of Council tenant rent of 4.1%
- Draft Capital Programme 2022/26

Our budget proposals for next year are made up of £397.4m for schools and £336.4m for all other services we provide. It will ensure we can maintain services and standards and it proposes no service reductions.

This is an increase of £42.2m on the current year, which will enable us to continue improving vital services like social care, refuse collection and recycling, transport, highways, planning and wellbeing.

Service improvements incorporated into the budget includes:

- Additional investment in the Highways service
- Additional investment in Refuse and Recycling
- The promotion of bus services
- Investment to drive forward the sustainability/green agenda
- Participation in the National Graduate Development Programme
- Investment in Young Driver Training
- Investment in the Flood Service
- The creation of an HS2 Marshall post for three years
- The impact of switching off the Bus Lane camera in the St. James' area
- Project resource to promote walking and cycling schemes

It will also fund pay and other inflationary costs incurred against existing contracts as well as unavoidable and one-off pressures.

These pressures are offset by £19.6m of productivity gains and additional income and technical budget adjustments of £12.8m, providing for a net budget growth of £9.8m.

The budget assumes an average Council Tax increase of 2.99% which is to be invested in local service provision. This would represent an average increase on a Band D property across the area of £46.84 per year or £0.90p per week.

As part of our approach, we continue our journey to harmonise Council Tax across West Northamptonshire by 2023-24. This means greater increases in some areas.

We're proposing the following increases in the former borough and district areas:

- Daventry - £62.93 per year
- Northampton - £36.24 per year
- South Northamptonshire - £46.84 per year

Through our Housing Revenue Account (HRA), we've identified £45m next year for our new-build and major projects programme, through which we aim to create 200 new homes per year to 2027.

Most of the rest of our HRA budget will be targeted at repairs and improvements on our existing housing stock, along with disabled adaptations.

To ensure we can do all of this, we'll need to increase rents in our rented housing by 4.1 per cent and charges for garages by 3.1 per cent.

The impacts of Covid 19 have and are likely to continue to place higher demands on all of our services and it is clear we face a challenging medium term financial position. However, it is important we deliver long term sustainability and affordability to ensure services are fit for the future. As such, we will continue to review contracts, income sources and assets whilst also identifying wider service improvements and cost efficiencies.

We also recognise the importance of the ongoing work across our council to reshape and continually improve processes and ways of working so we can reduce the cost of service provision, in order to protect against service reductions and to balance future years' budgets.

West Northamptonshire Council is focused on becoming a greener and cleaner authority, a great place in which people can live and work, and visit.

The Council aims to recover and grow the economy, playing a full role as one of the largest authorities within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, while establishing strong and safe communities with good housing. We want our residents to have the best prospects and the skills to succeed and for children to have the best start in life.

Work will also continue to further the integration of adult social care and health services which is also key to the future, working towards a new way of delivering important services in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders. This makes sense as not only is there a financial efficiency but also it is much less complicated for people who want to access the services.

Your feedback on this consultation is really important to us, and all consultation feedback will be analysed and considered, and will help Councillors make a final decision on the budget at the West Northamptonshire Council Full Council meeting on 24 February 2022. This meeting is held in public. Anyone wishing to submit a statement to the meeting must contact Democratic Services by email democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk or by post or in person (One Angel Square, Angel St, Northampton NN1 1ED) by 6pm 23 February 2022. Up to three members of the public are permitted to speak for up to three minutes each on any agenda item although this may be extended at the Chair's discretion.

Related Documents

Please read the related documents to gain a better understanding of the budget proposals before you comment on them.

- [Cabinet Meeting Draft Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan report](#), and its appendices:
 - [Appendix A – Budget Summary](#)
 - [Appendices B1-B7 – List of Proposals](#), which contains the full list of budget proposals
 - [Appendix C – Draft 2022/23 Fees and Charges schedule](#)
 - [Appendix D – Dedicated Schools Grant budget](#)
 - [Appendix E – Draft Capital Programme](#)
 - [Appendix F – Equality Screening Assessment](#)
- [Draft Housing Revenue Account \(HRA\) Budget 2022-23 report](#), and its appendices:
 - [Appendix 1 – Draft HRA Revenue Budget and MTFP Summary](#)
 - [Appendix 2 – Draft HRA Capital Programme and MTFP](#)
 - [Appendix 3 – HRA Fees and Charges Proposals](#)
 - [Appendix 4 – Northampton Partnership Homes Draft Total Fee](#)

Have your say

The following sections gives details of the budget proposals. Please tell us your views by completing this questionnaire. You do not have to answer all of the questions or give us your feedback on every section. If you do not wish to answer a question or give feedback on a specific section, then you can skip those questions and move on to the next section.

This questionnaire focusses on the new proposals for the draft budget 2022/23 that will likely affect residents and service users. However, you can comment on anything within the Draft Budget in the comment boxes.

Your feedback will be part of a report with many other people's feedback, so you will not be personally identified.

You can also access this online questionnaire free of charge at any West Northamptonshire Council library. Due to current restrictions, customers are asked to check the opening times of the library you wish to visit and book an appointment in advance. Please see the [Library website](#) or telephone 0300 126 7000 to check times and make a booking.

Alternatively, you can email or send your comments in by post using the contact details below, or by handing it in to one of West Northamptonshire Council's libraries.

You can also hold your own group discussion with others and provide your joint feedback either by completing the online [Group Facilitator's Feedback Form](#) or by downloading the PDF version below and emailing or posting the form back to us.

If you have any queries, comments or would like a copy of this questionnaire in another format (including paper, easy read or large print) you can contact us by email, post or telephone. Our contact details are as follows:

Email address: haveyoursay@westnorthants.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 126 7000

Postal address:

Budget Consultation Response
West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

The deadline for completing this questionnaire is midnight **1 February 2022**.

For information about how consultation and engagement responses are managed, please see the [consultation and engagement privacy notice](#).

Thank you for helping us by completing this questionnaire.

About you

Q. Are you: Please tick (✓) all that apply

There were 735 responses to this question, with respondents being able to select more than one option if applicable.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
A local resident	714	97.1%
A service user	52	7.1%
A West Northamptonshire Council employee	33	4.5%
A West Northamptonshire Council Councillor	7	1.0%
A representative of a Town/Parish Council	5	0.7%
A Town or Parish Councillor	20	2.7%
A representative of the voluntary sector or a community organisation	8	1.1%
A representative of the local business community	5	0.7%
A representative of a health partner organisation (e.g. Clinical Commissioning Group, Mental Health Trust)	1	0.1%
A representative of a user group	1	0.1%
Other (please give details below)	4	0.5%

Other:

- King's Sutton Parish Council
- Chairman of a Parish Meeting
- A focaliser for keeping our bus service running
- Northamptonshire Football Association
- will not be paying money which the extra money is a rip off
- With the amount of houses that's been build over the last 2 years and more permission giving for more maybe don't take the [expletive] out of ppl with your increase sooner or laterer ppl going to fight back only word that really comes to mind is cheeky sod money money maybe if you don't give yourself a pay rises and private dinners and expenses for lunchs and meetings made you would have more than enough

Proposed increase to Council Tax

The Council is proposing to increase Council Tax up to the level currently proposed by the government, without triggering a referendum – 2.99%. This increased rate includes a **general increase of 1.99%** and the allowable **adult social care precept increase, which is 1%**.

The Council Tax increase will contribute around £9.77m per annum which will be used to protect existing service levels or invest in local services.

In February 2021 it was agreed that the Council Tax for West Northamptonshire be harmonised over a three year period, with rates to be fully harmonised by 2023/24. This means that the average Band D rate in the former Daventry District will need to increase by more than 2.99% (if this is set as the average increase), but the actual council tax levied will continue to be slightly lower than the average Band D rates in the former Northampton and South Northamptonshire areas in 2022/23. The proposed increases are well within the £99 maximum Band D increase set in the Council's Corporate Plan. The table below sets out the average increases in the West Northamptonshire Council Band D Council Tax in each area in 2022/23 that are required in order to remain on course for harmonisation in 2023/24, at which point the average Band D in each area will be equal.

	Average Band D Council Tax 2021/22	Average Band D Council Tax 2022/23	Increase (£)	Increase (%)
Ex-Daventry Area	£1,533.13	£1,596.06	£62.93	4.10%
Ex- Northampton Area	£1,588.18	£1,624.42	£36.24	2.29%
Ex-South Northamptonshire Area	£1,555.50	£1,607.71	£52.21	3.34%
Average	£1,566.39	£1,613.23	£46.84	2.99%

Example: What would this mean for a Band D property?

- As an example, an average Band D level of Council Tax for West Northamptonshire Council of £1,613.23 in 2022/23 is equivalent to £31.02 per week. The average increase on a Band D property across the area is £46.84 or £0.90p per week. This Band D figure does not include the Council Tax for individual town and parish councils or the Council Tax set for fire and police by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

By law, Councils are required to have a scheme to help people on low incomes to pay their council tax. The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is to help people on low income to pay their Council Tax.

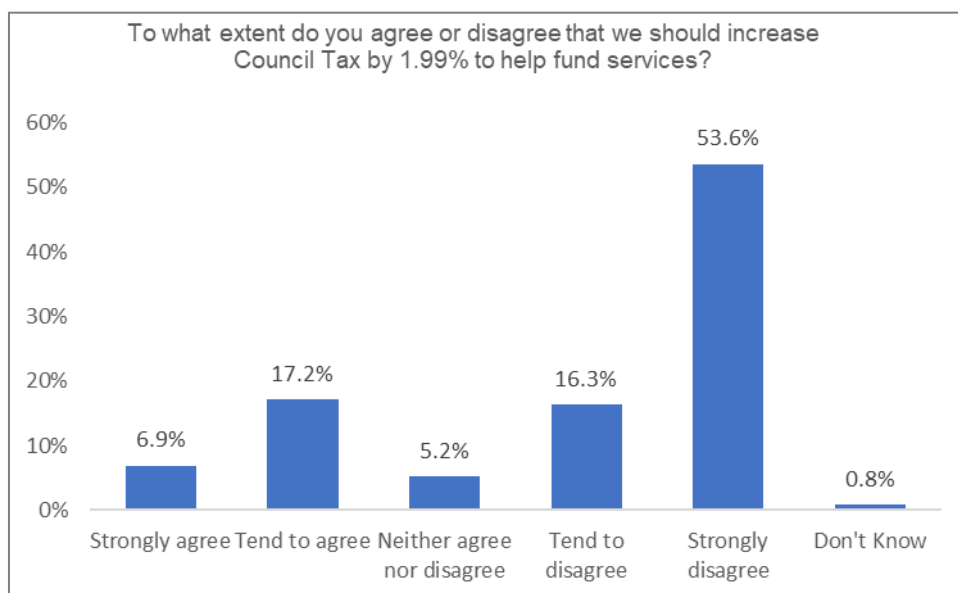
Local Council Tax Reduction Schemes were introduced from April 2013 when Council Tax Benefit was abolished and replaced by locally agreed schemes. Those of pensionable age are protected by the prescribed regulations set out by central government.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should increase Council Tax by 1.99% to help fund services? Please tick (✓) relevant answer

Example: What would this mean for a Band D property?

- As an example, a 1.99% general increase would result in an increase of £31.17 per year (£0.60p per week) for 2022/23 for the average Band D Council Tax payer.

There were 522 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	36	6.9%
Tend to agree	90	17.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	27	5.2%
Tend to disagree	85	16.3%
Strongly disagree	280	53.6%
Don't know	4	0.8%

Q. If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:

There were 348 responses to this question.

Strongly agree/ Tend to agree

- Everything is going up in price and this needs to be reflected in the council tax
- There is an obvious growing need for additional funding for services, due to population increase.
I am seriously hoping that the Council will also review the need to improve the sewerage drains systems, which due to the huge increase in housing (specifically Brackley) where these systems will soon become unable to cope with the increased foul water / sewerage.
- Due to inflationary pressures on services and the need to attract and retain talent.
- Services have to be delivered and everything is going up, so the increase is reasonable so long as money is spent on things budgeted for.
- We need to protect services.
- Councils need money to support the community.
- I live in Daventry area and have always felt they kept the Council Tax low to gain favour but at the detriment of local services. While people will not be happy to pay the higher amount they will do so but will also expect to see a service improvement, of which it should be apparent.
- I feel this is not too high and not too low. Council Budgets are under strain post Covid. But homeowner's bills are also escalating on many items. So this is a reasonable compromise.
- I agree we need to fund services, but will this increase actually be used for funding services or will it be swallowed up into another fund. Personally I would like to see the roads in Northampton maintained to a much higher standard and if you insist on having speed bumps in town please maintain them properly. Many are decaying beyond repair.
- Adult and social care need more money to provide a good service instead of cutting back on services and being unable to provide for those who most need it.
- The local council needs to maintain and improve services. Council tax needs to keep up with inflation.
- I agree with the percentile increase but have not offered any feedback opportunities on the "harmonisation" elements. This financially discriminates those individuals by place / locality and is a result of the formation of a new council bringing charges level across the area. There is absolutely no mention of investment in your proposals into small towns like Daventry and Towcester with all proposals targeted at turning Northampton into the show pony. You will be driving down the quality and tenure of the history, heritage and environment of these smaller towns in a bid to drive incomes into Northampton.
- People are already struggling financially, with the rise in energy prices, loss of jobs due to pandemic and you want to push people further into financial hardship by increasing and already increased council tax. Greedy council showing its colours again.
- It seems fair. I thought it would be much higher.
- This increase will destroy peoples hard financial situation. The inflation is well above salary increases. People will struggle. I will not get free social care as a homeowner. I`m fed up with paying for those who made little or no effort to pay for themselves.

- No one likes tax increases, but I feel it is necessary as the alternative would mean impacting service delivery and that would cause issues for the community and the council
- When NCC did not increase council tax it led to service cuts and then to the 'bankruptcy' of the council.
- Whilst I agree that a fee increase is needed I think that better management of the budget is required.
- I am in favour of increased tax to pay for services, on the understanding that this includes provision for all of the WNC and not just the Northampton area. Many footpaths in the rural areas, in villages, are in a shocking state, which certainly would not be tolerated in a town. However, when reported, we are told that the wear and tare is not bad enough, despite the trip hazard that they present. I can see the rational in equalising the bands, but everything else has to be equalised as well.
- If spent properly. This should be used to fund services which have been neglected for decades, e.g. social care.
- Need to keep services at the level they are at
- I think this is a below inflation level increase - however I would strongly oppose this if you still propose charging West Northampton (prev South Northants) for green waste collection which has always been included in our council tax. By charging extra you will effectively be charging this area twice for the same service.
- Services always end up costing more so we need to pay for them somehow. It would be good for more stricter contract negotiations with service companies for better value taxpayer
- As the population grows so do the associated costs to the council.
- With the pandemic causing financial difficulties for many, alongside all other ongoing price increases (utilities, food). I worry that the impact of yet another increase will be to the detriment of those currently deemed just above 'the bread line'. A more gradual increase is needed.
- It's not fair to impose such a massive increase on those living in the former Daventry District, it's almost double the increase imposed on those living in the former Northampton Borough. Especially at a time when prices for everything else is increasing and a raise in National Insurance will also come into effect in April, meaning that budgets will be stretched even further
- Provided this is matched by process efficiencies within the Council, then it should proceed.
- I understand it's the maximum allowed without referendum and feel that as much as practical extra should be put into maintaining those services supplied by the Unitary council.
- Most councils have been struggling for sometime with the huge reduction in money for central government with the result that funding for social care childrens services have been cut to a point where they cannot function effectively.
- I consider good quality council services a must
- The council tax is supposed to cover all requirements of the local area not just those detailed for adult social care. Who is monitoring the apportionment of the remaining money as we seem to be constantly in a state of crisis management?
- It's not an unreasonable increase to provide the services that are needed.

- Further funding is needed to improve services. It is also important to harmonise across the old boroughs. I
- I understand that the cost of services is likely to increase and that we need to pay more for them.
- Everyone within the Council area should be paying the same for services received according to their council Tax Band
- I accept resources and services need to be maintained by, but council tax payers continue to see the direct impact of failed management by NCC. This is not irrelevant as many of the same seniors who created that disaster remain in position or within the new organisation, and as such creates nonconfidence on budget management or delivery. This is notable for how budget (so tax) tax is required and ignores significant challenges and pressures on bill payers' own resources.
- An increase inline with inflation is acceptable
- We all understand how important it is to make sure our budget is balanced, It is in my view a fair increase taking count of inflation and pressures the council will be under as we emerge from the pandemic. Even if I know it is for my ward constituents a bigger increase due to harmonisation, It would not be prudent to have a lesser increase.
- Improve services and invest in green infrastructure/ walking and cycling
- Services need to improve so we need to pay
- To ensure there is adequate funding in majority of the sectors.
- Services require investment to improve
- West Northamptonshire's services are underfunded and providing, in many cases, an inadequate service . An increase in council tax would help ensure an adequate level of provision as well as reduce the inflationary pressure on the economy as a result of the large sums of money "borrowed" from the Bank of England during COVID
- It is essential we maintain our current council services and I feel with the current and near future cost of living/inflation that the proposed increases are fair.
- Nobody wants to pay more tax but if it is going to be used productivity to improve the community and wellbeing of residents and spend can be justified then yes I would support.
- I don't believe you are yet fully embracing Transformation correctly, nor understand Continual Improvement in its totality. Highways backlogs are increasing by around £300,000 a week, you're killing twice the national average of road users and ignoring the issues.
- I'm happy for council tax to increase - as a horse and dog owner really want roads to be made safer to enable safer access to bridleways etc, reduced rubbish on roads - poss recycling sites could work longer ours to help with fly tipping? A greener, healthier, more accessible environment would be good.
- Keen to maintain and improve services especially education
- This would seem a reasonable amount
- In general I agree with the raise, however I don't see the detail of how the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is affected. Will those on low incomes still pay more proportionately. With other rises in the cost of living imminent e.g fuel and national insurance I don't feel these individuals should see an increase

- I only 'TEND' to agree because I feel that while someone living in a Band D house would, in general, be able to afford a rise of 60p per week, that might not apply to people living in Bands A and B with their increases. I don't agree with trying to align Council Tax over the whole WNC area because services are so much poorer in rural areas than in towns.
- I strongly agree, providing all the improvements and aims will be met.
- More funding needs to be raised by the whole cohort in order to spread the costs of improvements. Of course, with rising costs all around, help needs to be in place to support households where increases pose difficulties.
- West Northants services are currently underfunded and the level of provision, especially for children's services, is inadequate.
- As long as this money is going to these services. It would be great to see updates from West Northants showing the investment updates.
- It might help to revive the town and re-establish it as a County town
- I know you can't improve services without the money but people just can't afford it.
- There are so many bad roads and poorly maintained properties in Northampton that the monies raised need to be used for them.
- With government cuts Council tax needs to rise

Neither agree nor disagree

- Can't say I'm happy about another increase but I understand the need for it. It's not a huge increase.
- It's not ideal but, if necessary to balance books and provide services
- There is a lack of clarity on what (if anything) the increase will support in terms of services that residents receive.
- Happy for increased taxes if services are improved.
- I agree to the increase as the council needs the funds, due to government cuts over the past 10 years.
- no comment

Strongly disagree/ Tend to disagree

- I'm sure that, if the Council looked closely at its current expenditure, it could avoid the need to raise council tax by reducing wastage in some of its budgets. How many senior officers do you have for example? Why not streamline some of these posts?
- I think this is absolutely ridiculous increasing council tax every year and people's wages remain the same you are taking money from people who do not have it we have all suffered with the pandemic we do not have the money to constantly keep giving more. We can't afford this council tax is already expensive and now to increase it further is so unfair as if we do not have other bills and contributions were paying into this is affecting people's mental health but all you local authorities only care about revenue this is why there is a high rate of suicide because people literally are struggling to make ends meet. I totally disagree with this increase sickens me the fact that this is even a consideration.
- The way the local council has over the last few years has already shown the muddled thinking and planning of that body. Concentrate on forward planning to ensure cost of so called improvements are realistic and wanted by the constituents who after all are paying for it. 2 example of serious loss of funds, the idiotic bus lane, failure to

get the money back from the people guilty of loosing so much money on the Northampton Soccer fiasco.

- will there ever be a year when the local council(and Police /fire) do not increase council tax by the maximum allowed?

This is another year of maximum increase and more should be done to lessen the impact especially for those who can ill afford it

- too much is spent on vanity projects such as pursuing city status
- Because we had a 4.99% increase last year!!! Absolute daylight robbery!!
- The service we have has not improved over the years even when the cost each year has gone up. With fuel price increase on top of this does not help. The streets in town are awful crime is out of control . For many years the council tax has gone up but the service level has gone backwards .
- You don't even do the basics like empty the bins or remove fly tipping and fallen trees or cut the grass. Why should I give you more when you have done [expletive] with my money this year? The roads and foot paths are in a terrible state.
- Inflation is running high, bills have gone up, how are we expected to afford to live. Council tax increase last year was already ridiculous
- You cannot keep increasing tax every year by these large increase percentages . why is the example always for band D when in reality people live largely in bands e-f
- We get very little for our council tax, the roads are terrible, the only service I benefit from is having my bins emptied and that service gets worse all the time.

The council now won't take cardboard that doesn't fit in the recycling bin but I can get two recycling bins (which I don't need) household waste is only collected every three weeks. The service is poor, we shouldn't have to pay more for it.

- Council tax is expensive enough as it is, I don't see any improvement to services to justify this rise. My wages haven't increased yet I'm expected to pay more each year.
- The increase is beyond astronomical. If universal credit is going to increase to cover this then so be it but it won't. This is far too much of a rise for me as single parent. I work full time and get little help, I have £120 left over each month after all bills are paid for food. I see absolutely no reason why we should be paying more. The roads in my village are horrendous, the bins are collected less frequently than they use to be and we pay for the green waste. I simply could not afford a rise in council tax.
- The council don't do anything in Daventry worth speaking about. No Police, no litter picking, no road repairs etc etc. Waste money on a canal arm, a new school that's not needed, a cinema that's not really needed and has had problem after problem. The list goes on.....
- We are not northampton, we are daventry, we are a smaller district with less services so are council tax should be lower. Everytime we need anything we have to go to northampton at a cost to us. We are paying for you to improve northampton as I can't see where the money gets spent in daventry, roads are a disgrace, schools complain about lack of funding and as for waste what a joke.
- Daventry is currently playing for Northampton councils debit... simple. there is no improvements in the area at all so I have no idea what we are playing for! Our roads are terrible, repairs if any, are only done to benefit the council not the people who live here! It's an outrage!
- If you level increases fairly, rather than this harmonising nonsense, fine. Why should Daventry's increases be substantially larger than northampton. Northampton has

significantly more residents than Daventry and a balanced increase increase per household would be a much fairer approach.

Who's running the new council, a circus troop of clowns, and how much of the tax payers increase in council tax burden is going on excessively high executive staff salary's?

- A lot of Daventry residents cannot afford an increase, otherwise they would have been paying similar amounts previously. A lot of the services that are required for Northampton are not replicated in other areas, and trust is a hard issue after the last council debt. Think more obvious transparency is required for those who don't have access to the internet (still in Daventry)
- Service is [expletive] for what we pay now if it goes up as much as it says we will struggle as a one income family with a disabled child.... we pay all our own bills get not help we only receive DLA
- Biggest increase in Daventry, most of the money would be spent in Northampton.
- It is a massive increase that people can barely afford. There was a huge increase last year & we are getting another huge increase just to prop up poor financial management in Northampton council. Just stop!!
- Stop wasting money, I now hear you are going to move out of the Angel Street building and into the Guildhall, what a waste of money. also people are going to be struggling with the high energy costs coming up.
- Learn how to budget finances better instead of bleeding your County dry!
- Because of the large increases you are already placing on south northamptonshire residents as part of the harmonisation, which will see us pay significantly more for a poorer service
- Services offered in Daventry does not compete to those in Northampton, but you are using Daventry and South Northamptonshire to subsidise Northampton increases.
- Above wages increase. Not sustainable.
- You massively increased council tax last year and people can't afford another increase. You give absolutely no value for the council tax people pay - the only service I ever get is having my bin emptied!
- Where is the transformation of services in proposals? I see a small efficiencies/income figure, but one of the benefits of coming together as WNC was to take out costs/improve service provision. And the service improvement "The impact of switching off the Bus Lane camera in the St. James' area" - this suggests that Councillors have previously baked-in to budget the penalty charges of several £100k! Service improvement indeed.
- Why should households in Daventry are have such a massive increase compared to other areas seems we are subsidising other areas
- Council charges were supposed to decrease after the new unitary councils were set up.
- From the figures quoted no-one is receiving. 1.99% increase, the lowest is 2.29%. My area is 3.34% and I am not sure why. What extra are we be being given? Plus are we also having to pay extra for green bin collections next year? I struggle now to pay this bill, as a result I cannot maintain my home and so it's condition will deteriorate with ever increasing bills. I would like to think this increase would include the cost of Garden waste collection so no additional charge would be added and

perhaps additional recycling options, such as medication packaging, crisps packets, plastic bags..

- For as long as I can remember, the council has increased the council tax but it appears to have made no difference to any services. I wouldn't mind paying more if I saw anything for it. When does the council propose not raising council tax. Will this ever happen?
- My band D property council tax is already £2100 per year, far above the quoted "average". With this increase and rising energy costs, and no real wage increase, I will suffer financially and will struggle to pay my bills. I am not wealthy nor live in a big house.
- Restructure of the councils must have come with savings. Also increases to energy coming next year means people on lower incomes are going to struggle massively.
- Screw the money grabbing conservatives.
- It's going up by too much
- As a single pensioner on a fixed income I am already worried about increases in heating and power costs in the coming year. The services that I pay for that actually benefit me, are few. Bin collection some of which we are going to have to pay extra for. Diminishing police services all of which are under strain and don't provide enough security for a rapidly increasing population. I pay towards a lot of services that I don't use and added to that the huge increase in Council Tax revenue from new residential properties should be more than enough to fund current services. The only way I could think of endorsing an increase in CT is if I saw concrete proposals for substantial increases in the level of public services in this area particularly those of value to people like me.
- The formation of west northants Council was to make saving to date I have only seen increases and poorer service's
- I feel that Daventry is one of the lower income areas and is being unfairly treated in the name of "harmonisation".
- Due to large increases in recent years. And being a very expensive council to now live under.
- You charge enough with little return for the residents as it stands.
- Lots of families are already struggling due to increased energy prices so this would just add to financial burden
- No pay rise for my household and inflation and fuel cost rising I can't afford this increase.
- Where are the economies of scale that should have resulted from moving to a two council system for the County
- We already pay far too much council tax and an increase will cause us to have to downsize and buy a smaller property. We are for the majority a community run village so no need for further increases. The main reason for our last increase was to fund [name of post/ job] who was absolutely useless
- This is an excessive increase. South Northants was well managed and its residents should not be penalised in this way to make up for the shortfall created by the poorly run Northampton Council
- The current level of council tax is not sustainable. It is nearly half of my mortgage cost and a further increase would mean a reduction in the use of other services locally as I could not afford to attend local events

- Unfair on Towcester and Daventry residents having to bail out previous council mess. If increases are due then they should be equal across the board.
- Most residents have very little to show for council tax and you intend to start charging for green bin collections on top...disgraceful !
- The council have already wasted enough of our money and expect us to continue paying more for them to spend it on things that are absolutely unnecessary. If they learnt how to budget properly we wouldn't have any problems.
- I feel we don't get value for money for what we pay now. Potholes in many local roads and reduced waste collection means paying to use local tip leading to much more fly-tipping
- It appears that residents in the former Daventry District Council are being unfairly penalized for having a fiscally prudent former council.
- In the current economic and climate it is entirely inappropriate to raise CT bills in this way, especially as no increase in service quality is apparent at all.
- I find it difficult to understand why you are trying to harmonise Council Tax based which is based on the previous 3 Councils. As WNC is a new Council the previous Councils tax should have no bearing on what every property pays per band. Surely your budget is an amount that you wish to set then you just divide the amount required by the number of properties in each banding. I am unable to find any rationale from WNC to why properties in the previous councils are paying different increases.
- Can't keep increasing
- Family struggling already
- Last year you stated the percentage rise which for me was totally incorrect. When I questioned it I received no acceptable answer, just that's what's been agreed. You don't have a concept of basic maths and are just lining your own pockets at the expense of local residents, discussing and if you were a local business I would go elsewhere for the service
- Daventry is not a cash cow for Northampton, we didn't want you and we should petition the government to undo this damage. You will again abuse the system and go bust and take us with you. Waste services are a disgrace compared to even 20 years ago. Under the guise of going green, waste sits around for 3 weeks. The streets are covered in rotting leaves, making it unsafe for the elderly and infirm.
- We already pay enough in council tax for services that are not provided (Street potholes as an example) or our council tax is frittered away on projects not related to our needs.
- It is important to minimise the impact on the Councils residents at a time when a great number of them will be struggling, (some to the point of impossibility), to meet financial obligations with regard to the supply of electricity and gas due to wholesale price developments of 2021 and price cap adjustments.
- As someone resident in the Daventry area I feel that I am being financially disadvantaged through no fault of my own and I am having to share a greater share of the financial burden.
- The cost of living as a whole, is drastically increasing. Whilst an increase of around £50 a year may not sound much, that will be on top of other bills like gas and electric. You only have to look in the media to see what gravity of harm those bills will have in addition to your council tax increase. I must admit I have a low confidence in the

council currently. The state of our open areas and the appalling state of some of our roads may on the surface appear to be a lack of funding. I question the need for a very large council building that is expensive and has frankly, a disgusting reputation for repair bills. Covid has allowed us to see working from home and working locally is more than achievable. With that in mind I feel the money required can be obtained through better and more appropriate working strategies than a general increase.

- I currently own and reside within a band E rated property in NN2, and feel that I am currently receiving poor value for my Council Tax. I believe that the basic services are being met, but barely. I step outside of my property and can immediately see a number of issues from litter and flytipping to anti-social behaviour and the poor maintenance of roads - all within a close proximity to my home. If I am being asked to increase my contribution in order to maintain current sliding standards, then this isn't an ideal reflection of a council wishing to promote itself as somewhere to thrive.
- Last year we were hit with 4.99%. the year before 4.99%- its not sustainable to hike EVERY year. The unitary was meant to make things fair across the board, all its done it make a bigger bill to the residents.
- We disagree and do not think that differential increases for any resident group area should be greater than the 2.99% maximum stipulated by law, noting that ex SNC is +3.34% and ex Daventry + 4.14%.
- Services for the majority are constantly being cut and you put up your charges by more than wages
- As a Middleton Cheney resident our 90 prices went up by a massive amount last year and my [relative] and I are both working with a [relative] and financially cannot afford another increase.
- Don't you think we already pay too much tax in general, and now you are wanting to increase it even more! Especially after the horrible 2 years we've had where people have lost their jobs or had to struggle financially. Disgracefully really
- I have never witnessed any improvement in services after a council tax increase
- The council is funded sufficiently to provide services without increasing council tax by such a significant increase
- General costs are rising and social care needs to be improved in the area as the population ages. Road infrastructure also needs to be maintained and improved especially the Old Stratford Roundabout. However, the green bin surcharge for former South Northants residents is completely unjustified and a double charge. Our council rates already include this service so we should not be charged twice for the same service.
- Money grabbing from people who are already feeling the strain from Covid and the rise in all bills.. There is no help for normal people who work hard and have mounting bills.. The lack of services from council is terrible yet you want more money!!!!
- With the cost of living already increasing, gas and electricity bills rising by over 100%, Council Tax and a charge to empty our green bins it is just too much for many households including my own.
- See comments provided later in this survey. In the round our council and I stress 'our' is looking to 'feather its own nest'. In the same way the proposals to increase the number of houses in the area from 5,000 to 15,000 is a 'money grab'. More homes = more council tax. Likewise ill conceived proposals such as DHL and Podium are detrimental. There is already Swan Valley and the Silverstone Technology Park;

much better served by the pre-existing infrastructure. And if you live in Whittlebury our village is blighted by noxious odours which result from an inadequate waste management system.

- We barely have any services as it is we have no local police station the roads around here are unfinished the path around here around finished and never the councils responsibility how can you justify raising the council tax when you the services that you're providing you're not getting any better
- Increase in council tax is not equal to any general cost of living pay increase. Will put unreasonable financial burdens on already struggling families
- With all the new houses in Towcester I assume that your revenue stream is massively increasing year on year. (All those extra council tax payments) Therefore why is an increase necessary at all this year.
- As you have received more than expected from the government
- I do not believe the council offers value for money the transition to unitary has been chaotic and wasteful.

It is now almost impossible to speak to anyone at WNC.

- Too much , to high to pay
- This year I had no pay rise... each year I have seen the increase in council charges... it is becoming unsustainable and unaffordable... the council really need to look at its cost base
- We have got a compost bunker and don't use the green bins so I don't think I should have to pay extra for something we will never use
- Because the council tax we pay is already such a large amount
- Because as a single OAP i pay for many services I don't benefit from. I feel that single households should be treated differently to families.
- Council Tax is ridiculously high as of now! Our house is in Band F which already charges me almost £3000.00pa. The increase will push it well above that figure!
We are pensioners and this tax is increasingly unaffordable. Combine this with the ever increasing fuel costs will make payment very difficult.
- With all the new housing built in the last couple of year with very little extra investment in roads, medical centres, schools i fail to see where the extra money has been spent. in the last couple of years there has been big payoffs for senior employees which should not be allowed with tax payers money
- Strongly refute this increase
- No need to charge for green waste. The figures do not add up when the additional £3.8m is taken into account. Council should be easing unnecessary pressure on overtaxed household budgets not adding to them.
- With a £54 increase in basic council tax and a further proposed additional cost of having green bins emptied, it will put a total increase of nearly £100 per month. This on top of the increased costs of utilities and road transport costs, without any chance of an increase in salary will snap our budget.
- People already pay high amounts on council tax and see very little help from the council, it is exploiting its residents, the increases are not minor they are quite significant.
- WNC is currently consulting on its draft budget. When this was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated. The government has now informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than those estimates.

WNC does not have to change to empty green waste in my green / brown bin. WNC can remove this charge to ALL residents across the whole district. There is no financial reason to charge a second time. WNC have the cash, their budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more. BIN THE CHARGES. Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO

- This is too much when people are squeezed all the time with fuel bills going up so much. My salary hasn't increased.
- People are struggling financially already with income tax increase, national insurance increase, gas and electric increases and now more increases from WNC. It is so unfair on the average working family.
- The council has been given more money than they thought they would so therefore these increases are not needed. Also public services have been cut so not as much money is needed to fund these.
- Council services do not deliver value for money sufficiently to justify increase. Eg local buse already cut, reductions in refuse services, local road repairs, increases in payments made to councillors etc
- This council tax have increased year on year and our roads are getting worse, the green bin is now being charged for as well. With some many people effected by covid and increases in electricity you would hope to see some level in council tax that increared by £10/12 just last year.
- Green Bin charge proposal
- Council tax is already a huge bill for many residents. An increase will be very difficult to pay, in particular at a time when utility bills are also rising at an unprecedented rate. However I also understand that the cost of services is increasing and will cost more to fund.
- The Council Tax I already pay is extortionate for my small home.
- The council should give more consideration to the wider economic situation and the impact normal working families (who are not on or eligible for benefits and help) are currently facing. The council needs to be more efficient with its cash and more pragmatic about how it can generate alternative income streams, rather than just constantly increasing taxes above the levels of wage inflation.
- Council tax has already gone up, the additional increases are adding to in-affordability for a service that we are already paying for. This area is full of young and new families that Cannot afford to keep paying more and more money to the council for basic services they should be covered in the fortune we already pay each year!
- I understand there must be yeay increase but it has been a hard couple of years people are struggling more than ever. Some ppl do not have cars to take waste to the tip. It will increase fly tipping for those who don't care about what their environment looks like. We try to compost as much of our own garden waste as we can but some people on low income who tend to have huge gardens can't. I possibly use my green bin 5 times per year so I guess it's not a huge charge for me. But we are already going to pay extra on council tax. Extra on fuel. Extra on heating and electricity. Food costs more. I feel like we go out to work just to exist. Life is getting

worse by the day and they wonder why suicide rates are increasing. We have nothing left to give and yet you want more

- We have seen the council tax costs rise by nearly £50/month over the last 5 years, but with little noticeable effect on service delivery. Highways are getting poorer in condition and provision, we are told we can't have highway improvements and safety measures due to budget constraints, the bus service is insufficient despite investment, and many of the improvements such as bus lane cameras, walking and cycling routes, flood service/defence, national graduate development have absolutely NO impact on our lives or services. Increased costs should be apportioned to those residents and communities that will benefit not to those residents or communities that will not benefit. We have seen increases in council tax year on year and yet we have fewer police, increase in crime, increase in parking costs, poorer roads and infrastructure, green recycling increase etc.
- Unfair to put such a massive increase on South Northants area as this area is always last in line for services from the council and doesn't have access to the facilities in the same way as Northampton and Daventry areas.
- After a few really awful years with covid. A small rest bite in the form of not raising council tax will generate a whole lot of good will and confidence in the council.
- You need to look for further cost reductions rather than simply increase you revenue. Look at everything you do and decide if it is worthwhile does it add to the benefits of residents and can you buy it more cheaply. Companies always charge public bodies more as they know they can get away with it as council buying policy is so lax.
- the service we are getting in rural South Northants, is just getting worse, the roads are a joke, the services are getting worse and now you're looking to charge for green bins.
- A 1.99% increase in council tax feels excessive when living costs are always increasing but wages rarely do.
- Because of the issues that we had in Middleton Cheney last year with the Parish Council and Council Tax I dont believe that there should be any increase - infact we'd expect a decrease!
- In my opinion for what we are paying at the moment, we are certainly not getting the services that we pay for, the roads and pavements in our Village, (Middleton Cheney) are a absolute disgrace, and even the leaves have not been cleared from the sides of the roads as it stands this year, which means the drains will be blocking up, once they all get washed down them, and as for the extra charge for the green waste bins, that is a real Liberty, for you even to propose it, especially as there is no need for the charge to be levied, you will wonder why there is even more rubbish being fly tipped? And as for the massive over charge that we faced in Middleton Cheney last year, I feel that this should be looked into and rectified first, before are asked to pay even more for nothing, Start getting your house in order before you try to charge any more, [name]
- I live in the Daventry area, why is my increase greater.? There are so many increases in all living costs, Council Tax will soon be unaffordable for so many. Few households are eligible for Council Tax reduction but low to middle income households are also struggling. It will come to a point where people are unable to pay.
- I really do not know how you can increase the council tax with all that is going on in the current crisis climate. With rip off taxes climbing year on year you will soon make

it very unaffordable to live in your own house. It's bad enough with NI tax to be raised, energy bills going through the roof and general day to day living expenses increasing. Where are you going to get this tax from if people can't pay.

- South norrgats has not go to pay for other areas.of the county which were not so well managed. Very unfair.
- It's too big an increase for the Daventry area
- I do not believe the council can be trusted with the public purse in view of your past dreadful use of our funds, one case in point Northampton football stadium fiasco, where are our funds from that? 10 million?
- Why is it that Daventry district has the highest rising council tax in all of Northamptonshire? Nothing really changes roads are still in the same state police and fire services are still poor. With energy prices on a big rise I really feel this year is not the year for a big rise in council tax only to put people into poverty.
- Villages are the hardest hit by the increase but appear to have the least amount of services or council money spent on them. We are not here to subsidise the town
- I do not feel it's fair to increase the tax significantly more for Daventry than other areas.
- Daventry took a huge hit last year with a huge increase. Many are struggling already and are not entitled to help. It's been a difficult time for all. With food poverty and energy prices on the rise, there must be another way?
- We already pay an extortionately high rate for below average service. Over the last [number] years, I have lived in [name of place], [name of place], [name of place], and now West Haddon. Bin collections for example, are the least frequent yet Council Tax is way more. The state of the roads n places are appalling. You should be reducing it, not increasing and putting the money to better use. We live in a small village where the lighting for example is maintained the Parish. What exactly are you doing with the money. I feel we are being fleeced to pay for services in Northampton for example. We pay way too much already.
- We have just had a massive hike last year!!! And everyone is already struggling, lower wages lost jobs still playing catch up during the pandemic, we will all be bankrupt if you keep squeezing us
- Will any extra revenue really go to adult social care? Not sure it will I. Why should we pay for our green bins to be emptied. Just because others have charged first mean we have yo. Be leaders not sheep,
- The non-uniform increase between districts, in tandem with no regard for resident's financial status, especially when fees are increased every year, is absolutely disgusting and unjustifiable. There should be a freeze on council tax increases for at least a set period, or indeed, a formal review of whether it is moral to continue to milk people annually and with little forewarning. Moreover, our local council don't even seem to provide any services such as addressing road issues (pot holes etc), so seemingly we're just plying funds into a piggy bank in case we are unfortunate enough to suffer an emergency(given that the day to day council services just aren't provided any way).
- Price is going up, quality of services down. It's that simple. We're struggling with bills going up across the board. We've no more money coming in so how do we pay?!
- Need to stagger increase for Daventry residents - unfair to increase so much in one go

- Simply cannot afford to pay rising fuel, food, utility bills and now this potentially on top of the huge increase we had recently in council tax. We have seen reduced services for increased rates.
- Don't you think we all have enough to contend with, food increases, NI, food increases. A black bin emptied once every 3 weeks, which is delightful in summer, pot holes everywhere, separate charge to have my brown bin emptied twice a year!
- Due to cost of living rises due to inflation, utilities especially gas and lower increases, rises in council tax of this magnitude will impact greatly on households with low to middle incomes.
- The council needs to fund social care, but why should the ex south northants area have to have this increase and a charge for green bins on top.
- People cannot afford this with the cost of living increaseing drastically whilst wages and pensions are not.
- I don't trust the elected officials to handle the budget. There are are the same councilors who were described by the central conservative government as running the worst council in the UK. These officials bankrupted us last time
- South Northants residents will see a far larger increase due to the entirely unnecessary green bin surcharge. Green bin collection has been part of the council tax in South Northants. West Northants Council want to charge £42 per year to empty my green bin. This has been emptied for "free" or rather in my council tax charge in the former SNC area It is acknowledged that that has been charged for in the former Daventry and Northampton areas. WNC hope to raise £800k from SN area bringing the total raised from green waste charges to £3m. There is no need to have this charge at all. WNC is currently consulting on its draft budget. When this was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated. The government has now informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than those estimates.WNC does not have to charge you to empty green waste in my green bin. WNC can remove this charge to ALL residents across the whole district. There is no financial reason to charge a second time. WNC have the cash, their budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more. BIN THE CHARGES!
- unitary was supposed to save money ! What's happened to that ?
- Make efficiency saving within the council instead. There's lots of waste. Therefore there would be no need to increase Council tax
- Council tax increases every year but services don't get any better, in fact a lot of services have been cut.
- There was increased last year which I think was unacceptable, and has happened at a time where most people have not received pay rises anywhere near the rate at which inflation has risen. Most people are facing increases in energy bills and frankly the money has to come from somewhere causing strain on hard working families. It is worth noting when I lived in [name of place], I paid £150 a month in council tax, when I moved to Daventry this rose to £250, and this proposal is likely to raise it to around £300. There comes a point where it isn't doable to actually pay it and have enough money to live on.
- Absolute farce, constantly on the up since moving here. Why do residents have to pay for the incompetence of people within the council. Thieves!
- Council tax has been increased every year, however my wages does not get increased every year to cover the living expenses.

- It is clear from the budgetary statement, when allied to the stated intent to harmonise rates over the next years, that an average increase is disproportionately applied in certain areas. See Daventry area 4.1% overall as a clear example. Despite this there is no clear correlation between increases in the taxes applied, in sub-regions, and the delivered funding benefits? Hence how do you justify an increase specifically targeted without the corresponding benefit being similarly defined?
- Being on a low income and the price rise of council tax and electricity I will probably be looking at a loan to cover both costs this year
- Concerned that areas such as Daventry are clearly having an increase in excess of the legal limit of 2.99% without a referendum which appears both illegal and unethical and there appears an assumption that the council only values Northampton residents views by keeping the increase at the maximum limit and the remainder of the west of the county has no choice. There will certainly be hardship experienced by some of these residents who cannot afford such a huge rise with no responsibility or accountability being taken by WNC.
- In principle the rise is possibly justified as long as it is spent proportionally among the services that need it. My family and I live in a small village in the Daventry district and it is a long held belief by residents that the taxes from our village benefit the town of Daventry more than the rural areas. Our roads are sadly neglected yet I believe there are grandiose plans to revamp Daventry town centre. My [relative] has recently damaged a car tyre on one of the numerous potholes. DDC did not appear to listen to residents of our village so two wind farms were imposed on us because it was said it didn't matter as there was already a motorway close by. We are now threatened with numerous warehouses to add to the monstrous Royal Mail building and railway at Dirft. Dirft seems to have come much closer than was originally planned even though a nature reserve was supposed to protect us. This year part of the reserve was dug up and it was impossible to walk or ride on the bridle way due to heavy machinery working there which could be heard in the village. A new development was also deemed needed by DDC and again no one listened to the residents who would be living nearest to it.
- 1) COVID has caused significant inflation, and in many cases pay cuts for tax payers. This coupled with the increase in UK National Insurance will further increase tax liability for council tax payers. Requiring council tax payers to pay yet more is missing the 'mood' in the county.
- 2) Council tax has increased by more than inflation for over 10 years, and is unacceptably high.
- 3) The increase in South Northamptonshire is above 2.99% and therefore should trigger a referendum. Taking the average is clearly not what was intended by the spirit of the legislation limiting increases. We in South Northamptonshire are paying for mistakes of the past councils specifically those made by Northampton Town Council and this is unacceptable.
- 4) Removing free green bin collection effectively means the increase in South Northamptonshire is almost double the 2.99% permitted under law.
- You are an embarrassment. Northampton is in a terrible state. You have squandered millions of pounds already. So giving you more money to waste is ridiculous. You are all stuck in old fashioned ways and have no vision.

- I don't agree with the harmonisation, especially as the new unitary authority resulted from the former Northamptonshire County Council misappropriating a large sum of money. Why should residents like myself in the former South Northants area now be penalised for previous incompetence by the new authority seeking to "level up". I understand the authority has received now received an additional £3.8m and therefore there is no reason why you can't now "level down" and bring everyone in line with those who were previously paying the least amount of Council Tax. I also do not believe it is right for us to have to pay twice for our green waste to be removed.
- Rising crime and lack of Police presence, diabolical maintenance of public pathways, roadways and space, current plan to charge for garden waste collection on top of council tax, unjustifiably high salaries for your 'senior' staff, crippling energy cost increases, rising inflation. We cannot keep finding money to pay for these increases.
- Because Councillors should take a complete cut in expenses first.
- I am disgusted with the way this county is being managed.
- I strongly disagree with the way in which WNC has decided to harmonise Council Tax across the 3 former council areas. WNC have choices and has chosen to discriminate against the public living in the two former district councils to the benefit of those living in the former borough council. I would happily agree to a Council Tax rise of 1.99% if it meant my WNC Council Tax bill would increase by 1.99% or even 2.99% allowing for the social care increase, BUT IT WILL NOT. Furthermore it is not just increasing by 1.99% plus 1% social care, it is further increased by a 0.35% fine imposed for living in the former SNC area plus a further £42 fine for having a green bin that was previously subsumed in the overall Council Tax levy rather than being a separate charge. WNC councillors and staff have made conscious decisions as to how to fund the new council and they clearly penalise those of us living in the former district council areas. I find this unfair, inequitable, discriminatory (by location) and therefore unacceptable.
- We have one of the highest council tax bills in south northants (brackley) in the country. This was acceptable when we had all the wrap round services funded, however we are now getting less for our money and we now pay more than other areas in the industry. Thing you are wanting to charge for are essentially double charging. Green bins, no reduction in council tax despite this been a factored in service. So essentially you are actually charging nearly £100 for this service. You will then sell on tge waste as compost and make more money. Recycling infrastructure is paid for through tax of the packaging industry, PRNs and soon to be EPRs. Why are you now claiming this back from us. Further prices for reycling esp in paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminium are through the roof due to severe shortages in the industry of recycled content. Plastic for example has gone from £9 per tonne to over £150 per tonne in the past year. There should be no need or requirement for money money off your local residentents. Are you even looking at world class facilities like chemical recycling or tray to tray recycling? Social care, we pay high values of this, plus extra government tax this is ridiculous and another reason for double charging has been found. In a time that inflation is going through the roof, people money is being stretched and our new Council that was meantbto streamline services to make it cheaper for everyone, only seems to be interested in increasing costs.

- The rate of rise is too high in the current economic position for many working families
- By giving an example of £31.17 per year (£0.60p per week) you are misrepresenting what this actually means for the the council tax payer. Of course it is hard to object to a "small" increase of 60p per week, but that isn't the full picture. You do not make it clear enough that this small increase will also likely be levied by the Police and Fire commissioner and Parish precept. The overall increase in the council tax final bill is not given as an example.
- I have absolutely no faith in your ability as a council to govern efficiently.
- Less services, more housing and strain, less quality of life. It's being spent badly or to the wrong people
- Council tax like a second mortgage
- Due to the fact I work hard and have to .meaning yet again I'm being penalised for working rather than people not working so doesn't affect them
- Living in daventry we are being taken as cash cows,
And I cannot understand why some of those who bankrupted Northamptonshire county council are allowed to sit on this (so called) new council.
- Savings should be made within the council structure. Reserves should be used to reduce the increase to residents.
- In the rural areas we get very little compared to urban areas, our roads are a mess and our schools for example are crumbling. Also, it is about time pensions in the public sector fell in line with those in the private sector, because vast sums are being washed into providing public sector pensions at a cost considerably higher than the average private sector business.
- Everything is going up, wages are not. Unfortunately i work and do not qualify for any hand outs, if this continues i would be better off not working and get everything paid for. Do not use buses never have never will. No grass cutting etc gets done where i am due to being a private estate which is why i got rid of all my greenery
- Some of the schemes proposed should not be the remit of the council I also object strongly to councils giving money to voluntary organisations etc. We don't need more cycle lanes or jobs such as HS2 Marshall. Bring back poll tax!
- My wages have not increased and with this and Police and Fire commission's request and the 1.25% Ni increase and fuel rises then No
- My council tax is almost 300 per month now. My bins are emptied I refuse to pay extra for garden waste. Stop wasting money and start clamping down on benefit frauds, including council tax rebate . This will encourage me to move out of area. Compared to services in other towns, I am disgusted.
- What have you done the last two years to help the local area? More pot holes than ever! More property builds with no additional infrastructure in place! Recycling? You have to pay for green waste removal! Bins are constantly full due to lack of collections. Why are prices going up after people have struggled for the passed two years due to government rules! The government in general needs to stop raising taxes for their incompetences and bad financial practises. And be more financially savvy.
- cannot afford to pay
- Daventry rate is too high and much higher than other areas... that's unfair

- Again?? After a maximum increase last year?! Cost of living is dramatically going up in all areas, we cannot afford it. The cheek you've even asked to increase it when you had a surplus budget at the end of the year, it's disgraceful!!
- Figures in the chart are not correct £1790 a year for band c under Daventry so any increase should be avoided especially when it's the biggest bill of any household at the moment.
- Financial incompetence of the council lack of demonstration of value for money and helping the community.
- You've increased council tax to the maximum allowed year on year
- I see no effect from my council tax, roads, bins, parking, up keep is horrendous and i cant even afford to pay my current council tax
- My main concern is the size of the increase to ex Daventry residents. At a time when there is already a cost of living crisis, this added increase is likely to be enough to push some households over the edge. I enjoy good full time employment and am very concerned about household bills for next year. I dread to think how less fortunate households are going to cope. I understand the need to bring equity across the area but this is too much and too quickly.
- I have been waiting for grass verge outside my property in [name of road] to be tended to it's like a ploughed field I have had this done several times by council and paid to have it done myself been trying for [number] years to get something I do not own a car council come and put earth on it couple of days later it is as bad made many phone calls e mailed local councillors for this area including the deputy mayor they dont either bother to answer or come out and look obviously dont take pride in the area but they want more and more money out of me I am a senior citizen so why should I pay it not getting my grass cut as I dont have any I need it tarmacing or cementing let's see if you answer this
- You're now going to charge £42p.a. For emptying garden waste bins, so do we get a reduction from our Council tax on account of the fact that we were already paying for this service, OR is this a hidden increase that you don't expect the public to notice????
- Common it is so expensive
- Services in the Daventry area get less & less yet you keep charging us more to support your other areas
- we cannot afford any increase in any form of tax at the moment , are wages have not increased , the gas and electric bills have gone up . simply cannot afford it.
- Council tax is already way too high and we do not see decent services for the money. Definitely better to insist on value for money rather than increase prices further to residents who are already struggling.
- You increase the council tax, but over previous years have cut services. You never reduce the council tax when cuts are made. Many services are poor.
- My council tax is already astronomical and with the cost of living rising the way it is it is not fair to increase council tax again.
- There are less services available in Daventry - however as generally a higher wealth district it is being harvested in this manner. When the services within Daventry are comparable to Northampton the fees can be aligned but not before
- It's difficult to afford everything as it is, as a working disabled person it's really difficult to get any other support because I'm deemed to not need it because I work

but the cost of having multiple disabilities and health conditions is higher compared to people without these conditions

- The town centre is a disgrace, it's filthy and rubbish everywhere especially in empty shop doorways. Parks are not maintained properly bins always overflowing especially dog poo bins. Money spent on ridiculous projects that no one wants , market square a prime example
- It is easy for free spending council year in year out to raise this tax , but what about us who have no way of increasing our income , and just manage to live. Life is already hard as it is for as you call hard working people , it sounds so easy for you to get extra income every year but what about us.
- Removing service - green bin collection in south Northants area and charging for it plus a 2.99% increase in reality means you increased council tax by more allowed. Is this legal?
- The increases in inflation, with fuel and energy costs actually above current inflation figures combined with the government's tax increases are making budgeting nearly impossible . I also suffer from a below inflation pension increase .
- Looking at all the documents published I am struggling to understand where I will benefit from the increase in council tax rate. This is continuing to rise but without adequate justification especially at a time when my individual income has been affected due to the pandemic. This is not the time to be squeezing our purses even more, when many of us are not even getting rate of inflation wage increases due to the pandemic. This is not for the better of our town, for anyone's lives.
- The cost of living is just not sustainable. The services received by the council both as South Northants and West Northamptonshire have been consistently poor despite yearly increases
- The local authorities have been integrated but there still seems to be the same number of employees overall so obviously there is a lot of work being duplicated.
- As a resident in the former Daventry area a 4% increase is ridiculous and penalises those whose former council managed its affairs correctly and now we are paying for Northampton. Totally unfair and one I and many others cannot afford.
- More houses being put up, you are getting more council tax but not giving us service. Roads not maintained, drains not cleaned. In all the time I lived in [name of place] the drains have only been cleaned once as well as sweeping of the roads.
- We already fork out far too much money - usually for things that never materialise
- No need. Those who look after the public purse strings need to have qualifications to manage the income as it is
- With the current levels of inflation and high energy prices an increase in council tax could push some families into serious financial trouble.
- Because you're ready waste so much money I know some people working in the council money is wasted on staff doing nothing start with better training remembers all staff
- You need to stop giving loans to unscrupulous businesses..... get the brown space built on with 1 and 2 bed properties so council rent can add to coffers, stopping all illegal HMOs and dodgy landlords. Stop selling council houses, move single occupants into the new 1 bed properties you should build on all the brown sites and place larger families in larger properties.....Stop selling green space to building companies. Stop frittering away £££££ on expenses, and new council offices..... Use what you have

already to make a difference and prove it without all the shady deals and lies and just maybe the next time you unfortunately legally demand more you'll get more respect.

- because we are having less services every year but paying more .i live near some shops the council used to come round sweep the area , now no chance just drive by
- People are already feeling the strain with proposed price increases for energy etc. if they don't earn a wage, how are they expected to fund this ?
- Already pay a massive amount of money on council tax. Many families are not getting a pay rise after going through a pandemic yet the council still want more money
- You are all out of touch, where are people going to get the money from????
- Because it's not affordable now !
- Correct us if we are wrong, but we were assured that the formation of a new Unitary Authority and the main point point of creating such was to streamline and consolidate services to reduce costs. Forgive us but this reasoning was a load of baloney. Our CTax was increased by 7% in the first year of the new Authority shortly before the old NCC said it had balanced its books. We cannot think of any of the services that has improved, we are even paying for our green bin. Looking at the WNDC Management Structure there are more [description] (Executives and Directors) [description] and they are earning a small fortune compared to normal jobs in the real world. I pity for our children and grandchildren in the future. We do not need half of the new services you are now including in the Budget. We are pensioners and cannot afford our CT going up year on year for services we do not use. Look at inflation levels , food is going through the roof, fuel a well, energy prices will increase by 50% , the government plainly doesn't know what it is doing and as a Conservative administration you are obviously following suit. Before you decided to include extra things in the Council services you should have consulted the community on what they thought about it, but as usual it is too late now.
- West Northants don't get a great service or facilities
- The merging of Northamts and South Northamts should mean the council is run more efficiently
- The service is VERY poor for what we pay now. I begrudge paying any extra to this council. It would impact my standard of living considerably.
- Eradicate waste before charging more
- People on low income should go to work and work more. [description], I think low income could get it better for themselves.
- As a unitary we should be showing residents benefits of removing a 2 tier system to 1 council with less duplication. Feels wrong to start with an increase. Council tax is already a high amount to pay
- The new council was sold to residents as cost-saving. Yet this is the second budget with another increase in cost without service improvements. Very difficult to see how this increase will fund better services with the reported £6 million deficit in the budget. The service improvements listed are very vague. I don't understand why 'The impact of switching off the Bus Lane camera in the St. James' area' is being framed as a service improvement
- There are considerable budgetary savings that could be made by a concerted and open acceptance that there are numerous forms of financial mismanagement and

waste - including employees who are not set and/or meeting clearly defined objectives.

- Not sure we are getting much value for money as it is
- There is a big rise for those in rural areas with no benefit to them. I.e a descent and regular bus service, most services are centralised in Northampton so the cost to an individual in a rural community to access these is more expensive
- Because Daventry is being made a scapegoat for bad financial management. and where are we expected to get all this extra money?
- The n
- Charging a higher rate to Daventry area to bring it into line with Northampton residents is unreasonable given that the levels of service provided by the council are considerably less, and that isn't even taking into account the shocking lack of police presence.
- Why should the residents of Daventry district play more council tax to help Northampton town!!
- Tax is raised every year with no increase in service received. There is no justification for your increase on social care when there is a national increase on social care in April nationally.
- I disagree to such an increase because it will put more people into debt. Currently there are increasing food, energy, fuel etc prices rises too. Where exactly are working people supposed to find extra money from?
- Northampton needs to take responsibility for their own [...] - spending first- why not sell angel square and it's contents
- Everyone has been struggling with the global pandemic. We are facing increases in gas prices. I am an NHS worker, I have not had a pay increase to reflect these utility increases - the government need to be realistic about the pressures they are trying to inflict on the NHS - increase wages or educate the public more. I cannot afford utility increases without a pay raise and I am sure I am not alone. What increase in services would I get from then increased rate ?
- I am a pensioner on a fixed income but cannot claim any benefit's as I am just over the the fixed amount by a few pounds. With the increase in gas, electric and food I cannot afford to live. No Increase and no subsidies to people who have never worked and have no legal right to live in the UK
- Families are already struggling. To you it is just 0.90p. That is 4 tins of beans to a family struggling for food.
- I think it is a massive waste of money and the council should be cutting its cloth accordingly.
- Council tax should be based on the number of people that live in their house of any band. Pensioners who have saved for a meaningful retirement. Should be able to on a fixed income. A couple use less council resources than a house of multiple occupancy of wage earner and any in receipt of benefits. Especially when a pensioner is still working and pay into the national insurance pot for 40 plus years.
- To much money spent on covid and you expect us to pay a rise like this
- I think with wages not rising and fuel and food all rising a rise in council taxes could be the straw to break the camels back for many families. Also the services provided appear to be sparse or canceled a lot more now.

- No thought has been given to retired people on limited incomes. Is it fair that they will perhaps have to go without heating, reduce the amount of food to pay these extra monies.
- You charge enough rates for O A P so why charge extra just for green bins. The garden is only for pleasure.
- I'm paying enough now! £240 a month...outrageous!
- I think too much is being asked for council tax and green bins to be over charged. I believe in the past councils have not used all the money paid for council tax. It's not a money making scheme to put excess money away for miss advised schemes. Use the money wisely. After all we the public pay for all this.
- Services have been severely hit by council employees "working from home" during periods where no such advice to do so was given by the government. Get your staff to do their contracted jobs for a year and see then if you need more funding for your services. The amount of council tax I pay is sufficient for a very small one bedroom house. I've even reduced the size of all my bins. I only use the green bin occasionally so I couldn't justify this extra cost so would stop having a green bin if I'm to be charged for it.
- What extra are we getting for the increase?? Big fat NOTHING.
- Salaries are not increasing in line with these increases. You are proposing to increase council tax & charge us separately for green waste collection.
- We will not be able to afford it - our household income has been decimated by covid
- Inflation at an all time high. Crippling increase.
- I pay £249 a month council tax. Enough is enough.
- I'd like to see a focus on efficiency and central government funding - stop increasing year after year.
- Get people out working and stop making it easy to claim free benefits
- The council tax went up a ridiculous amount last year my [relative] and I both work just over the amount to get help and it's getting ridiculous.
- Paying more money for no services for villages
- The current level is already too high and councils need to make better use of the money they already have without increasing year on year. 2019 and 2020 has put massive pressure on households and energy prices are out of control.
- We the public are struggling like crazy and your answer is to tax us more and more. Sort out your [expletive] useless organisation and stop wasting tax payers money on shit. You parasitic cunts
- Council tax for this area is already high and these changes will make it much higher than other areas. Services are already dreadful with hardly a bus service and refuse collection not often enough. I have no confidence that anything will improve even with higher charges.
- Because I am a pensioner living on a reducing income and am already worried about heating my home and it seems the council are just another organisation squeezing blood from the stone. Where are we supposed to find all this extra money from
- Everything is going up, how are we expected to afford this increase. It's unfair that Daventry is being increased more
- We get increases every year with less services. I would like to know why Daventry area are to pay more than other areas given that we were the first area to pay

garden waste extra costs. Also the council in Northampton have wasted huge amounts of money with nothing to show for it, we need far more scrutiny of councils expenditure going forward.

- Although I understand the need to increase council tax rates Daventry doesn't have the same level of provisions that Northampton has, we do not have the same level of demand ok services and choose to live in the area due to the lower cost of living. The increase is too much too quickly, many homes are struggling to make ends meet especially with the concerns about energy prices increasing in the near future, people will be priced out of their homes and then there will be even more demand on social housing and financial support
- It goes up year on year, no increase in wages, cost of living going up and services being cut. Terrible
- Money is spent on ridiculous things and wasted, a45 repaired a couple of years ago at earls barton turn off as bad if not worse already, nothing is done properly. Council employees have far too much paid into their pensions by council compared to every other employer.
- They can't even look after the trees and bushes outside my house !! They are awful and over grown.. the bushes on main road are looked after nicely but when it comes to a cul de sac ... they don't bother!! Bin men never put bins back ... pot holes in roads are atrocious
- Council tax in the area is already high. There have been a big number of new houses built in the area which means the council will be receiving an increase anyway. By increasing every year you just make living difficult for everyone. Low income households get support but that doesn't mean middle or high income households can afford the increase.
- Why increase we get absolutely nothing more.
- We are already paying over the odds as a result of years of bad management. Council Tax is not consistent across the area - we currently pay for garden waste collection, other areas do not, charges have consistently increased while the standard of services has decreased
- I personally feel that the increase should not take place, us working class citizens are paying already towards health and social care, people on benefits, towards schools etc and none of these apply to me whatsoever. I have no children i have no one in social care and yet i am having to pay more towards things that do not benefit me to help pay for the people that do benefit from this.
- We shouldn't be charging the residents of Northampton more - we have poor wages in the council as it is, and by upping council tax my pay rise will be irrelevant as it'll go in this increase.
- As a widower the increases will be extremely hard for all pensioners especially when they live alone,as for the green bin increase its hardly used in the winter i feel that it should be pay as and when you use it i feel really angry about this as a lot of others do and will be voting for the next councillor who protested against it
- Because I don't get good service from current payment. Manage existing funds and you wouldn't need to increase. Business basics.
- Ever year you keep increasing council tax it easy political took this is foul corruption politics you need to stop

- Repeated failures to manage your budgets. You have apparently, just discovered a £6 million pound “hole” in your budget!
- Council tax is already extremely high, and with the increasing utilities bills this will put even more families into difficulties. To put the tax up, as well as adding a green bin charge, when more houses are built so the council are naturally receiving more money as residents move in, is an insult to hard working families.
- Bus service for one example need to service a wider area, nothing goes through the new racecourse estate,,surely a bus through there would lower carbon emissions as less cars would be used, also one bus every 2 hours is a joke. Also does this include the extra charge for green bin collection.
- Council tax has gone up for the last 6/7 years I have a young family and every household bill is going up making it a struggle to live I am not made of money or have unlimited deep pockets is a disgrace that another rise is being considered.
- It would seem that Daventry money is being used to prop up the debts accrued by the previous Northampton Council and their bankruptcy, not one but twice. Our roads are awful. Many are breaking apart or have potholes that are becoming dangerous to the safety of our own vehicles plus any passengers!
- I don't feel the funds should come from this direction in this instance and should come from a more separate source, possibly from hosting various attractions to encourage people to the area, and then to give them the opportunity of seeing for themselves, all that Northamptonshire has to offer for residents
- It is not 2.99% for Daventry it is 4.10%
- Cost of living is rising beyond means for many, this will add additional hardship. It should be frozen at current rates and economies/ better financial decision making processes employed.
- Everything is going up & can't afford it
- I cannot afford a rate rise, especially when everything else is going up. Also, when you cut services there is no justification for excessive rises.
- Our pension can't cover all the increases.
- Rising fuel cost has wiped out any spare income
- Too high in these very difficult times
- Every year council tax increases to pay for services and every year they are cut or withdrawn altogether!
- Increase in fuel and NI is going to cause me considerable hardship. Can't afford this as well
- Cut unnecessary internal spend before raising taxes. Try to run the council in the same way that a private sector business would manage its budgets. You're proving that the cameras on the bus lanes were installed purely for financial gain nothing to do with driver education.
- Because the cost of living is already too high and is only going to get worse, we cannot afford to keep funding everything whilst big business avoids paying tax in sweetheart tax deals
- I am a pensioner on a fixed income I cannot afford heating . No more rises for anything. Where did the councils 'LOST MILLIONS' go? Why are we looking to house foreigner ? Why are we putting [description] into hotels in [name of place]? It is time Government and councils put the people [description]. Will the local

<p>authority employees take a voluntary pay cut to reduce the rates bill? No more houses. Leave the greenspaces alone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The squeeze on finances is massive at the moment. Wages have not gone up but the cost of living, energy prices and the impending ni tax increase is already crippling my finances. I earn just over the thresholds to get any financial help but not enough with these increases that I am already finding myself turning heating off to save money for food for my family and other bills. • There is never any visible improvement in rate increases, year on year it increases yet we still have diabolical roads, poor street lighting, crumbling footpaths to name a few problems. You say you intend to improve refuse services, well the first thing you do is charge for garden waste as a separate charge, on top of our increases. People only have so much money to go round. This years pension increase is earmarked before we get it, just in council taxes. • Because the council is raising the cost of living significantly in area's such as south northampton, where they are already cutting back services and implementing stealth council tax rises though charging for services that were free before the changes
<p>Don't know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's nothing here that sets out the details of what the expenditure breakdown for the proposed services actually looks like. All you're talking about is how it will affect Council Tax so unless you provide the additional details it's impossible to make an informed decision. Please be transparent and provide the details of your proposed expenditure. • It would seem that one area in the new WNC has been more profligate in its spending which seems to mean that the other areas will need to contribute more of an increase in Council Tax.
<p>Not answered previous question but still made comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect green bin make compost sell back to public plenty of customers same as blue bin in a seance

Q. If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be mitigated?

There were 241 responses to this question.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a time of budget pressures for the less well off this will further impact on low income households, despite getting reductions in the tax. • The proposal will have a negative impact on people's finances as we do not have money council tax is already expensive. There is no data to show the money we are currently contributing is making a difference to social care in the first place. This will have a negative impact on people's mental health the only suggestion I have is to NOT increase the council tax given human being a break people are struggling to make ends meet. • Think the money is coming out of the councillors pocket. Current issues seem to show that we the constituents are paying a heavy price for incompetence. • It will be difficult for people on low income. • It will, on those on low incomes but who do not qualify for benefit support, especially at a time when energy cost increases and food show no signs of abating • the cost of living is at its highest rate for years, a freeze this year would be pertinent

- With households already struggling with the high cost of living with the sharp increase in utility bills which are due to go up even further in April, this will literally be the nail in the coffin for people already struggling!! Can you not do the decent thing and just put it on hold for a year!!
- as above
- I can't afford it I have no pay rises for two years. [descriptive] someone else's wallet.
- How are we supposed to afford to live
- Being on a fixed income of course its going to nave a major effect
- Everything is rising, apart from wages, stop putting more pressure on people. There is no need to put the price up, make the service better before increasing costs.
- Don't increase it! Peoples wages haven't increased yet bills are just going up exponentially, not sure how you're expecting people to afford every rise
- This would impact my bank balance negatively, in turn causing me stress and negatively affecting my mental health. Simply please do not increase this cost
- The majority of working class people / people on benifits in Daventry will not support this increase. Especially if the council get a pay rise.
- This will have an negative impact on the already struggling family's. Wages rises are on hold while companies recover from covid and all bills are on the rise with no way to cover the gap. Why don't you try looking at your overhead and process before slapping extra costs onto the residents of daventry
- I will be moving on if this goes ahead for sure other locations which are better looked after play less, so what are we paying for? It will put affordability in the area down as well. This is meant to be an up and coming town but instead looks old and not looked after. You will upset a lot of people in the town based on this proposal and cause people more issues on top of covid money troubles!
- Yes, the proposal are unfairly balanced and will result in more tax collection defaults as a result of wage poverty, after all Daventry in particular is a low wage income area!
- Less money to spend, less to put back into the council in other ways. Also as a public service employee, I was told we could not have a pay rise because it would not be fair for those working in the private sector or who had been furloughed (I wasn't-still had to work and spend the same travel expenses) so this increase is coming at a point when my net income is not increasing
- Not being able to afford normal things like food heating etc its mental and other things to keep our child alive that we dont get on prescription....
- stop wasting money
- Financially on residents!
- The total increases for council tax including all the elements of way above inflation and the average wage increase of private companies.
- People can't afford this. Atop wasting our money and listen to your residents on things we actually want and need in OUR town
- People can't afford it. This money should come from income tax of people who can afford it.
- Families are struggling as it is, electric/gas bills as well as food prices have all sky rocketed yet wages haven't been increased to match this, people won't be able to feed themselves.

- It is the worst possible time to increase council tax when all other bills have risen dramatically.
- Medication packaging recycling, plastic bags and crisps packets recycling plus the plastic wrappings on food items could be recycled also.
- With the suspected rise in energy bills next year, I think having a CT rise will be catastrophic for many families.
- The council need to spend money more wisely, reduce the pension commitments, repair the roads properly. Stop accepting people into the area who want/need housing when there are people who've been on the list for years with no prospect of being housed.
- In the current financial climate many people will struggle to pay this increase. Every other bill is increasing at an alarming rate. People cant afford things as it is.
- It's already hard enough to keep on top of everything with monthly pay. Sounds more like you all want the poor gone and only allow the rich.
- With electricity etc going up as well the increase is to steep
- This is a large percentage increase for residents in the Daventry area especially and seems both unfair and unnecessary bearing in mind many people are not on a reduced income due to the coronavirus.
- See my previous comment. People can only pay so much. I am almost at my limit !
- Putting more presure on pensioners when you are stopping the triple lock on pension increases will push more of the elderly and least able to pay into poverty.
- Impact will be that the poorer get poorer. Nothing will change. We will se no improvements for our money.
- Many houses struggling to get by. Freeze rates
- I can't afford to live as it is ...
- People are struggling to pay domestic heating and electricity bills this is anothe nail in thier coffin
- It would be negative, as stated previously, people are already in financial hardship and your going to push them even further into money worries. Money worries and debt is a massive cause of suicide in this country, and the increase will only add to that.
- There should be no need for any increase f the merger of the Id Councils had been properly managed
- My and my family will have to uproot and down size which esp after the last few years will cause a huge impact on our already diminished mental health. Communities should be treated individually and taxed upon their needs
- This will add an unacceptable extra burden to the already rapidly increasing cost of living.
- As above. Mitigation should include reducing services such as [job role] as this is not needed
- See answer above. Any increase in costs to the public are unwelcome so you need to be clear about why these increases are justified and should be supported.
- Stop the green bin charges and I might accept these increases although generally what do we get for these ever increasing taxes?
- West Northamptonshire council has been formed as a result of the failures of Northamptonshire county council and the financial dire straits it was in. This council is just as bad - same rubbish different name. Adult social care and Children's social

care is awful as are our roads and streets. With the previous lack of thought when it comes to spending money being considered, why should local residents have to pay more council tax especially after significant increases of over 20% this year in some areas. There are many people struggling with their finances due to covid-19 and all the council want to do is spend it on the salary of some consultant that doesn't actually know what they're meant to be doing.

- WNC has DECIDED to accelerate the speed of CT harmonisation which will result in another year of excessive tax increases for residents of the former Daventry District. Legislation permits a period of SEVEN years, precisely to enable a caring Council to spare its residents such steep and sudden increases. Many residents - like me - struggle to pay, and have not budgeted for such rapid increases. PLEASE show compassion.
- Save money
- Families already struggling financial will struggle even more.
- Negative impact on residents, but you don't seem to care about them
- Any increase will impact those already or on the brink of financial struggle.
- Amazingly I will get no wage raise, so I guess you can work out the impact this will have on me and many more people. Sack some of your managers or all of them. They did a rubbish job running Northampton council and are creating eyesores along every major road in the county. Only interested in glorifying Northampton which is a town I never visit as it is a decaying unsafe area with no shopping facilities of interest as the only interest the council has is to build more and more housing estates with lovely views of trading estates.
- Apply costs to needs of the many and stop unnecessary spends
- It is important to minimise the impact on the Council's residents at a time when a great number of them will be struggling, (some to the point of impossibility), to meet financial obligations with regard to the supply of electricity and gas due to wholesale price developments of 2021 and price cap adjustments. This could be mitigated by maintaining the St. James Bus Lane camera. As long as it is not the cause of traffic congestion and serves a genuine benefit in providing timely bus services. The only people then negatively affected, would be those breaking the law. This camera provided a significant income according to recent records.
- I just think you are asking too much for too little -
- The council referenced a fund for help in paying council tax. Those on lower wages will have to accept that offer of help, leading to a bigger sum of funding to help those applying. This can be counter productive in income generation.
- I don't believe that the increase would have a 'negative' impact however, after successive increases I am unable to see what positive impact these higher rates are having. Standards and quality are currently venturing in the opposite direction, and I believe that over the duration of the council's new Corporate Plan, the increases will continue to be justified for improvements and investment - I don't see the rhetoric aligning with reality.
- More people will need foodbanks, more benefits for those struggling. Unemployed people should be given work by the council (cleaning, caretaking, parks, sport clubs/activities for kids). Streets look messy and dirty, get [expletive] to do some work. Stop people relying on others who work hard!

- Last year we were hit with 4.99%. the year before 4.99%- its not sustainable to hike EVERY year. The unitary was meant to make things fair across the board, all its done it make a bigger bill to the residents.
- Reputation for the council. Many local residents are not aware of the services we deliver, and the positive impact the council has on their community. Therefore they may just see this as a rise in tax for no benefit to them as the information does not reach all residents/is not understood by all residents
- Squeezing household budgets to fund council fat cats
- Unable to feed my [relative] the house run the bills I cannot afford these kind of increase every year and for what do we actually get apart from in debt.
- Suggestion - stop increasing our bills! First the green bins and now this!
- With the hugh increase in fuel costs coming in in April, many households will struggle to pay their bills. People will choose heating over paying their council tax, which will add a further burden to the council, in trying to retrieve missed payments.
- Low income earners who don't qualify for help, will be hit hardest, there needs to be a lower income threshold.
- It will impact negatively on many families as costs cannot continually rise when wages are not increasing. How are you expecting families to pay for these rises? What sacrifices are you expecting families to make? I will have to choose between feeding my family and affording all of these increasing bills. I think the timing of this is absolutely appalling.
- See above and comments later in this survey.
- I think the council tax rises in Brackley have been too high for the services provided
- Financial impact on already struggling households
- Do not raise the council tax
- There should be some modelling of the charge against average earnings. It is hurting people especially in light of energy prices which ultimately increase bankruptcies and homeless people
- Too many price rises as are currently hitting us, will send many people into debt and despair. Now is not the time to cut services while raising taxes
- I am concerned about the additional Green Bin charge which I do not intend to pay. It is simply a tax increase by the back door.Disgraceful.
- Cost of living is up 4% this year, an unnecessary raise to council tax will further increase this burden when citizens cannot afford it
- Do your calculations correctly!
- The only way I see to mitigate this negative impact as stated above, would be to cut spending on food and clothing. I cannot cut down on holiday expenses as we have not been on a holiday in UK or abroad for the last 3 years
- Just keep it how it is, or if you are going to increase it then actually do your job of fixing things and helping the community with what they are asking for.
- WNC is currently consulting on its draft budget. When this was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated. The government has now informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than those estimates. WNC does not have to change to empty green waste in my green / brown bin. WNC can remove this charge to ALL residents across the whole district. There is no financial reason to charge a second time. WNC have the cash, their budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more. BIN THE CHARGES. Since the publication of the draft budget the council has

been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO

- As above- hits the working families. Please at least have no increase this year to give people a chance to get back on their feet
- Yes, it will adversely affect people such as my family already facing rising fuel and food costs but not able to claim state support.
- Increase fly tipping and isn't required
- As all bills are increasing and for many their wages are not this will be a contributing factor to further housing poverty.
- There is enough poverty in South Northants already. We are all struggling.
- Many normal people are already struggling to meet increasing bills and living costs, which could potentially cause bigger social problems in the medium to long term. This in turn could cause increased intervention and costs for the council. Reducing any tax increase gives low and medium income households more chance of having a positive impact to the local economy and less of a burden on council services
- As above!! Continue as we are. The council have a sufficient budget without taking money out of our pockets to line their bonuses!
- More fly tipping. More unsightly over grown gardens. Affect gardeners costs and put some out of work.
- Residents won't be able to afford this, increase in poverty, food banks, repossessions, impact on poor health and wellbeing. Mitigation should be through lobbying central government and addressing the reduction in centralised funding not passing the cost on to residents and communities and trying to make up for the failings of NCC budget management and investment strategies.
- It could be less without issue. Also a good deal of residents over 60 are wealthy enough to pay full council tax
- Obviously it impacts on peoples's lives if charges are more, but can't mitigate by using different services as nothing available in the first place! Paying for nothing! In fact, paying for less under these proposals....ie green waste disposal!
- I see too many people wondering where their money goes. Into parties during lockdown? This is a year needed to restore goodwill and confidence
- Rather than trying to bring Daventry and South Northants up to Northampton's level why don't you try and bring Northampton down to Sth Northants level. Cut the number of councillors which are not necessary and stop spending money on [expletive] schemes. Council tax increases hits the majority of people hard and we never get a proper say in how money is spent. Councils waste money through their incompetence.
- having been made redundant in June 2020, times have been tough, finding work has been hard and now with the additional costs of energy and the so called services the council are providing, it's putting more pressure on and will result in an expected higher rate of fly tipping
- As I have said there will be more fly tipping, also there are a lot of people that are not going to be able to afford these extra costs, If you as the council start to carry out your obligations That would make a lot of difference in the residents feelings towards these increases, as it always seems that we are more often paying more for

less, from you people, Council Tax should only be paid for statutory services, additional costs should be met by the resident when needed eg Planning

- People cannot pay. Freeze the council tax it's bad enough already.
- Some people might struggle paying the extra amount
- These funds need to be found & returned + all interest lost & those responsible for this abysmal decision to lend held to account. We do not forget.
- As above
- Need to be fairer, those that access to the most services should pay more than those that don't. Or you need to substantially improve services in rural areas
- People are struggling after covid and raising costs isn't appropriate. Especially when little proof of good use of money, our roads in Northampton are terrible for example.
- As above. Partial increase (50% of what's proposed) this year, and the rest next year, or change direct debit to 12 months rather than 10.
- Simple. Reduce the rate in areas in which your services are used proportionately less.
- We have just had a massive hike last year!!! And everyone is already struggling, lower wages lost jobs still playing catch up during the pandemic, we will all be bankrupt if you keep squeezing us
- Freeze all increases. Or at least make the increases uniform across local councils. And also consider whether people can actually afford the increases.
- I find it hard to comprehend why the budgets for Adult Social Care causes such problems. The budgets need to be robustly monitored and managed.
- I worry that the impact of yet another increase will be to the detriment of those currently deemed just above 'the bread line'. A more sympathetic approach is needed at the moment. A more gradual increase in rates would be appreciated by many.
- Local residents are struggling financially and with drop in services as well as with situations caused by covid. There is general lack of faith in our leadership. Pushing up yet another bill, particularly when part of what it's financing is a HS2 Marshall (controversial much?) will have consequences.
- Stagger differences across 3 areas over next 3 years
- It would negatively affect people mentally as well as reducing the ability to pay for all the other rising costs such as basics like heating our homes. Smaller increases would be easier to adjust to although in Daventry we have just had a high increase.
- There are lots of people already struggling, how can you make it worse!
- The council tax rise would definitely have a negative impact on lower and middle income household and therefore could be mitigated by higher contributions from higher earning households - means tested incomes would be fairer.
- As mentioned before, prices for everything are already going up due to inflation and a rise in National Insurance in April will mean all wages are stretched.
- Always increases but nothing improves
- See Above, BIN THE CHARGES!
- People can't afford to pay more currently due to inflation and impact of Covid. Address it by efficiency savings instead. Also no need to employ 2 public health directors.
- People are struggling at the moment due to current situation with covid. Fuel costs are increasing an 8ncrease in vouncil tax would have a negative impact on household income

- Absolutely it will have a negative impact, and for the wider community. Already people are struggling to afford to get on the property ladder, pay for fuel to travel to work, heat their homes and pay for food. This will only cause further harm and stress to families which will impact on their physical and mental health causing increasing costs in other sectors to support them.
- My wages would not be able to cover the increase of living costs
- In the current climate (health, economic and political) the entire emphasis should be future focused and centred on planning for 3-4 years hence. So much damage has occurred in the past two years that a better approach/mitigation is a continued short-term focus on stabilisation and standards/measurement to support cohesive regional progress and development appropriate to the diversity of environment under the total WN area. Increasing budget demands by an average of 2.99% (but significantly higher in other locales like Daventry) is poorly timed for residents still reeling from two years of restrictions and the incumbent inflationary pressures that they are unable to influence.
- People on a low income in my case aren't entitled to any help with electric bills or council tax pushing me further into debt
- When WNC was being proposed, there was a lot of negative feeling that Daventry and South Northamptonshire councils and their residents were being forced to prop up the failed NCC and Northampton councils. One year in, this is being proved by the significant degrading of services outside Northampton yet they are being told to pay above the permitted maximum increase for this downgrade in services by WNC
- 1) COVID has caused significant inflation, and in many cases pay cuts for tax payers. This coupled with the increase in UK National Insurance will further increase tax liability for council tax payers. Requiring council tax payers to pay yet more is missing the 'mood' in the county.
2) Council tax has increased by more than inflation for over 10 years, and is unacceptably high.
3) The increase in South Northamptonshire is above 2.99% and therefore should trigger a referendum. Taking the average is clearly not what was intended by the spirit of the legislation limiting increases. We in South Northamptonshire are paying for mistakes of the past councils specifically those made by Northampton Town Council and this is unacceptable.
4) Removing free green bin collection effectively means the increase in South Northamptonshire is almost double the 2.99% permitted under law.
- Home energy cost rising out of control. Fuel prices high, national insurance going up. Give people a break, sack some dead wood in your offices.
- I feel strongly that asking people to pay an additional sum for the removal of green waste will be counter productive as it will result in more fly tipping. The authority would be better placed seeking to use funds more efficiently rather than simply increasing charges to residents.
- Covid-19 has already caused many many families etc. hardship and to add to the ever increasing cost of living may have a detrimental affect on people. I hope there will be sufficient support for those who slip through the benefit net to help with this increase.
- There are already discounts in place for people who suffer hardship, review them to ensure that they will relieve hardship where they need to.

- The cost of living is accelerating at an alarming rate. Energy prices are getting crazy. If you are desperate to put the costs up the least you could have done is equalised the charge for garden waste collection. Instead you decide to charge everyone generating an additional £800k in revenue. It's a disgusting move on your part.
- How about pushing many people over the financial affordability line into having to make further cuts elsewhere to pay for declining services.
- People are struggling enough and at the moment, some people are turning to crime out of desperation. People also object to paying for people who have not paid anything into the Council coffers, yet get most things free anyway.
- I am a single parent and I work full time. It is a choice between eating and heating never mind clothing. My council tax is already £137 a month and I have to pay to have my garden waste collected now as well. People cannot afford any more tax rises to plug the massive hole in the Conservative Councils budgets. Freeze ALL council tax rises for at least 2 years.
- It will have a significant negative impact on my family's standard of living, it also treats us differently to others in WNC simply because of where we live. These negative I'm pacts can be mitigated by the council (Conservative) and government (Conservative) that brought WNC into existence.
- We have one of the highest council tax bills in south northants (brackley) in the country. This was acceptable when we had all the wrap round services funded, however we are now getting less for our money and we now pay more than other areas in the industry. Thing you are wanting to charge for are essentially double charging. Green bins, no reduction in council tax despite this been a factored in service. So essentially you are actually charging nearly £100 for this service. You will then sell on the waste as compost and make more money. If you deduct this from my council tax, I will be happy to pay for a green bin. Recycling infrastructure and invstment is paid for through tax of the packaging industry, PRNs and soon to be EPRs. Why are you now claiming this back from us. Further prices for reyclng esp in paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminium are through the roof due to severe shortages in the industry of recycled content. Plastic for example has gone from £9 per tonne to over £150 per tonne in the past year. There should be no need or requirement for money money off your local residentents. Are you even looking at world class facilities like chemical recycling or tray to tray recycling? If procurement had been doing their jobs properly the council should have been making money this year over and above the budget. Social care, we pay high values of this, plus extra government tax this is ridiculous and another reason for double charging has been found. In a time that inflation is going through the roof, people money is being stretched and our new Council that was meantbto streamline services to make it cheaper for everyone, only seems to be interested in increasing costs.
- Additional financial pressure on 'just managing' families (remember them?) will create intolerable choices in their budgets
- The answer is that you already know how this is going to have a negative impact. Everyone's outgoings are rapidly increasing. This is a known fact and is portrayed in the news pretty much on a daily basis. The bottom line is that we are all having to spend more even for basics and therefore the negative impact, for some, will mean even less money for food, heat, rent, clothing. For others who are more well off, they will still have their own negative impacts like financial plans for retirement

savings etc.. All this is known fact, not opinion. However, this has to be balanced with paying for essential services; education, policing, housing, benefits, waste collection, and non essentials such as library services. The balancing act is one that is next to impossible for you as a council to achieve. Further savings could be made. Yesterday I visited a council office that I do not usually work from and was shocked at the state of the building and general untidiness. It was like stepping into an office in the 70's, the only thing missing was cigarette smoke. There were piles of paper (presumably some of it confidential) everywhere. It was really cold but when I asked about heating I was told that it had to be switched off in the area I was in because if left on it burnt your legs. There was clearly not a hot desking policy and the desk I was assigned to work from was horribly cluttered and dirty. The IT set up was not one that could cope with agile working. The whole space was badly designed and not fit for purpose. At the same time we have modern buildings that, with hot desking and home working, could fit in more people, even after the Covid restrictions are lifted. I realise it's a mammoth task but selling off unfit offices for development and re-deploying staff and further promotion of agile working has got to be able to bring in revenue and savings.

- Our council (you)have a terrible track record where finances are concerned.
- I accept resources and services need to be maintained by, but council tax payers continue to see the direct impact of failed management by NCC. This is not irrelevant as many of the same seniors who created that disaster remain in position or within the new organisation, and as such creates nonconfidence on budget management or delivery. This is notable for how budget (so tax) tax is required and ignores significant challenges and pressures on bill payers' own resources.
- There is an attitude in councils to tax more deliver less and control more. If we could feel positives and better infrastructure it would be ok. Yet it's all focused on housing. Yet less services
- Less money in bank for other bills
- Cost of living and more going up leaves little money from a weekly wage
- My state pension will only rise by around £5.00 per week, my gas electric payment have risen from £85 per month to £151 per month, how am I supposed to live , every form of contact is now via online, which due to increases in the cost of living is one of the things I will no longer be able to afford so will not have any internet from the 1 st of March.
- Add to the increase in cost of living including NI increases it will place additional financial difficulties on many residents.
- Scrap present current public sector pensions and pull them in line with the private sector contributions, and there will be far more money to pay for services.
- As above
- Councils and government cannot be all things to all people. The days of yearly increases are over, just spend less. I was looking at some contracts and they appear excessive. I am retired but in my last job I needed a new chair, use our approved supplier they said, cost £450. Research showed well known company selling same chair for £200 less, where is the logic in this and it happens everywhere. Result - went without chair as I thought I couldn't justify such spending
- I will be worse off financially when all the increases come in , j would be off being looked after by the state !!

- I cannot afford any more it is a shocking amount as it is.
- When people are at their lowest, and struggling financially, due to government decisions over the passed two years, the government wants to put even more pressure on the working classes!!
- It will definitely have a negative impact households are struggling at the moment with high energy costs & National Insurance contributions without more council tax increases. No increase of services been seen for years so where is the money going?
- People who are unable to access benefits are taking the brunt of burden again and again
- Debt even tho i get discounts its still high as it is and i dont see where the money goes.life horrendous as it is and with pandemic we are all struggling financially aswell as gas/electricity going up,too much and im struggling and stressed
- As above I am very concerned about affordability
- Pensioners will definitely struggle to pay all the increases that are currently happening, who is going to help them? Who is going to pay for all the fly tipping of garden waste??????
- Loosing monay. My household will struggle to meet our needs
- I think we need to monitor closely the families in difficulty. Especially, in rural ward where the cost of fuel and electricity might have a significant impact of family budget. so please, could we make sure that the help is here for the most vulnerable. Do promote the council discount schemes and be ready to listen when constituents are truly in difficulty.
- Very negative impact in the Daventry area. We never get to see anything for what we are charged
- It will certainly have a negative impact on many family's in many different ways. GAS and ELECTRIC costs going up , petrol and diesel prices going up, food prices going up.
- Family incomes are already stretched and with the NI increase on top of inflation, many households will not cope. Better to cut costs and insist on better value for money. Reduce expenses paid to councillors.
- Yes, people have been through enough the last 2 years. There are projects I. E HS2 which are not worthy of council tax contributions and the public already pay for this in taxes. Why is Northampton paying less, it has become a run down dirty market town. South Northants shouldn't pay more to subsidise it. Penalised for less services than the town.
- Offer a discount for disabled people alongside the discounts already offered for people on benefits or with intellectual disability
- Make better use of our money and not waste it on stupid projects that no one wants for our town
- People on low income, benefits , and high proportion of new arrivals from middle east don't pay any taxes, get free everything while we work and go on paying this increases year in year out. There is a lot of waste , and no value , free spening etc plus over staffing which needs to be investigated .
- See above comment. Never mind increased NI and electricity cost.
- Only negative if money is wasted or if important services are not adequately funded
- There has to be a point where the authorities really take a long hard look at their actions , this does not seem to be happening

- Looking at all the documents published I am struggling to understand where I will benefit from the increase in council tax rate. This is continuing to rise but without adequate justification especially at a time when my individual income has been affected due to the pandemic. This is not the time to be squeezing our purses even more, when many of us are not even getting rate of inflation wage increases due to the pandemic. This is not for the better of our town, for anyones lives. Negative impacts could be mitigated by not raising the non fire & police elements - these are emergency services and must be protected.
- Already struggling families will be forced into further poverty
- n/a
- This increase is only part of the increase. Many have not had a pay rise for 2 years but with this proposed rise, NI hike and other cost of living increases please tell me where any additional money in council tax is to come from?
- I cleaned t gutter outside our houses, if tax goes up I will not do this.
- Of course it is a negative - it is taking more of my pension
- People are being squeezed enough financially with increases in fuel costs and basic food items
- Could push families/people into serious financial difficulty with the current high energy prices and inflation level. Getting rid of extra charges outside of council tax, for example the green waste annual fee, could also help ease the financial pressure on residents
- Increasing the council tax will push us over the edge and we definitely won't be able to afford it
- What as been seen to improve the County so far appears that you have miss spent funds already as little improvement..... stop wasting funds first before you demand more..... but every property in the county should pay same in each band not so say ALL in band a pay £1590
- See above - give reduction of this amount to pensioners and carers
- As above.
- You are all as. Useless as the previous council
- Households on low income, already under pressure because of rising fuel and food costs, would struggle to pay the increase which should be weighted towards those that are able to pay.
- More finance for Highways from Central Government should help.
- My family will have to reduce fuel or food
- Yes this proposal will have a negative impact. We suggest you cut out all of the new services in the budget and concentrate on delivering the core services properly. We waited 6 months for a proper response to correspondence last year and this is obviously not good enough. Other than the fact our living standards will probably fall again following this increase there is not much more we can add.
- Crippling in current financial climate
- Many people are already struggling with day to day necessities and increases to prices for fuel, fresh food, travel, taxes NI could lead to unhealthy diet, mental health, crime and antisocial behaviour.
- With the rising prices of energy and national insurance being raised, the last thing families need is an increase in yet another tax/bill.
- Possibly negative impact to those less likely to afford it

- no comment
- As a unitary we should be showing residents benefits of removing a 2 tier system to 1 council with less duplication. Feels wrong to start with an increase. Council tax is already a high amount to pay. We are already facing national insurance increases due to covid and energy crisis and prices up since brexit.
- The cost of living is rising. This will reduce the money available to spend and I will have to make cutbacks negatively impacting my day to day life.
- Rising household costs across the board aren't going to be kept up by wage increases
- Since the councils were joined together to make WNDC it seems they think Daventry should pay more for everything.
- The services required by Northampton Borough are different to South Northants. Why should South Northants pay more for services they don't receive?
- Households already on the breadline should not have to pay for things like impact studies on traffic cameras monitoring a bus lane in another town. COVID-19, job losses and rent rises mean that many can barely afford to live.
- people will not be able to pay this and the council will have less money than now. Looks great on its own but then add parish, fire,police, more managers and the increase is large! Migrated it be reducing adult social care element and overheads in councils.
- You will hit families harder again with no justification for the increase.
- it will cause more poverty, debt increases, homelessness etc. The council should look at how much they pay they management and reassess whether their high salaries are really necessary including paying their expenses.
- The whole country is trying to get back on its feet. Increasing the rate of council tax will put more pressure on families that are already at breaking point.
- [inappropriate description]
- As I said above even the smallest increases to a household at this time is negative. Any increases could be delayed for another year to give people a chance to prepare. It's not just increases in council tax families are facing. If you add all the increases together you could impact a families ability to continue to afford their home, feed their families.
- Yes it will have a negative impact on those who have contributed fully throughout the years paying into the system without taking anything out. There are plenty of jobs in West Northamptonshire area. Job centres should be re instated across the county and not just Northampton Town area where all the money seems to go. People with diabetes should also be helped with support to have respectful employment instead of voluntry gesture work. A large amount of our money from the council tax goes into social care. The whole system is leaking money , where many of us will never have the that luxury of any help. National insurance contributions have already gone up to.
- With the massive increases in the price of food and energy, people in lower income brackets will be further pushed into penury. A new Benefit similar to the Disabled Reduction but awarded on the basis of family income would help.
- As above everything is rising but wages are not including those of frontline critical workers who are picking up more being paid the same and now beginning to struggle financially.

- Service getting worse, not better. Roads are terrible, roadworks from utility Companies are carrying out shocking repairs
- living in a village i feel we get much less from council tax than those living in a town
- There would be more fly tipping which the Council would have to remove so the gain would be cancelled out.
- I think people may not pay for collection and May start dumping garden waste. Keep the charge within the council tax with a lower increase.
- As a pensioner living on a fixed income, all increases are difficult to manage as they are happening in all areas of living.
- Of course it will have a negative impact. No improvements will be seen. No one will change. My pockets will be lighter
- Paying more money for no services for villages You seem to be concentrating on towns and villages ignored again
- Although an increase in council tax is needed to fund services, such a massive jump is unfair at a time when incomes are already being stretched by high gas prices and will be stretched further by the increase to National Insurance. This rise also has an unfair effect on those living in the former Daventry District where the increase is almost double that of someone living in the former Northampton Borough.
- Household budgets are already stretched and the only way increases can be mitigated is if household incomes can be boosted through similar increases in incomes to cater for it. This is not happening in a majority of cases due to performance over 2019 - 2021
- Everyone is struggling and you are making it harder.
- All bills are going up. A lot of residents will need to scrimp and save, or run into arrears. This hike in charges adds so much more stress on people, at a very bad time.
- More people driven into poverty. Start by turning your heating of at least down in your offices and ask your employees and councillors to put an extra jumper on
- Not being able to afford to live
- Negative impact is obvious. Why would anyone want to pay more for incompetence.
- increasing cost of living above wages - especially NHS who have not had a real time pat increase in years. The provisions in Daventry are far less than areas such as Northampton we do not even have a fully functioning police station to fund for one example!
- I think the increase is too high and it would cause households of all incomes to struggle following two years of already struggling. With people having to isolate for COVID related issues sick pay can be a regular thing rather than full pay. I think the council tax should not increase!
- For some, the rise in costs will be too significant and be problematic
- I personally feel that you should actually look into who uses what services, such as schools, care and people on benefits etc and try and look at better ways of sharing this cost between the people who use those services as people like myself are being penalised and paying for things that do not benefit me. Not only that but i have worked full time during covid and yet there are people out there who sat on there [expletive] not doing anything and benefited from receiving money from the government and again im having to pay for those costs.
- Frustration and lack of support/respect for WNC.

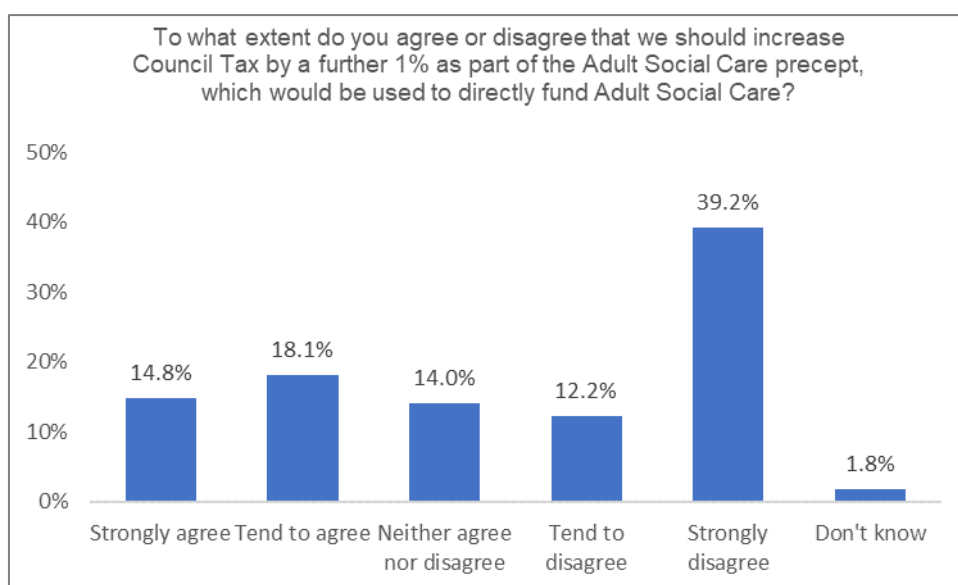
- Increases cost of living with no increase in standard of living.
- It will have negative impact on Conservative party for dirty politicking .lie lost of trust
- The increase in council tax might put considerable pressure on some households given inflation and rising fuel prices. Central government should be pressed for money to provide discounts to struggling households. Failing this money could be earmarked from the Council reserves for this.
- The working class are incurring increased costs left right and centre. Covid has impacted salaries & jobs. Further increases are going to add to the strain and cause hardship when the items on the list are not a priority. I suggest the council look at there structure to streamline the positions/management (as any other business would do) before passing on charges to residents.
- As above please freeze a council tax rise
- Many people are about to face huge price increases with fuel and tax. Families are already struggling.
- I do not think the rate payers would take kindly to this increase and would object strongly to it. Making available, the offer of alternative avenues to explore to create the funds needed might encourage some insightful and diverse ideas and plans. When people are given the opportunity of showing creativity independent of any force, some interesting ideas can be arrived at. Under those circumstances the council may see some less expensive and less burdensome ways to make the funds.
- Hardship for many in addition to high ruse in cost of living, national insurance and fuel cost increases.
- Negative financial impact
- I will not be able to afford this. I'm already on 1 meal per day and I'm struggling to pay bills as it is.
- Nil
- Increase the amount that the cost of living rates are set at to a more realistic level.
- The negative impact would be paying more for no visible return
- Households on low incomes are going to struggle even more with their bills as all costs are increasing. This will not only impact their expenditure but health and well-being as people will worry and debts will increase putting more strain on people as they try to make ends meet.
- Inflation, cost of fuel rising and increased NI. Can't afford to live anymore
- It will as usual hit those least well off, the only way I can see to mitigate this would be for a general election and the removal of the Tories from power
- Financial impact on households is already set to be massive. This along with other tax increases will put a lot of families in the heat or eat bracket.
- Potential negative impact could be reduced by there being no increase. It's not rocket science, use some of your reserves, your not a profit making company, yet hold obscene reserves which must come from overcharging us in the first place.
- By re-instating services that have been cut back, such as road repairs, rural bus routes and garden waste collection

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should increase Council Tax by a further 1% as part of the Adult Social Care precept, which would be used to directly fund Adult Social Care? Please tick (✓) relevant answer

Example: What would a 1% increase mean for a Band D property?

- As an example, a 1% adult social care precept increase would result in an increase of £15.66 per year (£0.30 per week) for 2022/23 for the average Band D Council Tax payer

There were 508 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	75	14.8%
Tend to agree	92	18.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	71	14.0%
Tend to disagree	62	12.2%
Strongly disagree	199	39.2%
Don't know	9	1.8%

Q. If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:

There were 258 responses to this question.

Strongly agree/ Tend to agree

- The population is getting older by the year and more support should be given to those elderly people that need it.
- Increased costs and increased persons requiring help - a necessary increase.
- Need to attract appropriately skilled staff.

- Agree with the 1% but NOT the rest of the increase. How do we know the 1% will be ring fenced ?
- We need to support people more.
- Social care is a worthwhile way to spend money
- This funding should be from central government
- Increasing numbers of vulnerable people need all the help they can get.
- Increase the budget is the right thing to do. Manage the service much better is the right thing to do also.
- Central government should give more support.
- Community Social Care is extremely poor and additional funding will hopefully be used in the correct way to improve services, which in turn may help to provide beds in hospitals
- It is very much needed and I like that it is ringfenced for adult social care. And when added to the other 1.99 per cent increase, the total is still a good compromise. (Council Budgets are under strain post Covid. But homeowner's bills are also escalating on many items. So this is a reasonable compromise.)
- As above.
- Care, local services, social services all need big investments. The vast amount being spent on plans to expand south Northamptonshire needs to be cut as a total waste. No one wants 10500 houses on their doorstep and the plans do not fulfil the authorities green credentials
- Stop increasing people's council tax. The people of Northampton can't afford increase. You're giving people a choice of pay council tax or starve
- Many elderly people need help and the service is currently underfunded.
- Social care is struggling, I know this especially as a manager of a social care service. West Northamptonshire council fails us daily so I do wonder where OUR money actually goes.
- We have an aging population that needs supporting
- As a homeowner I will pay for [description of person] who had [their] rent paid all life, who can afford cigarettes and tattoos, but not [their] bills.
- Adult Social Care is currently underfunded.
- We have an aging population and there is a greater need for linked care between the NHS and the elderly struggling to live at home.
- As long as it is actually ring fenced for social care and doesn't just disappear in the "pot"
- I have no issue in contributing to fund Adult social care as long as this money is solely used for this purpose and those spending are held accountable for the decisions they make
- Adult social care has been neglected for years, with most of the adult disability services relying on charity groups.
- Adult social care a key requirement in a civilised society
- Increase to help with social care is understandable but the extra cost on a green brown bin won't go towards that will it
- I think the global pandemic has had a massive impact on everybody and extra support is needed, if this helps to support people that's good.
- Adult social care was on its knees before covid and is in desperate crisis now. This increase should be more than 1%, the service needs massive funding, massive re-

organisation and total rethink of every part of it; care in the community, hospital care, carer's pay, every part. It's not just a funding issue, the system we've had for the last 10 years does not work.

- Adult social care does not get enough money and I totally agree that it needs more money putting it to get a better service from it
- Yes more money needs to be spent on this. But before piling more money in the service needs to be looked into further and evaluated so money is put to good use. For example preventing people ending up in hospital for months for social reasons which is a huge cost to the NHS. Frontline help, support at home and information for people. Carers/help for terminally ill. I personally had to stop working for 2 months at the age of 24 to care for my dying mother and could not get any support other than charities that still only helped for 1 single night. Most cases like this would end up with the individual in hospital with family unable to support the needs no matter how willing the family are.
- I'm Happy to pay for adult social care if you really do provide it but not for green waste bin to be emptied
- This area needs support and as those in greatest need and are often the most vulnerable. People in this bracket should be cared for well and their needs met. This increas should NOT be used for admin or be funneled away to other areas and should be ring-fenced for on the ground and grass roots improvements.
- As long as it goes where it's supposed to go
- We must address this aspect of society. Needs are increasing, is 1% enough?
- I feel that the needs of adult social care have been underfunded, putting extra pressure on the NHS so any increase in funding is to be welcomed.
- See previous answer.
- Adult social care has been in crisis for years now exacerbated by the pandemic. It needs funding urgently and 1% is not enough.
- But how about using the money to retain staff and not be so reliant on inept staff from overseas who have almost no understanding of the issues faced by individuals in the UK.
- I understand the pressure social care is under, happy to pay 1% on the basis that ALL Council tax payers pay extra 1% regardless of where they live. If this is not the case then I strongly object.
- I accept resources and services need to be maintained by, but council tax payers continue to see the direct impact of failed management by NCC. This is not irrelevant as many of the same seniors who created that disaster remain in position or within the new organisation, and as such creates nonconfidence on budget management or delivery. This is notable for how budget (so tax) tax is required and ignores significant challenges and pressures on bill payers' own resources.
- My [relative] is disabled so uses adult services but more support needed as vulnerable adults not looked after properly
- Social care is in a mess...not enough staff and increasing numbers of clients.
- Adult social care is under funded or under actioned within
- I am aware of the challenges in the adult social care space with elderly vulnerable parents in the area waiting since Jun 21 for support
- It is not an option. This one percent cannot be used otherwise. As our County has a growing older population and with the Covid impact on the elderly, This would allow

WNC to make sure that Adult Social care is innovative, helping people to stay in their home longer and healthier. Also i would like to see more initiative like Herbert Protocol. Well done for the multi agency collaboration

- Social care has been massively under funded for too long
- Service provision needs to be improved and increase recruitment
- Need the funding
- There is a national need for councils to provide adult care. This should extend to improving / extending the building of 'cottage' hospitals so that bed blocking is reduced in our hospitals.
- Yes as long as you can be open with you accounting and prove where every penny is bought in and spent..... again not wasted
- There is a widely recognised social care funding crisis and a precept specifically dedicated to social care would, I feel, receive support.
- As long as this is totally used for this purpose.
- As per the previous answer.
- only if the money actually gets ring fenced
- Social care demands are impacted by many issues and you are starting from a poor position, unrealised in this is the fear to go out onto deeply scarred footways, with trips likely... Underinvestment in highways with deplorable, fraudulent inspections causes more cost in Social Care than in highways
- Think we definitely need more social care available for the elderly, it's already thin in the ground. More care available to help them stay in own homes for longer. Retirement villages with more outdoor sports facilities etc rather than blocks of flats or at least wide connections to parks and surroundings. The chance to retain their house that they've worked for all of their lives
- Does Adult Social Care include a Bus Service to our village of Pitsford so that Senior Citizen's Mental & Physical Wellbeing is catered for?
- Adult social care desperately needs increased funding, I am happy to pay the 1%
- Adult social care desperately needs more funding
- Increases in elderly population. Will need care.
- Adult social care is currently appalling. Any increase to better the service can only be a positive
- Something has to be done to bolster Social Care services, they are on their knees. The money should come from central government but THAT'S not going to happen with this lot in power now, they can afford to put their relatives in expensive care homes. To mitigate the negative effect on low income households, see my comment re a new Benefit above
- It's extremely important to keep Adult Care Services. Hopefully this increase would mean no cut backs!
- I strongly agree, as long as the whole amount goes to Adult Social Care
- I do believe there needs to be more services and provisions to help in adult social care, especially during and since COVID19 where there have been restrictions and disruption in support and mental wellbeing
- More funding needs to be in place for this sector, without doubt! This should not be left to profit making private companies, it should be a provision by the community for the community.
- It is the responsibility of all to care for the elderly and vulnerable in the community.

- Hopefully you will use this money for Adult Social Care and nothing else!
- Again as long as this is where the funds are to go to.
- you need the money !
- We already pay extra for adult social care. Perhaps these homes should be brought back under national control. Those owned privately are pocketing the profits!
- Adult social care is under maned. It needs a boost with social care workers in all area's if that means increasing council taxes then so be it.
- Social care and education are absolute musts for our future, those and the climate and healthcare should be the absolute priorities, especially after this pandemic.
- My [relative] needed social care, it is greatly needed in an aging community

Neither agree nor disagree

- Failure of Government nationally to fund social care inevitably puts pressure on local councils- so although unsatisfactory this surcharge helps plug some of the gap
- Again, will it actually be spent on adult social care?
- You will still take my house if I need care regardless of how much you make me pay now.
- Adult social care does need addressing as bed blocking in hospitals creates issues in all age groups
- The precept has been historically levied to provide investment into Adult Social Care but is yet to yield any real effective results. I do believe that this is a national issue and appreciate the additional financial burdens that the pandemic has had within the Health and Social Care sectors. As of April I will also be contributing an additional 1.25% via my National Insurance and would still need to utilise capital in my home should I ever require help. An increase in the precept will not create the difference required without national reform.
- As long as that is exactly what it's used for I don't mind that
- I have no information on what improvements to social care are proposed.
It is in a pretty poor state at the moment as experienced when my late [relative] was in need of help.
- Funds can be redirected to this from current money, for eg the absolute waste on 'smart motorways' now being recognised as yet another dreadful & I'll thoughtout use of public funds
- Lots of inefficiency here. Get more staff actually helping instead of managing and pay accordingly.
- This is where the way ASC is funded falls over. All working residents will be paying an increase in NI contributions from April, allegedly for ASC, but the government has used sleight of hand and is not passing these increases on to the providers of the service.
- Adult social care is in crisis. We do not pay a fair wage to those who care for our aging population. Although I cannot agree to increasing our council tax, somehow we HAVE to pay for this care. I believe that the system for caring for our elderly / vulnerable is fundamentally broken and no amount of council tax increase it going to fix the problem.
- Happy for increased taxes if services are improved.
- Paying for something we get nothing from.
- That's OK if All adults get the same care, despite where they live in the county and what their welfare situation is.

- The social care that existed when my [relative] suffered years of advanced Alzheimer's and I was [their] sole carer was virtually non-existent and the various agencies were not joined up let alone helpful other than to tick the boxes that meant nothing to us.
- the government should be providing for social care and giving it to councils. We are going to be paying extra tax for this from april
- Needs to be more specific. I do think carers deserve a better working wage for the work they do.
- I know this is a major problem I wish I had sn answer. I think there are cultural and social issues here. Families used to look after their own but that doesn't happen so much now
- I dont suppose a fraction of the money is spent on its true purpose.
- Given the previous councils performance I find it unlikely that this surcharge would be targeted at the areas it is intended.
- I work for ASC but raising council tax would not be my first port of call. It's a lot of money as is.
- I don't know enough about social care so wouldn't like to comment either way on this.

Strongly disagree/ Tend to disagree

- Again as stated in my previous response I strongly disagree with this we just do not have enough money to fund for this we are struggling as it is already. Wages remain the same taxes increasing how is this fair why not take all the money you make from PCN parking fines and invest that into adult social care we do not have the money to fund for this especially with the pandemic were suffering alone.
- Better planning, and forward thinking, less politics and more commonsense.
- People should expect to fund themselves
- The care given has not improved over the years waiting lists getting longer even with extra money it will not improve as in previous years .
- Should not be applicable for OAPs who are retired
- See above answer!
- Charity begins at home. I need everything I earn to feed myself and my [relative]
- You increase council tax last year to cover the struggling adult social care. While I understand that it increases most years, last year was bigger. Did any of the services improve ? The services I access have long waiting lists, process which hinder the care required.
- How poorly are the new Council mismanaging their budgets? Why should tax payers fund negligent fiscal management and control? At the end of their first year of performance, how in the Red are the new council's budget that they once again stick their hands in the tax payers pockets. Why don't you loose some of the new councils management structure to make them more fiscally responsible?
- It is a massive increase that people can barely afford. There was a huge increase last year & we are getting another huge increase just to prop up poor financial management in Northampton council. Just stop!!
- there is no guarentee the funds, collected would be spent on Social care, when I work at NCC it was common place for funds to be moved around to suit, I would not trust them.
- Increases in Adult Social Care should be funded by central government

- This shouldn't be separate to other council tax funded services
- National insurance is being increased to pay for social care this means we pay twice
- The council needs to pull its belt in and find these increases from its budget
- For as long as I can remember, the council has increased the council tax but it appears to have made no difference to any services. I wouldn't mind paying more if I saw anything for it. When does the council propose not raising council tax. Will this ever happen?
- There has been no clarity on what is covered by "adult social care"
- National insurance is going up by 10%, partly for the same reason, to fund social care. We are already paying extra for this.
- No matter what, government won't bother with social care. They want to bleed the country dry while they live it up on our money, paying them to rent, feed them.
- You already have increased last year to cover this
- The government has already raised taxes for this purpose so you are proposing to add another tax on top of that already in place
- Central Government and national lottery should fund this.
- The money already allocated should be distributed better; perhaps consider lowering the top dogs salaries first!?!?!?
- Should come from government not residents
- As previous. Struggling to meet household costs
- As before
Where are the savings that should have been achieved
- This feels disproportionate to the demographic of the area.
- Too much emphasis is put on social care in general.
- See above - you try to sell these increases as modest but they will not be modest for former Daventry District residents. You are deliberately concealing the fact that it is your policy decision to BULLY former Daventry District residents into compliance with unfairly accelerated harmonisation plans. You are deliberately concealing the fact that legislation offers protection in difficult economic circumstances such as these, by giving you the ability to phase harmonisation over a longer time period.
- More more more
- This charge went up much more than the quoted amount last year, you're doing it again this year, appalling
- Again I don't have the money to fund your ideas for this week or this month or this year. I am not a cash cow. If you want more people defaulting, please keep increasing fees out of line with wage increases.
- This should be totally funded by central government
- With the vast array of private care companies taking social care work off of the council, I find it difficult to understand where this money would be going to. As a result I cannot support such decision.
- My contribution to adult social care was way above this last year and the council just came up with excuses for this being so. Can we decide to opt out of this? Especially as we'll never see any benefits of this money being used
- The money that gets paid to them through disability benefits when that person dies put the money back into the pot not to their families it would save you loads.

- These questions are very badly worded when taking into account the preset answers. I am not in favour of an additional 1% charge or for this to be used for adult social services.
- These are promises which are never fulfilled
- Why do I have to pay for services that I do not require? If people need this care surely they should pay for it?
- Everything is becoming far too expensive and families cannot afford to pay for everything.
- If the Council was more efficient in the way it managed resources there would be more than enough to support adult social care.
- Same as previous answer
- What is the money going to be spent on ? Actual care or more managers and meetings?
- See above
- Only if kept separate and really really for Adult Social Care The problem is that taxes rise to pay for certain things and then, after a while, it's merged into the same pot and then forgotten that it's earmarked
- I fail to see where the investment is.
- Basis above
- We are already faced with an increase in NINOs to cover social care, this is double taxation.
- Not fair all of these increases
- The money doesn't go to adult social care as you're not interested in enhancing the facilities or services to this sector
- This is not a local authority issue but something central government should find through national tax initiatives. Recent history of local authority fiscal failure indicates an inability to discharge it's duty in this area.
- Why would the council fund social care? Does this not fall under health services?
- This is a massive challenge at the moment and it should be at least 2% and not 1% to pay for this!
- Should come out of the nhs costs
- I want to take care of the community but cannot myself afford to pay a penny more.
- For the same reasons answered above!
- Again, sufficient budget in place. Social care is also a strong supported NHS initiative and there are many charities offering support in these areas.
- We are penalised by the incompetence of the former county council. This extra should be financed and maybe controlled by central government.
- Again, this is a clear example of the Government passing on the costs to the local authorities for their failings to properly invest in the social car reforms that are needed across the whole country...and these get passed on to us as local residents.
- The government should fund social care
- the social care system is a joke, we tried applying for PIP for my [relative] in Aug 2019, it's taken us 2 years of appeals and it's still on going. The face to face interview was a joke and they lied in the reports back to the DWP, luckily we recorded the meeting and yet they are still not being held accountable for it. So why pay more into a broken system that we don't get to use?
- Answer as above

- Because most of the people that will be benefiting from this are the people that have done nothing for themselves all their lives, and the people that have worked and saved, and looked after themselves get nothing out of it, I know some people cannot work and to save a look after themselves, so yes they should be helped, but don't expect us to chip in to look after those that that will not work and help themselves,
- Income tax is being introduced to pay for Social Care from April so this should not be paid again by households.
- Social care tax is being introduced in April why should I pay twice.
- I also think this is too much
- The existing budget should be used more efficiently.
- The country is already on its knees
- Same as before: The non-uniform increase between districts, in tandem with no regard for resident's financial status, especially when fees are increased every year, is absolutely disgusting and unjustifiable. There should be a freeze on council tax increases for at least a set period, or indeed, a formal review of whether it is moral to continue to milk people annually and with little forewarning. Moreover, our local council don't even seem to provide any services such as addressing road issues (pot holes etc), so seemingly we're just plying funds into a piggy bank in case we are unfortunate enough to suffer an emergency(given that the day to day council services just aren't provided any way).
- Adult social care needs the money but take it from somewhere that doesn't. Like politicians having work parties during lockdowns etc...
- I don't want to pay more for something I don't use.
- We are going to be paying extra NI for the exact same reason
- Can't afford it!
- People should have saved for their older years, obviously some people can't but we can't be expected to keep everyone!
- People do not have the money for the increases. Wages and pensions are not increasing in line to allow for these increases. People will struggle.
- This again was increased last year, yet the council's facilities for adult social care have again been cut. No day services.
- It is up to the council to manage its current budget. If that's a problem perhaps you need to let go of people who are unable to find ways to make the money go further.
- Redirect funds from the yearly budget rather than increasing Council Tax
- Adult Social care is a painful misnomer as there is huge inequality and the poorest quality of information around the availability and the success, or otherwise, of its application. Simply taking advantage of central Govts allowance of an increase in the precept does not, in any fashion, address the disparity in the provision of adult care services in a demographic of ever-ageing population and ever-rising mental and physical impacts on the working adult population. The constraints on access to these services is unfair; and always has been. Instead of "sticking plaster" budgetary actions we should be financing grass roots analysis of the failures (and successes such that they are) regionally and nationally and then applying future budgets, aligned, with the rectification and improvement for the future.
- I'm low income and entitled to no help that I can see meaning I may need to take out a loan to cover these costs pushing me further into debt

- Central government have now increased tax by 2% to pay for this which is already adding burden to middle classes for a generation which chose to not prepare for its future. As the reason for charging for the green bins is that Northampton Town resident's don't receive 'free' collections, then there is no reason why I should pay additional funds for a service I do not use.
- Have you recouped all the money that went on the six fields stadium?
- The adult social care costs should be properly funded by central government, and I am not convinced that these funds would be ring fenced for allocation to adult social care.
- Enough focus has been made to this issue resulting in unitary in April 2021. This service should always have been a major factor in the previous budgets set out and not now be the constant focus of any proposed increases. Very poorly managed historically.
- It appears that money is wasted and its often difficult to tell exactly how the money is being spent. Mistakes are made that mean money is wasted when there is no need. There are clear efficiency savings to be made.
- See above
- Government is taxing for this. South Northants pays above average for this.
- There is already provision for this under the government increase in taxation
- I refer you to my previous answer.
- Most homes are mismanaged. Extortionate fees for poor care. The carers and nurses should be paid better with better management focused on care ahead of red tape management
- Daventry residents are being penalised for having a former council that were excellent at managing their finances unlike the former Ncc.
- The majority of the increase will line the pockets of those you outsource services too, rather than improve services for the end user.
- No increases are necessary, you need to redirect what you have towards services instead of yourselves.
- Fed up of paying for everyone else
- About time we took more responsibility for Social Care, turning to council should be a last resort
- To many people in important positions not enough workers cut from within
- Because half of the people claiming are nit entitled
- Adult care? You force the working class to sell the properties of the elderly, and use all their savings, before you even thinking of financially helping the elderly. The elderly have already paid into the pot over the years! Where has their care money gone, that you need to raise taxes to pay for them?
- stop wasting so much moneyi
- I have worked in care in Northampton. The wrong people are recruited and all the money is paid out to the top level ceos of companies. Resident care is outsourced to many money grabbing firms. The whole system needs a reform.
- Adult social care should be funded by central government
- As above
- Isn't that what the NI rise is about

- Adult social care should be taken from the payments that said adults made when they were working and nobody should have to give up their homes to pay for it either!!!
- Too much
- Like everything else doesn't ever get pent in the Daventry area, end up subsidising another area
- Adult social care costs should come out of the NHS budget.
- This cost should be passed on to elderly who hold much of the wealth in this country. The state should fund residential places better and this cost should not be subsidised by residents.
- Social care should be scrapped entirely in favour of a Darwinian proposal. We already have a growing population due to an aging population so this in no way aligns to a sustainable financial offering
- Social care don't make much of a difference and the whole system needs an overhaul with better staff training, compassion, empathy and understanding how to support people in a person centred way because right now they should be paying money back for the horrendous job most of them do
- As above
- I have no benefit to this rise, therefore can not support it at a time when our purse strings are being squeezed from every direction.
- Adult social care fail to provide proper services and I don't see how these yearly increase improve services for the residents
- Adult services are sufficiently funded, increases should support green measures eg bike lanes.
- We already fork out far too much money - usually for things that never materialise
- Please refer to my previous answer to questions
- There is already a proposed national insurance increase to help pay for social care, so extra charges via council tax feels like a double tax
- my money only goes so far
- See comments above.
- Funding should come from central government
- No, there is more than enough currently being paid for council tax. Stop wasting money on consultations left, right and centre and use that instead.
- Same as above
- I don't see that the previous precept contributed to a better service
- The new council was sold to residents as cost-saving. Yet this is the second budget with another increase in cost without service improvements. Very difficult to see how this increase will fund better services with the reported £6 million deficit in the budget. I
- Supposed to be doing this through other tax rises & just another body now to houseful finances
- No benefit to the rural community..
- There is already a new 1.5% that has been created to fund the social care in this country. Unbelievable to think that we will have to add 1% more on the bill.
- Because we pay enough already for social care.
- This should be covered by the NI increase in April
- It's just too much money to find each month

- You aren't using funding in this area responsibly as it is
- The government need to subsidise adult social care.
- Let their family take responsibility for them. The social care system was never intended for cradle to grave.
- Because it will be wasted.. There is already to much miss management as it has been for many years. I have worked in this area for many many year and seen for myself. Tighter controls on equipment which is given out never to be seen again. Plus all the equipment and furniture which is thrown away .. let alone the food wastage in care homes. Building leaking heating , and buildings being used which are not used effectively or efficiency for the purpose it is supposed too.
- Never see any evidence of the increase actually going to where it is supposed to.
- Think of something new!
- Has nothing to do with my family. We won't benefit.
- I will never be one to benefit from Adult Social Care, as I have responsibly and diligently planned throughout my life to not be dependent on others. Perhaps we should be encouraging the younger generations to start taking responsibility for themselves and not expect others to provide it
- We are paying enough people also have to pay for there care.
- Adult social care - [descriptive]
- [Expletive]
- Can't afford the increase
- Adult social care is so poor in this county now. Can't see that there would be any meaningful diffetence.
- People can't afford for bills to keep going up.
- I agree that adult social care is important however with more houses being build and more households paying council tax why can that be used instead.
- I have no need for this
- thoughts are above
- Nothing to say
- Manage what you get today instead of mismanagement
- In consideration of the cost involved to the Public, when their purse strings are already being pulled in many directions following the pandemic, I feel this addition could prove costly to the council by retaliation. This is my reason for objecting to the increase going to residents of this county. While similarly, the idea of Free input by those same residents could prove more fruitful.
- As above
- Maybe you should focus on child social care. I know children are getting abused in this county (my ex partner was a [name of profession] here) yet there's no money in the pot to help them.
- Same as first answer.
- National Insurance will increase by 1.5% in April to pay for the new Health and Social Care levy so this should be excluded.
- Being taxed twice as paying more NI to pay for Social Care
- The council has a history of funds not going where intended.
- For the same reasons set out above
- Families need to look after each other. it is not my responsibility to care or pay for the upkeep of strangers.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the already mentioned financial impact to already struggling families.
Don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the breakdown of these expenses? • The amount people who were in the DDC area have to pay more than any other area.
Not answered previous question but still made comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the amount of houses that's been build over the last 2 years and more permission giving for more maybe don't take the [expletive]out of ppl with your increase sooner or laterer ppl going to fight back only word that really comes to mind is [expletive] money money maybe if you don't give yourself a pay rises and private dinners and expenses for lunches and meetings made you would have more than enough

Q. If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be mitigated?

There were 122 responses to this question.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal will have a negative impact on people's finances as we do not have money council tax is already expensive. There is no data to show the money we are currently contributing is making a difference to social care in the first place. This will have a negative impact on people's mental health the only suggestion I have is to NOT increase the council tax given human being a break people are struggling to make ends meet. • Forget the politics and concentrate on the people you are supposed to be catering for. • Overall increase in tax and impact on those on lower incomes • there should be no increase • Bring back the Poll Tax then everyone would pay • See above answer! • As above negative bank balance, negative mental health • Again look at your process! • Default 9n tax payment, leading to a larger deficit and yet more tax payers money being wasted on court actions to recover non payers! • stop wasting • People can't afford it • With the suspected rise in energy bills next year, I think having a CT rise will be catastrophic for many families. • Who actually will benefit from this increase in tax, is it our elderly? Local residents who need mental health or other physical health provision? How many day centres are being provided for elderly or adults with brain injury and mental health needs, are there? Carers or Hot meals on wheels services for those who cant care for themselves? Or people who have just arrived that we are expected to put all other concerns and responsibilities aside for? Local working people are facing real hardship from having less and less cash in their bank accounts, it cannot continue • Keep any increase to a lower amount
--

- It would certainly impact on me. Negatively as I have already stated
 - To increase council tax at this time when saving where promised with the changes in the structure of the council is irresponsible and will push more people into poverty at a time when pensioners are choosing between heating or eating. Shame on you.
 - You charge enough with little return for the residents as it stands. I can't afford to live as it is.
 - Stop increasing council tax. Find alternative ways to fund services. The people of Northampton pay enough as it is. You out in a bus lane that pulled a lot of money, then closed it. Despite it being a big earner. The council is a joke.
 - Use larger corporations and their business tax not small families
 - As above
 - Pointless question to ask without supporting information. Do you make uninformed decisions?
 - All social care should be means tested and those who are clearly playing the system rooted out.
 - See previous answers.
 - Please take advantage of a longer harmonisation period to help former Daventry residents in an extremely difficult financial climate. The only thing excluding me from Council Tax support at the moment is the fact that I have some savings. These are rapidly dwindling. Please show some compassion and do not make the assumption that rapid harmonisation (whilst beneficial to you) will not cause serious HARM to many considerably less than affluent residents such as me.
 - Charge more to the people using this, not the general populace who will never use or be able to use it
 - Smaller staff at council level with a smaller base to cover. Stop the Ponzi scheme of importing more people into the area.
 - With rising cost of living, an extra precept on top of a general increase in council tax, would mean people may fall behind on payments. I feel I do not know enough about how this money wouldn't be spent on adult social care, and therefore find it difficult to support. I would also need reassurance the money would not be given to private companies.
 - The failure of government to properly resolve the social care cost issues results in local areas having to try and support the costs which they cannot adequately do.
 - Check on those people who only ask for free services. Teach them how to look after themselves, how to prepare for the future, how to stop drinking others blood.
 - Wasting more money, council never spend the money in the areas required just waste it on paying themselves more
 - There should be enough money in care if budgeted right.
 - As stated in my answer to the previous question
 - Will have an impact on low income earners who don't qualify for help, and with so many increases due in April, more help needs to be available.
 - You should be thinking of ways to help families and their financial situation rather after the last 18 months, not adding more of a financial burden to them.
 - Same as previous answers
 - See above
 - All price rises have a negative effect.
- If you are already struggling to get by, any price rise will have disastrous effects

- Basis above
- See above
- This increase isn't going to plug the current hole in finances for care and it should be higher by at least an additional 1% = 2%
- People will not be able to stay in their own homes and will become a social burden in way more expensive ways.
- Financial burden moved onto people who should not have to bare it!
- Money quite likely to be diverted elsewhere later on.
- If you match this increase to increases in inflation, cost of living, increased fuel duty, increased income tax, increase VAT, decrease in wages, decrease in central funding in real terms the impact on families and residents is gargantuan!
- Any increase in council tax hits people hard especially with other cost increases. Not necessary.
- further financial impact to our tight budgets, need to look at what we actually get and it's not value for money
- I think I have explained my feelings in my above answer,
- This proposal increases bills further.
- Perhaps you should use the bin tax toward social care.
- I feel Council's already waste precious funds. Why penalise home owners?
- For you to work out!
- People struggling to pay bills and inequality in our own county by almost doubling the increase for some areas Vs others. This seems unfair with villages ending up paying the most and seeing the least support from the council
- Leave as is.
- You are taking from the working class yet again. You are in danger of creating stress increasing mental health problems, I am constantly worrying about whether I can feed my family heat my house etc without this added stress
- Same as before.
- Yes, tax corporations more and the wealthy. Less cheese and wine parties at No. 10!
- Make efficiency savings instead. Get rid of expensive and unnecessary layers of management to fund more care staff. Work with schools and further ed and higher Ed to encourage careers in this area.
- Increasing council tax will not have any positive benefits. The issues are systemic and stem from bad management. The council need to employ people who can innovate sectors that are floundering such as schools, care homes. Pay people proper money and you will retain staff reducing your costs in recruitment and agency workers. Get a handle on wastage and find ways to procure items cheaper. When deciding how to spend money imagine the council is a single parent trying to find an extra £50 a month for council tax when you already risk running at a loss and perhaps this will help you to think more broadly.
- Redirect funds from the yearly budget rather than increasing Council Tax
- See previous answer. Systems are broken. Focus on the problem(a) analysis and budget for resolutions and improvement. The negative impact is this is merely ignoring the issue(s) and increasing the pot of poorly addressed funds rather than developing a viable strategy for adult care and its implementation and measurement.
- People in the minimum wage section are being pushed without any help as far as I can see which in the end will probably leave me in court for or Bailiffs in fact pushing

me further into debt a very worrying time this could be changed by only raising council tax for higher band properties

- The is an additional burden on council tax payers when COVID, inflation, and UK government general tax increases has significantly impacted disposable income. A decrease would be appropriate given the last 10 years of successive maximum (or nearly maximum).
- How can it be anything other then negative. Constantly bad decisions after bad decisions. You have no excuses, you have plenty of money coming in. It is mismanagement that is the issue.
- With the increasing cost of living everyone is facing in the coming year I do not believe this is the right time for the authority to be increasing council tax by such an amount to level up, and instead believe residents' costs should be levelled down.
- I personally feel that too many people will already be struggling with brexit price increases, covid furlough and general inflation increases, this will just be another financial burden for those who miss out on additional benefits and support.
- There are already discounts in place for people who suffer hardship, review them to ensure that they will relieve hardship where they need to.
- People are sick of wasteful projects, and also object to the Council loaning money when we are told Council has none. Last loan heard about £1000,000.
- See above
- The negative impact on standard of living is a trade off I can accept, though local economy will suffer as the family's discretionary spending will be cut in order to pay the 1% increase (and any other Council Tax rises)
- See above.
- As before this is additional and unnecessary pressure on resident families who do not need it. Furthermore the provision for those in need of care has already been paid by a generation who have met all taxation requirements placed upon them only to see these funds wasted on central and local government vanity projects.
- Unfortunately, we have to spend more and more money on treating vulnerable children and adults due to mental health issues. I believe that we have an increasing mental health crisis that is exacerbated by poor parenting and poor housing. I see more and more of our young people, especially in some of our pockets of deprived areas, where they have such a poor example set to them by inadequate parenting that they really stand no chance in life. All this to say that the mitigation is that we, I mean all of us; society, government, local council, have to address the bigger problems of poor education, poor parenting, crime, gang culture, The 1% increase is a sticking plaster on a festering infected wound that has no chance of healing if we don't fight the infection.
- I accept resources and services need to be maintained by, but council tax payers continue to see the direct impact of failed management by NCC. This is not irrelevant as many of the same seniors who created that disaster remain in position or within the new organisation, and as such creates nonconfidence on budget management or delivery. This is notable for how budget (so tax) tax is required and ignores significant challenges and pressures on bill payers' own resources.
- Focus on people not systems and mistake avoidance.
- Less money fir heating bills
- Heat ,eating or internet is now my choices.

- Put in robust value for money checks and disseminate the outcomes to tax payers so they can be assured that improvements justify the investment.
- See above - more individual responsibility
- After Covid 19, and the massive debt the government has put us in, and the financial and mental health of the tax payer over the years, I do not think this is the right time to raise taxes on the working classes!!!
- spend it more wisely
- Increases should be frozen households are struggling with energy & NI contributions
- More suicides, more poverty and more homelessness
- My household will struggle with increasing tax
- The only negative I can see is if this 1% is not use towards integration of social care and health. It should also appears clearly how it is spent so our constituents know exactly that this extra burden will help them in the future to have a better and more efficient service
- Don't get any benefit from the increase, just less & less services
- Inflation will already hit hard and will have a negative impact. Reduce twinning with European countries and costs associated
- As above
- As above
- As before mitigation
- It would just line the pocket council and not benefit the actual people that need the help it forces struggling people further into poverty
- N/a
- Of course it is a negative - it is taking more of my pension
- Cause individuals to cut back on essentials such as food
- Combined with the increase in national insurance this feels like a double tax
- make the council pay by getting rid of there lazy staff
- Households on low income may be unable to pay and would again need to be supported
- See comments above.
- See above. Of course any increase will have a negative impact.
So far as, it is nearly time for our family to move away.
- Again may be difficult for certain people to afford. If this could be sold as an advantage in later life though - perhaps not so bad
- No
- Same as last answer
- The cost of living is rising. This will reduce the money available to spend and I will have to make cutbacks negatively impacting my day to day life.
- Adult social care should be a right not a privilege. Prices should be capped and subsidised by the government, and care givers not be allowed to set their own prices- the whole adult care sector needs to be more regulated
- You are asking the wrong questions
- Because it go up next year . To many people in the county need looking after or are not wanting to work for their own well being.
- See above
- As above, the public are not an endless pot of money to be constantly taxed. This will have a negative impact on many many households.

- Cant afford all these increase it seems someone in the parish council is getting paid to much if you keep wanting these increases every year.
- Too many [description]
- Although an increase in council tax is needed to fund services, such a massive jump is unfair at a time when incomes are already being stretched by high gas prices and will be stretched further by the increase to National Insurance. This rise also has an unfair effect on those living in the former Daventry District where the increase is almost double that of someone living in the former Northampton Borough. Perhaps not such a sharp rise in tax would be the way forward. This is after all, not the first time in the past few years that we've had to have a massive increase in council tax, it wasn't the residents fault the finances of the former county council were in bad shape but yet we're the ones having to deal with it.
- You are [expletive]
- Nothing
- As above.
- Again, many households may struggle to afford this increase in the council tax and would need to be supported with discounts
- No comment.
- Adult social care should be under the remit of the NHS.
- I believe the extra burden being placed on residents of the area could cause a backlash of negative behaviour with an increase of costs being placed on the council's shoulders to repair or replace that damage. I don't think people can tolerate very much more of the hardships faced during the pandemic, and would react badly to any kind of increase in the use of their pay from wages and other income. Greed could also be a possibility where, to recoup some of the increase of fees, would be grabbed at on a personal level and utilised for their own personal use.
- With the amount of houses that's been build over the last 2 years and more permission giving for more maybe don't take the [expletive] out of ppl with your increase sooner or laterer ppl going to fight back only word that really comes to mind is [expletive] money money maybe if you don't give yourself a pay rises and private dinners and expenses for lunchs and meetings made you would have more than enough
- Nil
- As above, Households on low incomes are going to struggle even more with their bills as all costs are increasing. This will not only impact their expenditure but health and well-being as people will worry and debts will increase putting more strain on people as they try to make ends meet.
- Again as above
- Due to the already mentioned financial impact to already struggling families

Fees and charges

Income from fees and charges represents an important source of funds to the Council and enables a range of services to be provided within the area and beyond. West Northamptonshire's draft Budget generates income in the region of £33.5m with approximately £23 coming from Fees and Charges set out in Appendix C. All Fees and

Charges have been subject to a review for 2022/23 and within the draft budget proposal there is an additional £1.2m of income that has been generated through this review.

This is the second year that West Northamptonshire Council has been able to set its fees and charges. In some cases there will have been different fees and charges set by the previous authorities for the same services. In these cases West Northamptonshire Council has looked to harmonise these fees and charges so that one consistent fee or charge is applied across the whole Council area. This has been done for most areas where there were different fees and charges for the same services, including all those where there is a legal requirement to harmonise. In a few cases harmonisation has not been possible for this financial year, and these fees and charges will be reviewed again during the year to look to harmonise as soon as possible.

The fees and charges schedule includes a proposal to harmonise kerbside garden waste collection for all residents of West Northamptonshire who opt into this service of £42 per bin per year, from 1 April 2022. This proposal was approved by Cabinet in November 2021. This proposal is estimated to generate an additional net income of £800k. In addition it is expected that a further £100k income can be budgeted for due to uptake of this existing scheme in the Northampton area being greater than previously budgeted for.

For further details please see the [proposed 2022/23 Fees and Charges schedule](#).

Details of the Council's [current fees and charges](#) are available on our website.

Q. If you have any comments to make on these proposals, please tell us which fee or charge you would like to comment on and give us your views below:

There were 214 responses to this question.

No fee	No fee
	I think I have made my point! PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS!
Garden bin charges and large item collection	I already pay for this in my council tax and you do a poor job. I'm not paying twice for a bad service.
Proposed increases in the former borough and district areas	Daventry - £62.93 per year Northampton - £36.24 per year South Northamptonshire - £46.84 per year As Northampton receives the bulk of WNC services and has a populous community then it should have the greater increase. The major increases appear to have fallen on the areas which previously have managed their funding in an efficient manner and provided excellent financial reserves for the newly created council. It would appear that Daventry and South Northamptonshire are bearing the brunt of poor financial management exhibited by the former Northamptonshire County Council and Northampton Borough Council.
Garden waste collection	Again, paying more year on year for same service. When my wages increase at the same rate your fees are increasing I may be more willing to pay more
Garden waste	£42 per year and I cant cut my front and back garden at the same time as bins to small and service remains the same despite the payment increase.

Extra Charges	DDC transferred all open spaces to DTC, so if you increase tax burden further with special charges, you will need to qualify them and where the money is to be spent by area. It seems that the poor money management problems of NNC have transferred to WNC, no surprise if the new council is populated by the same senior staff using the same processes from the failed NCC
Garden waste	Never had to pay it before, why should we now?
	Green bin collections should not be charged extra.
kerbside garden waste collection	kerbside garden waste collection will now cost a significant amount of money, and contribute to the already high levels of fly tipping in the South Northamptonshire area. No additional funding has been made available to deal with fly tipping, where past experience this year it takes months to even get a response from the council when fly tipping has occurred, and longer for the waste to be removed. No assessment has been made on the environmental impact of encouraging increased pollution by people driving in cars, to the Northamptonshire waste disposal sites to dispose of garden waste to avoid the charges. This is also happening at a time when areas such as south Northamptonshire will experience proposed above inflation rises in council tax fees before considering these new fees, making a very large increase in costs for a maintained level of service in areas such as South Northamptonshire.
Garden waste	Absolute joke. It will continue to go into the black bin.
kerbside garden waste collection of £42 per bin per year	This was included in the previous council's charges
Garden waste @£42 per year	We already pay large council tax fees which have always garden waste collection. This new proposed charge is as a result of the realignment of council areas and is an unacceptable additional charge on top of what we already pay, which included that cost. You have over the last few years reduced collections to fortnightly and now are proposing to add an additional charge for garden waste. There is already a huge problem in Northamptonshire with fly tipping and this can add to the problem. Charging people to remove garden waste will only result in garden waste being dumped illegally which results in additional costs to the council to clear. Make this service available to all, free of charge, will ultimately result in lower council charges overall.
	Doesn't represent value for money
Bin collection	I do not support extra bin charges. We already pay for refuse collection. People will just put rubbish in their normal bin or fly tip and it will cost more in the end
Brown bin	An increase in council tax through the back door. If you're charging separately for this service then there should be a reduction in the council tax that we pay for this service.
Council tax & additional bin services.	You charge enough with little return for the residents as it stands.
Garden waste	A charge could mean that fly tipping will increase as people avoid using the service the council provides

Garden waste fee.	South Northants residents already pay for this service. An additional fee is likely to mean that recycling is not as efficient and will result in garden waste being added to black bins, or worse still, fly tipped at the roadside. This is a false economy.
Kerbside garden waste	The local fields will be used to fly tip garden waste instead- this is fine from a community perspective, but be mindful that local residents have agreed this will be the approach and will likely cause concern by the farming community
Garden waste.	Why, we didn't need to pay before. Why not introduce free garden waste collections for all residents instead of lining the council's coffers?
Green bin charges	Totally wrong!!!
kerbside Garden waste collection	This is a useful service and is worth the money as it save trips to the tip.
Garden Waste Collection	It is now well known that the Authority will benefit from an unexpected central government payment of £3.8 million in addition to the Draft Budget. This removes the need for these charges. In this context, and in the context of your decision to accelerate CT harmonisation, an insistence on levying this level of fee would amount to a cynical and contemptuous exploitation of residents. PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS DECISION - IF ONLY TO OFFER FORMER DAVENTRY RESIDENTS SOME COMPENSATION FOR YOUR CHOSEN DECISION TO INCREASE THEIR TAXES WITH SUCH RAPIDITY IN RETURN FOR PRACTICALLY NO SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS.
Bin charge	Again massive increases. Stop it
Harmonise costs	Just an excuse to increase the costs across the board, why don't you start by reducing the salaries of some of your management whom are paid much too much for the jobs they are performing
All of them	Harmonisation always seems to go up rather than down. Why do you think that is?
garden waste	This is just another stealth increase of council tax in that south northants were already paying for their garden waste through the council tax so this is just an increase for us on the 1.99% already mentioned
General	I am disappointed to see the majority of charge increases relate to an individual or small business. There is a National housing boom with private companies making significant profit on new housing development. West Northamptonshire has seen significant growth in this area. I believe commercial planning permission, especially on the scales seen, should at minimum see a 3-4% increase in their application fees and at most, a significant increase of 50%. This would bring the charge to around £300, which I feel to be an almost laughable amount compared to the profits being made by said companies. I do not agree with the withdrawal of charges that are listed as 100%, referencing applications and suitability assessments.
Green Waste Charges - South Northamptonshire	The £42 charge fro a service that was supplied at no cost is not acceptable.
Harmonise	Just a buzz word for increasing the charges
Garden waste charge	The charge discriminates against lower income smaller property residents who have smaller gardens and no realistic alternative option to dispose of waste (eg space for a compost bin/ability to access a waste site).The cost per use is therefore higher as it won't be needed fortnightly.

Mk	Please stop increasing the prices so much in Middleton Cheney we are not all on high wages and there are many people like me who are struggling thanks.
kerbside garden waste collection	West Northants Council are wanting to charge £42 per year to empty my green bin. This has been emptied for "free" as part of our council tax charge in the former SNC area but I believe has been charged for in the former Daventry and Northampton areas. Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances. BIN THE CHARGES. Nobody should be charged for green waste collection. WNC needs to show it is a green council
Green waste collection	There is no need to increase / start charging for green waste collection. This service has always been provided as part of council services in south Northampton and given the additional funding being given the charge can now be removed from across the new area without any budget impact. This is a vital service which disproportionately impacts residents in south Northamptonshire.
Garden waste collection	I don't agree with introducing a fee for this service as it will encourage people to dump their garden waste instead making public areas unsightly.
Green bin charge	All that will happen is that waste will be dumped in rural areas instead. Green waste will end up in the the black bin, and certainly not taken up to the local tip, using fuel and contributing to higher traffic on the roads. It will therefore be counter productive and ultimately cost the council more. There is talk also of the government stopping councils from charging this in the aim of encouraging people to recycle.
Green waste	I think it's disgusting. The green bin collection is part of our council tax. That's why we pay it! So why add a separate bill for one bin?! I will not be paying these charges.
Kerbside garden waste	The £800k anticipated income for SNC would presumably bring the overall total from green waste collection to £3m. These charges which are part of your draft budget, were formulated based on an estimated Government grant. It now be said that the Goverment has informed WNC that they will get £3.8m more than estimated. Therefore by not charging any resident across the district, they would still have almost £1m more than anticipated. Council rates continually increase year after year and the are meant to include all bin collections, to charge an additional charge for green/brown bins, is in fact charging twice, shameful. If you want to save some money stop collecting the small grey food bins, a complete waste of money as so few bother with it. A lot of this waste could be put in the green/ brown bin for compost.
Green bin charges	It is not necessary to charge for this service which has been in place since recycling began. How are the bin men going to know which households have paid the charge and which haven't. This charge should continue to be met through council tax payments.
Green bins	There is no need to charge for this. There is enough money; you recently had a grant which more than covers this and there's about £1 million left over.
Green Bin	The green bin surcharge for former South Northants residents is completely unjustified and a double charge. Our council rates already include this service so we should not be charged twice for the same service. Equally, since this flawed decision was taken more than the

	predicted additional revenue has already been given to the Council by Central Government.
£42 bin fee	<p>So now you are going to charge me £42 a year bin fee surely you can take £42 off my council tax...</p> <p>All you are going to achieve is more fly tipping of green waste, what will cost the council more in the long run... with ditches being blocked causing flooding.... then there's the environmental damage, I for 1 will be burning my green waste, so hopefully the council will pick up the bills for new asthma sufferers, again more cost to you..</p> <p>If this scheme is to make it fairer to everyone ie if you haven't a garden why should u pay.. I haven't got children please could remove the schooling fees from my council tax as I don't think I should pay towards it..</p> <p>And I don't want to pay for the police as there never about and are useless..</p> <p>Tho I will pay for the fire service and ambulance as I may need them burning my green waste....</p>
Garden waste collection	I completely disagree with imposing a charge for collecting green waste. This has been paid for as standard out of council tax in South Northants since its introduction. You will be receiving more funding from central government than you have budgeted for, so could actually remove this charge from all of West Northants and still be in surplus of funding. Not providing this as inclusive to the waste and recycling collection will only encourage tipping of such waste, resulting in costs to the council, or private landowners, for cleaning up. Surely local government are targeted for such waste recycling (composting)?
Green bin surcharge	It is criminal that, having received over £3.5m than expected from central government, the council should be charging residents for their green waste as well. We already pay for this.
Garden Waste Collection Charge	There should be no charge for collecting garden waste as charging means people would opt out resulting in increased traffic and to local waste sites - with subsequent pollution- and the risk of unscrupulous people tipping illegally. this would also go against the green strategy. It is a form of profiteering as the council can make money from green waste WITHOUT charging residents to collect it.
Garden waste	People will be incineration their garden rubbish in their gardens or having bonfires. Low income earners shouldn't have to pay.
Garden waste fee	There is no need to charge a fee & it does not encourage recycling. It will only lead to more fly tipping at a greater cost to the Council.
Kerbside green waste collection	<p>There is no need to have this charge at all. Why?</p> <p>WNC is currently consulting on its draft budget. When this was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated. The government has now informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than those estimates.</p> <p>WNC does not have to charge you to empty green waste in your green / brown bin. WNC can remove this charge to ALL residents across the whole district. There is no financial reason to charge a second time. WNC have the cash, their budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more.</p> <p>BIN THE CHARGES .</p>
Garden waste	I do not agree with this we pay a council tax fee to take the green waste away is supposed to be biodegradable so therefore you should not have to pay for disposal also is if you are going to charge for it then it should be the same across-the-board whether you live in Northampton or south

	or west Northampton not separate pricing it's prejudiced against people who do not live directly in Northampton
Fees for Green bin collection	How can you justify charging £42 when the actual cost is £30 to get bins collected. Councils should not overcharge to make money
Garden waste collection	Asking for further money from families struggling to survive. Increases in outgoings due to tax far outweighs any current incoming increase
	Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances. BIN THE CHARGES
Green bin collection charges	Absolutely no need for WNC to be introducing green bin charges for former SNC area. WNC central government funds will be significantly more than estimated. Rather than levelling up why didn't WNC level down and charge either £0 or a nominal £10 fee. Absolutely disgrace
Kerbside collection waste	I strongly disagree with charging for this service. Charge for additional bins by all means but wherever I have lived this has always been included in the council tax we pay. It was included when we were part of South Northants and charging now will effectively be a double charge. The amount Northants has received by central government is in excess of that expected and therefore I do not feel you are able to justify asking for this additional payment. In terms of harmonisation I have an issue over this. As a Governor of a West (prev South) Northants school we have recently been advised that Northants are no longer going to provide Finance, payroll and HR support for schools in this area leaving many schools in limbo for this key function. Business managers are already stretched and yet you have placed demands on them to find alternate supplier of these services at exorbitant cost. The irony of your harmonisation is that this change is not effecting North Northants and those finance services are still provided from the central function. How are you aligning services. I am amazed you are causing such disruption to schools at the challenging time
Green bin charges.	As the council is now receiving extra government funding, equal to more than the new green bin charges would bring in, I can see no reason why anyone in WNC area should pay for green bin services.
Green bin fee	This should not start costing more it is already in our council tax
Green waste	It seems very strange to be charging for the green bins when the council should be looking a sustainability. Green waste is reused and sold so why the charge? Surely this will lead to people either using their black bin for green waste and or dumping it else where . Has any thought been given to the impact of this at the "tips" and recycling centres in the area? Not only could it massively increase usage but add to the carbon footprint with more vehicle use.
Green Bin	This should not be chargeable , when this was introduced as a scheme , it included our rubbish being collected fortnightly instead of weekly , the green bin was part of this plan , also to have compost to collect because of the green bin , it was a plan we fought against approx 23 years ago , why now , should we be charged and still not have our rubbish collected weekly , I would not be able to afford a green bin fee
Kerbside green waste	Whilst I agree that everywhere should be being charged the same, I still feel will should not be charged for being 'greener' for providing green waste.
Garden waste	Would rather return green bin than pay this.

Garden waste collection of £42	Strongly disagree with this increase and feel there should be no increase to council tax payers
Green bin charge	We shouldn't have to pay this charge. They already have the budget for this
Bin charge	It's a basic need and should not be charged extra. This is what council tax should cover without extra fees.
Garden waste collection	This fee should be included in our already expensive council tax
Green Bin extra charge	This is an outrageous idea. We have had a green bin emptied for as long as I can remember. Removing this service unless people pay extra, will mean fly tipping of garden waste, more bonfires producing smoke and fumes etc.. I don't always have anything to put in my green bin, so I will be again paying for a service I don't always use.
Garden Waste collection charge	Stick it. I will refuse to pay twice. The Council are already receiving funding to cover this service. Rip off!
Garden waste charge	If we are to go down the route of charging for separate services let's make it fair. Libraries, remove funding from council tax and make people pay for what they use, same with buses. My point is everything has to be included in one tax or people should only pay for what we use, you cannot pick and choose as it does not make a fair system. Also bonfires will be back, more fly tipping both detrimental to the environment. More fuel and pollution will also be used with trips to the tip. The black bin will also become a source for garden waste and end up on landfill which in turn costs the council. In summary it is a stupid idea with no thought to the consequences.
kerbside garden waste	Is this necessary based on budgets the council have and rise in council tax? I note that local residents are now proposing to put green waste in their black bins which seems crazy as this waste will end up in landfill and will produce methane. Fly tipping of green waste might also increase due to this charge. Not everyone is honest and not everyone can afford to pay for this extra charge however do have green waste.
Green bin charge	I pay this already through my south northants council tax bill, why do I have to pay it twice! If it is being rolled out then the council tax charge should be reduced accordingly
Green waste charge	Disgusting when the additional income from central government is taken into account. £3.8m higher than originally thought and discussed in draft plan. You can bring Northampton and Daventry into line with South Northants and still be quids in.
Green bin garden waste collection	Green bin waste collection for South Northants was a successful income generator. It also encourages Green recycling. There is no need to charge more for this service. Charging for this may also increase fly tipping across West Northants and surrounding areas
Green Bin (Garden Waste) Collection	This fee should be scrapped for all residents and kept free for all residents. The council has received a budget larger than anticipated and this will not affect council budget. Introducing fees could lead to increased fly tipping and dangerous burning or disposal of garden waste
Charge to empty green bin waste for SNC residents	WNC is currently consulting on its draft budget. When this was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated. The government has now informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than those estimates. WNC does not have to change to empty green waste in my green / brown bin. WNC can remove this charge to ALL residents across the whole district. There is no financial reason to charge a second time. WNC have the cash, their budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more. BIN

	THE CHARGES. Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO
Green Waste Charge	As a resident of the former South Northants council I strongly object to be charged £42 a year on top of a 2.99% increase in my council tax. Next year my council tax will be more than £3100 a year. That's £310 per month at least to pay, then an extra £42 to get my garden waste taken. I thought that was I paid council tax for in the first place.
Garden waste collection fee	We already pay a lot in council tax which included the collection of garden waste and now you want more money for the same job. This will only lead to more fly tipping
Green waste collection charge	This is already incorporated in the council tax so if this was brought in I would expect to see a separate line outlining a decrease in the council tax for this service. More fly tipping would take place or people would put it in the black bin.
All waste charges	We in the SNC area paid for this via Council Tax. Presumably this money has now been allocated elsewhere in WNDC budget. Not a fair or ethical action.
kerbside garden waste collection	This is not a question of opting in, it's something we already pay for. Allowing people to opt in or out of services sets an uncomfortable precedent. There is also not enough capacity in the local recycling centre to accommodate the increased use if this service is removed, particularly with the number of new houses being built in Towcester and the surrounding area.
Garden waste collection	For the 4 times a year I put my garden waste bin out I will not be paying a extra fee! It will either go to the tip or go in my black bin.
Green bin	This is not needed. Budget has been given as more and doesn't need to be charged simple,
Kerbside garden waste	I wholeheartedly disagree with this decision. Not only do I think we should not have to pay extra to have our kerbside garden waste collected considering we get this collected now and is paid for already in our council tax, but I think this will impact negatively on the community. I feel the charge will put people off from having their garden waste bin collected, it will lead to an increase in flytipping of the waste, or people will put garden waste in there black bin and therefore it will not be recycled hampering measures to be more environmentally friendly. Also you will still have to collect brown bins from the people who pay for the collection which will still mean lorries on the road and pollution. Without the collection as a free service, more people will need to use their cars to travel to refuse sites and this will increase greenhouse emissions and increase footfall at refuse sites putting more stress of staff. Why not still collect the bins as done now and not lead to an increase in carbon emissions as a fewer lorries are better than all the extra cars on the road. You claim to being focussed on becoming a greener and cleaner authority but this change goes against that claim. In addition, we all saw with covid the stress that was placed on household waste tips and if they were to shut again which is possible in the current climate to protect staff, what would be the option for disposing of green waste for persons who choose not to pay for the collection? Again, flytipping comes to mind. You state this charge will create 800k profit but you also state budget proposals show an increase of £42.2m, so in this

	case why do you need extra money to provide a service we are entitled to and have access to free already.
Green Waste Charge	Scrap all charges for green waste. Encourage more recycling and generate income, look at all options. Possible income from Podback coffee pods recycling scheme.
Garden collection. £42.	That's a sharp increase and I can't believe it costs that much extra for a contract? That sounds too expensive overall and the contract cost is not realistic and a poor deal for the tax payer. It feels this cost subsidises other shortfalls in the council. If nobody took this service then I would expect to see higher taxes elsewhere as this is a subsidisation for other services
Garden waste	Not required
Green Waste Charge	You've been given extra money from central government you don't need to start charging to empty my green bin. This is covered already in my council tax. You don't need to charge me again. Especially as you are increasing my council tax anyway!
Kerbside garden waste collection	West Northamptonshire Council claim to be "focussed on becoming a greener and cleaner authority" Introducing/maintaining charges for green bins is totally against this, and will disincentivise residents from disposing of waste appropriately. It will result in a reduced uptake in the ex South Northants area and more green waste would end up in general waste bins. Removing the charge for all residents would result in increased uptake in the Daventry and Northampton areas and help the council meet its green targets. This revenue is not needed as there is enough funding from other areas, eg council tax, to cover the expenses.
£42 Green Waste Bin	Totally disagree with this proposal, just another route to getting money out of us. We are already paying for this service in our waste collection.
Green waste collection fees	Totally counter productive. You want to discourage the public use of vehicles and by charging for this service this will have the opposite effect. It will also put even more pressure on already stretched recycling centres. The council should also be more pragmatic here as well. There should be a massive opportunity to actually generate income from collecting green waste by producing biomass fuels, compost, etc for industry or even the general public. This service should be available for everyone free of additional charge, especially as it is actually in budget! I would also question as to whether the collection of this fee is also actually cost effective from an administration point of view, knowing the council's relatively inefficiency here.
Bin charge £42	Absolutely ridiculous!!
Green bin waste collection costs	Nothing short of a money making exercise by the old inefficient borough councillors. There's no reason why any of us should be paying extra for this. It should be part of the waste budget. The council states in its opening page of this report that it's committed to creating a greener environment. This proposed charge flies against this statement. The old SNC were able to collect with no extra charge. Green waste went for various green recycling projects and, I have been led to believe, generated an income. Even if you look at the total claimed cost, that amounts to a household cost of around £32, nowhere near that proposed increase.
Green waste charge	I gave my comment on previous page
Green waste	Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Greenwaste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere

	in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.
Kerbside Waste Harmonisation	This was paid for in West Northants as part of my council tax, therefore this "harmonisation" is a stealth increase of my council tax and is fundamentally unfair. For it to be fair, West Northants residents would need to now have access to additional services worth £800k per annum, which is not the case. It's purely a revenue generation exercise. If proceeded with I would expect the level of council tax increase in West Northants to be 2.99% less £42 (or the £800k divided by the number of households in the area).
Kerbside green waste proposal	SNC was able to collect green waste within council tax budget, and then process it and re-sell products. Seems the sustainable thing to do. These plans seem ill thought out. More expense for poor service. Plus, council has been awarded extra funding from central government which will cover any costs from this green waste collection.
Harmonise garden waste	I'm afraid any money it would generate would be spent cleaning up fly tippers. Or people will just use their general waste bin. The environment needs to be more important than money
Garden waste	This will increase fly tipping and misuse of the black bin system. I would suggest a council wide charge of £25. This would benefit those who pay already and wouldn't deter residents like myself in Brackley. The green bin is already collected here within the annual community charge payment.
£42	Strongly disagree. You already collect money through our council tax, plus you are getting way more money from government than previously expected. We should not be penalised for the failings of your councils previously badly run budget.
Green bin charge	Unnecessary. WNC would still be better off and have a bigger budget this year even if new charge was dropped. Are you profiteering and trying to fool householders?
Green waste charges £42	This has been covered in our council taxes in South Northants area and should not be an additional cost to anyone. This will only encourage even more fly tipping in our County and as a result will incur more cost to the Council. I also believe the Council is generating a substantial amount of money from our green waste together with a very healthy government supplement to enable them to do this
Green Waste Bin Collection Fee	Rather than charging residents of Sth Northants who are already suffering a higher council tax increase why not make it zero for everyone to encourage more people to use the green bins and encourage your green credentials. Why should the population of Sth Northants have to pay for the excess of Northampton Council over many years when previously its services had been run well and efficiently. Not fair at all.
Garden waste recycling bin charges	It is a mistake to discourage recycling of garden waste by making a charge. This issue is particularly relevant to those in the South Northants area, who have never been directly charged for this service, and now find that the maximum charge has been chosen in the process to bring all previous councils into line. As the council will receive £3.8M more from the Government than originally anticipated, and the green waste charges would bring in £3M, the green waste collection could be made free of charge across West Northamptonshire. Help save the planet. Encourage garden waste recycling with a free collection.
kerbside garden waste collection	so this is a way to further tax us on services that we are already paying for, it's not fair that we should be made to pay this extra tax. It will encourage more people to stealth dispose of their waste either via the

	black bins, fly tipping or causing problems with putting their waste into a neighbors bin who may have paid for the service. Not fair on them. Considering we don't have children, don't use the library, then why can't we opt to not pay for that service and rather support the continuation of the green bin. It's only going to encourage more hedgerows to have green waste dumped.
Green bin collection £42	I think it is wrong to begin charging for garden waste collection. I do not drive so I don't have the option to take my garden waste to a waste center instead, leaving me no alternative but to pay £42, when council tax is already increasing anyway. Even for those who drive I think it is very unfair to make people pay for a service that had previously been included in council tax, and should continue to be included.
Charge to empty Green Bins	There are rumours of a disgraceful and unnecessary plan to charge £42 per year to empty our green bins. This is a stealth tax and it's simply wrong to charge for green waste! Bin collections should be paid for out of council tax. Added to this, there is no actual financial need for West Northants Council to charge as WNC will be getting extra money from central government than they were expecting when they set their budget.
Garden waste charge	Disgraceful as when this is collected, and processed, you then go on to sell it as garden compost, so you are getting a lot of the money back anyway, and as I have stated in earlier answers, you will find that you will get a lot more fly tipping, which will then cost you more money to clear up,
	Fees are fair for those who use the services.
Bin	There should be no charge for garden waste. It should be collected for environmental reasons not to make a profit.
Kerbside Garden waste collection	I do not agree with charging for this as our council tax should cover this service. I think people will put garden waste into landfill bins, burn it or dump it rather than pay more. Tenants would not want to pay as they may only be renting temporarily at that property. I think this would be bad for the environment if the council go ahead with charging for this service.
Garden waste	Again south northants was a well run and managed district. Our green bin collection was included. Just because we have to now work with poorly managed areas we have to pay for their waste too. If we pay for the green bins we should then see that amount reduced form our annual bill.
Green Waste charge	I have no objection to the increase to £42
C tax	Completely over priced for very poor services provided. Over paid Ill qualified employed staff. Do better Northampton we expect better
Bin charges	I imagine there are few people who need a green bin collection and can't afford £42 per year. It makes sense to have this charge the same across WNC to allow all budget savings to go to adult social care.
Garden Waste Collection Fee	Whilst not popular, the logic can be seen - BUT the fee MUST be ring-fenced so that it's expenditure is solely on dealing with the waste
Garden waste	I disagree with the price of £42 for garden waste collection this is far too much I feel this should be around £35 maybe more homes would actually opt into the service
	None
Fees & charges	So on top of the normal council tax we get charged yet even more money. You are encouraging people to not work and to take benefits rather than

	work ourselves into the ground to be worse off than people at home all day.
Garden waste bin	Absolutely no charge should be made for this.
All fees and charges	All fees and charges should be frozen at there current cost, pending a review of whether any such increases is uniform across districts and whether people's incomes have also inflated appropriately to cope with such increases.
Harmonise Kerbside garden waste collection for all residents of West Northamptonshire	Why should this cost be increased? South Northants Council was able to provide an excellent service at a lower cost than the other authorities. maybe this should be investigated and lessons learnt from the service they provided.
Garden waste collection	I think green recycling should be incentivised. By charging people they will just put it in the black bin.
Garden waste	£42 to take away some grass cuttings! This is ridiculous. No charge fir this. Get rid of some of your overpaid staff!
kerbside garden waste collection	This is totally wrong and will result in people burning or dumping garden waste.
Garden waste	£42 for my bin to be emptied 3 times per year. We don't all have large gardens that warrant paying. Equally we don't all have transport to take the grass cuttings to the recycling centre
Garden Waste Collection	Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Greenw waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances. With the rises in the cost of living this year this is not the right time to subject residents to more increases and fees.
Kerbside Green Waste	South Northants residents will see a far larger Council Tax increase than has been mentioned due to the entirely unnecessary green bin surcharge. Green bin collection has been part of the council tax in South Northants. West Northants Council want to charge £42 per year to empty my green bin. This has been emptied for "free" or rather in my council tax charge in the former SNC area It is acknowledged that that has been charged for in the former Daventry and Northampton areas. WNC hope to raise £800k from SN area bringing the total raised from green waste charges to £3m. There is no need to have this charge at all. WNC is currently consulting on its draft budget. When this was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated. The government has now informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than those estimates. WNC does not have to charge you to empty green waste in my green bin. WNC can remove this charge to ALL residents across the whole district. There is no financial reason to charge a second time. WNC have the cash, their budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more. BIN THE CHARGES!
South Northants bin charge	Open all tips for longer and daily to reduce fly tipping. Charging more for garden waste will increase fly tipping and associated clean up costs.
£42 garden bin	Other vouncils pay just less, some areas do jot pay anythings should be same no matter where you live. Garden waste is garden waste
Garfen Waste Fees	I am concerned that any fees for waste encourage fly tipping which is a cost.

Green bin collection	I think that all bin (green, blue, black) collection charge should be included in Council Tax that I am already paying, rather than increasing Council Tax or charging extra for using this service
Garden Waste	If there is a key strategy line around environment why would you seek to turn a valuable "green" service provision for the infirm and elderly into a "revenue generator"? If you increase the fees under the nonsense of standardisation (using a local analogy how did Daventry council manage to offer the service for 25% less? Surely standardising on their contracts and timings would be the better option?) I, for one, will simply increase my trips to the local household waste facility - adverse impact on your environmental targets in more ways than one and for what benefit. Surely "green" initiatives should be encouraged/subsidised/cost neutral rather than income generation?
£42 green bin collection	I think this is an extortionate increase for those who live in what was S Northamptonshire after paying nothing and at a time when inflation and huge rises in cost of fuel risk putting more and more residents on the breadline. Also it will prove counter productive:- Fly tipping is already on the increase and will grow. People will be tempted to burn garden rubbish which is bad because of global warming. Some will decide to concrete gardens which will be bad for environment and could lead to more flooding. Some people will stop tending gardens to save the cost. It is a sum that does not need to be raised because plenty of income comes from green bin collections.
Waste Collection; Planning Fees	Waste Collection - Government legislation requires that local council enable residents to increase their recycling to include green waste. Increasing the cost of Waste collection will decrease this waste, increase the burning of waste in gardens, and waste fly-tipping and goes against the aim of Government Legislation. I requested information from the council on why this was being done and was told it was because of the 'ombudsman'. After significant research I found the ombudsman but there was no requirement listed on their website and no findings that back up the increase. Further this causes a significant increase in council tax above the legal maximum. As such there should be a referendum. Planning Fees: Given the employment of head of planning for c£140k p.a. and a significant reduction in planning department support and competence all fees should be waived. This is being used as a 'cash cow' for the council because residents have no choice but to pay the charges. Planning department requires complete re-work and replacement of the [job role] with a competent manager who is willing to fight for the residents of WNC and not agree with every developer.
Bins bins bins	The home owner pays enough. So many other options on that list to spread costs.
Garden waste bins	Too high for the limited period during the year when it is used which is mostly for lawn cuttings.
Green Waste Charge	I strongly object to the introduction of the green waste charge in the former South Northants Council area as this may increase the amount of fly tipping. I believe that this cost should be levelled down and not up.
On street and car park charges.	A free period should be reinstated along with more parking officers to police it
Green Waste charges	The charges in Daventry were based on the cost of the contract and the fact that Norse are a joint venture with the former DDC. We went from

	£36 per year to £35 for 10 months and now £42 to bring it in line with the NBC costs. Increasing it to the cost of the most expensive contract is not equitable. If Norse makes a profit, the "DDC" share should be put back into the fund and treated as a special expense credit to those users in the DDC area, rather than just being a benefit to all WNC residents. We are already subsidising NBC residents elsewhere.
Kerbside Garden waste collection	Your approach is disgusting. You could have equalised the charge whereas you have taken the amalgamation of the council's as an opportunity to make a profit. Regardless of legal obligations to collect this type of water SNC [name] to fund it which was obviously coming from council tax receipts. Now you are charging on trip of this whilst also putting the council tax bill by 2%. Simply used as an opportunity to grab more money due to the unitary councils being formed. That only happened because of incompetence. So because of your failings as a council you have created an opportunity to [expletive]the council tax payer.
Kerbside Garden Waste Collection	This is already paid for in our Council Tax as stated in breakdown of where the tax is used. Garden waste bins are, predominantly, unused for 3/4 months of the year and often only partly filled during spring and summer months. Why can you not offer a 3 or 6 month payment option at least to widen the options?
All	I don't agree with any rises at all whilst hard working families are struggling to heat their homes and feed their children.
kerbside garden waste collection	I object to this new charge, which represents and increase in our Council Tax of £42 for no increase in service. WNC, its councillors and staff had choices as to how and when to harmonise such charges you would chose this method simply, in my view, because it generated an addition I £800k income. It is a back door Council Tax increase, NNC have destroyed the argument that harmonisation needs to happen now for legal reasons and financial information that has come to light since the budget papers were produced demonstrates that WNC does not need the cash. WNC had options, it should have chosen one that did not increase the cost to existing service users living in the former SNC council area.
Green Waste	Please see previous comments, but essentially charging south northants £100 as we are currently paying for this service in our council tax. Why isnt our tax been reduced to match the other areas. Also you budget is showing a 0% increase, when clearly this is 100%
Green Bin Charges	How in earth are you justifying this charge alongside a huge increase in flytipping in the region? The lack of understanding that this charge will massively increase this costly problem is worrying. The consequence of your actions highlight short-term panic decisions rather than any attempt at joined up thinking. Do not proceed with this.
kerbside garden waste collection	So much fuss being made about this one. I am a Brackley resident so one of the people affected. I understand that most other councils have either been charging for this service for some time or are about to introduce it. I think we have been lucky up until now to have had this collection without additional charge. I have chosen to compost instead so will not be paying for the collection. I think that having councillors spearheading media campaigns against the charge is helping to fuel the already raging fire and they really are not helping the situation. The communication that the council has put out seems to be largely ineffective and rather than calming the waters it seems to stir people up each time you put out the comms. You will not please the people on this one, the comms isn't working.

HS2 marshal post	Why are we paying a marshal for 3 years for the HS2 project, this is a Government initiative not a local one, this one could be better spent on other things.
Green bin charges	This charge discourages people from recycling green waste, if you put it in a black bin then it is taken away without an additional charge and is put in landfill. What happened to a greener council?
All of them.	You cannot be trusted.
Kerbside Garden Waste	Another example of the tax payers being penalised for the failings and mismanagement of NCC. Again this is relevant as so many of those responsible remain in the WNC structure. It infuriates me that I am penalised and charged yet more to make up for inexcusable debt and poor practices. It's easy for councillors and leaders as you just press more from your powerless revenue source the council tax payer, whilst we deal with inflation, rising costs and increase taxation locally and centrally. You'd all be out of a job if you worked in the private sector and played the relentless raising costs/charges for frankly mediocre services. Where there were very good services such as waste and recycling managed by SNC I very much expect this to be ruined and [expletive] up by WNC.
All of them	More tax less services???
Bins	Should be option for bag waste once a month fir gardens at 50% cost for small gardens
Garden waste.	When garden waste charges were introduced by Daventry dc, it was a service provided directly by Norse and not the council, now it has been hijacked by the new authority who have sub contracted it out to Norse to create a profit for the council
Copy Certificates	I've just picked this at random but I assume the info for certificates is on computer and can be accessed swiftly £45 is an excessive charge. About £10 seems more realistic. I am sure there are other fees I could look at as being excessive
Green waste	I am SNC !! This as always been factored in , our council tax !! This is a levy on Snc for the inept Borough council bookkeeping, This is purely a way to raise money Reduce the fee to £25 fir all areas
Garden Waste	Pay enough now there will be lot more fly tipping then who pays for that
Kerbside Garden Waste Collection	Totally against this. As [name] has explained we already pay for this. If a charge be8ng raised and the basis changed Council Tax should be reduced accordingly
Waste	Any charge for the removal of domestic waste should be reconsidered. Adding barriers for residents to dispose of waste will only encourage flytipping, leaving unwanted items outside properties, and discourage people from maintaining their green areas. often private landowners end up paying for its removal. In built up areas dumped waste creates a risk of ASB, fires and encourages pests like rats. Again costing landowners and residents money they can I'll afford. For the small amount of revenue the council receives it must outweighs the cost to the residents of Northamptonshire
Garden waste fees	These should not be a separate charge
	Why are fees approved before any consultation ~ decision is clearly already made
Garden waste	This is currently included in our council tax, there should be a reduction if we don't use them, not an increase if we do!! Who's going to pay for the clearing of all the consequential fly tipping, It should be left as it is not increased!!!

Country Park, adults education and all other services	I do believe that when people are doing an activity which is organised by a voluntary association eg Park Run, Scouts... the volunteers should be able to give the participants a free pass. Also if the season tickets stay the same, the hourly rate is in my opinion excessive. I would also recommend a family pass. WNC propose to charge an extra £10 per vehicle. Could we put two registrations on one season ticket. I have looked at all the charges and as i do not have a benchmark with other authorities, i cannot comment further. It is important that our planning charges are competitive as we need good housing. Finally, educational courses, are they competitive and well attended. Are the charges again competitive. Also regarding the garden collection, i believe we need to be more innovative in term of waste collection and remembering that gardening helps with our mental well being
Green bin charge 42.00	If we opt out in South Northants I believe we should get a council tax reduction, after all it is already included in this. How much does it already cost to clear up after fly tipping? We see it on a regular basis and these additional charges won't help the situation.
Kerbside waste collection	I would prefer to see these used to enhance green space or something relevant to the charge or environment
Garden waste	Again, my council tax is astronomical and now I am going to have to pay more for garden waste collections. It is a total disgrace that we have to pay for garden waste collections.
Garden waste fee	As a resident who pays for this I would prefer this charge be incorporated into general taxation rate increases rather than it be a separate charge. Funding could then be directed to improving street cleaning and recycling services / prevention / enforcement of fly tipping / littering (which is appalling in some areas)
Kerbside garden waste	I feel this will encourage fly tipping. On a new estate we already pay a maintenance charge as well as Council tax. This is a charge too far.
Green bin collection	Immoral and corrupt to charge for something that has always been included.
	No comment
All	This is a poorly written document - why does a 40 page document not have a table of contents with page numbers. It feels like the hope is that no one will really read it. My comment stand re the garden waste additional charge - this was always included in our tax before. The council took this service out, raised our tax and then also tried to charge us for garden waste - I believe that it's just 1 house in 20 houses where I live who pays the levy. I wonder where the rest of the garden waste is going!???
Garden waste	It is disgusting to be attempting to charge for this whilst increasing council tax anyway as it should be encouraged as part of recycling by imposing this charge it will just encourage more fly tipping and is part of what we pay council tax for that seems to increase each year
All at 0% increase	A majority of fees are held at same rate with no increase. This is not reflective of inflation and fees should rise inline with the UK inflation index as a minimum. Increasing fees with inflation will allow services to continue to be provided at an appropriate level rather than be subsidised by general council income. Further the actual cost of services should be included in the proposal so that the proportionality of the fees can be assessed. Where fees are significantly below actual costs of services (eg >25%) the fees should be raised to reduce the gap.

All of them	I would like to see the amount of money that disappeared from "Council Coffers" returned, at no expense to the public of Northampton
Garden waste	No to an increase. Some have no need to put this bin out regularly and still charged
Kerbside green waste collection	This feels like a fee being charge just for the sake of it, people will feel like they're being charged twice for refuse collection and could cause a surge in fly tipping as people won't pay the new extra charge and just dump their rubbish somewhere else and cause even more issues. This just looks like a greedy council charging for no reason!
Garden waste... council tax	Agree with fees same across whole county... but also what profit is made by the use of this waste and how is that put back into the community. Also reduce salary to top positions in council as insult to community
Green waste	Charging for the collection of green waste may encourage residents to burn their garden waste, especially In areas where residents have previously enjoyed free collection. Fines for lighting garden bonfires would act as a deterrent.
Waste	You have decreased the grey bin size (covertly) increased council tax and are adding a green bin charge. W
Garden waste	I understand why you are doing this, I have headed waste services in many authorities. The whole circle process of waste diversion to compost sales seems to be exceptionally poorly communicated, perhaps in part to your poor (social media) communications team.
Fly tipping - Parking	I think fly tipping really needs to be discouraged! Parking - parking should be made available to horse riders at popular places so they can drive to safe riding in order to avoid busy roads eg harlestone firs - difficult to park nearby - the there could be a booking in system similar to Milton Keynes
Kerb side garden waste collection	Disagree with this being chargeable
Service charge for flats	As private owner in one block of flats I was paying more than £1500 a year for 2 bed flat, council flats was 20% of that or even less.
Green garden waste	£42 is too high . £35 more reasonable
Everdon	% Increases are high, this could deter bookings especially when education budgets are tight, if demand decreases this could have a negative long term impact to retaining the facilities
Green waste charges	The charge should not be bringing in an additional income of £800k - the charge should be at a lower level so that no additional income is generated. Savings should be shared across the area. There is no information about what the additional income of £800k will be used for.
Garden waste collection	Shouldn't have to pay for this anyway but it's only fair if it's harmonised across the area
Refuse and recycling	So we already pay fof these services and now you want to charge more for garden waste.....more roadside Tipping will happen which will incur more charges and because of this we will end up paying for its removal.
All of them	They are way too high, council tax , town council, police etc and then pay more for garden bins. Along with all the other increases. Fuel, etc it's just not acceptable.
West Northamptonshire Garden waste	I will be opting out of this charge and will be composting my own garden waste. This has always been built into our council tax. This part of the county has a high employment households , the council tax generated from these full paying households should off set this extra tax

Kerb side garden waste.	Encourages fly tipping, services are canceled when we pay in addition for this. It is less effective and less reliant since we have been asked to pay extra for this service.
Green bins	This will just keep going up....fly tipping will get worse
Green waste collection	1. you will now be receiving an extra £3.8 million pounds than was expected in draft budget. So this will cover green bin fees 2. People will not use the green bin service and just put their green waste in the black bins 3. you wish to become a greener council this is not going to do this
Kerbside garden waste collection	I am incredibly disappointed at plans for charge for garden waste collection, something which has been included in rocketing council tax fees until now. The fact that this is being proposed alongside further council tax increases is appalling. I'm concerned it will increase rates of fly tipping in the local area, which would then be even more costly for the council to clear. I'm very opposed to this.
Kerbside collection - green bin	There has been no opt in or opt out to date and no justification for adding a charge - imposing a charge where none was made earlier is likely to increase fly tipping including of the green bins themselves
Green bin charge	It was included. Just because you've changed the boundaries that's unacceptable.
Green bin charge	Again this should be included in council tax - there are plenty of services that I do not use yet I don't have the option to opt in or out. Simply cannot afford more and mire price hikes
Green bin	I believe that here in Brackley our green bin collection is already included in our council tax so why do you want to charge us twice?
Green bin charges	Already pay council tax
Kerbside garden waste collection charge	I strongly disagree with this. I understand that Council Tax is increasing but cannot understand why there is a necessity to introduce this charge. The Council have been awarded more funding from the Government than expected so surely this proposal should be reconsidered. It's the thin end of the wedge as it will increase year on year. We have a problem with fly tipping and I believe by introducing this charge it will get worse, which will put more pressure on Council funds to clear up! Also some of the people who don't pay will probably just leave their garden rubbish to accumulate which will cause other problems, which the Council will be called upon to resolve, resulting in more costs. Please reconsider.
[Name]	
Green garden waste bin	The rise in council tax should in my view include the green waste bin.
Mk	The amount Middleton Cheney pay is ridiculous this is a working village not just a rich middle class village stop making us struggle so much financially.
	wast money small things and the persons can work on other jobs as well not standing around and get on with the jobs
	I will no longer use a green bin
	I feel this should be integral to the main council tax fee and not separate
Green Bins and Council tax	Both getting unaffordable
Green Waste	Introducing charges for green waste in districts perviously receiving this service free could encourage the burning of waste with consequent damage to the environment. The council might consider the introduction of fines for the burning of green waste in gardens.

Green Bin Collection	How was the Green Bin Collection financed before you decided to propose making a charge for it?
Garden waste collection	This will undoubtedly lead to more landfill refuse and/ or fly tipping. . Also will it apply to all residents or will those on benefits be exempt.
Green Bin Charge	This will have a negative impact and there will more fly tipping and more green waste ending up in the black bins. Surly this service should be promoted as free to encourage the good disposal of green waste.
Garden refuse	Yet another increase. Be prepared to see more garden waste fly tipped by folks unable to pay for this service.
[Repeated title of comment provided]	With the amount of houses that's been build over the last 2 years and more permission giving for more maybe don't take the[expletive] out of ppl with your increase sooner or laterer ppl going to fight back only word that really comes to mind is [expletive] money money maybe if you don't give yourself a pay rises and private dinners and expenses for lunches and meetings made you would have more than enough
Garden waste	Again, our pension will not stretch to cover all bills.
NO to charges for bin collection, more dumping/ fly tipping will take place.	Is your plan to raise more money to refill the lost millions
Garden waste fees	Due to the already mentioned financial impact to already struggling families this should be reduced

Draft Capital Programme 2022-26

The Capital Strategy demonstrates how the Council will make expenditure and investment decisions in line with our Corporate Plan, which sets out the Council's priorities. It sets out the key objectives and broad principles to be applied by the Council when considering capital investment and its funding, and provides the context for how the Medium Term Capital Programme seeks to support the realisation of the Council's vision and corporate priorities.

The draft general fund capital programme has been developed to ensure a robust mechanism to deliver our priorities within the finances available.

Draft capital requirement proposals have been considered by the Capital and Assets Board who recommended that, at this stage of the budget setting process, only schemes which are fully funded are included for consideration as part of the draft budget setting process.

The draft budget therefore takes into account the schemes already approved in year through the Capital and Assets Board plus new fully funded schemes i.e. where there is no financial impact for the Council. A further review will be undertaken of all other proposals to agree prioritisation of schemes before they are submitted for final consideration.

Ten fully funded schemes have been submitted for 2022/23 onwards, totalling £35.3m.

Details of the capital programme additions for 2022/23 are set out in [Appendix E](#). If you would like further details about any of the schemes please contact us at haveyoursay@westnorthants.gov.uk

Q. If you have any comments to make on these schemes, please tell us here:

There were 80 responses to this question.

	All based on improving northampton not the residents of daventry
All budgets	All the capital funding programmes are for works in northampton, yet towcester and daventry are carrying the tax burden increases, are you kidding? How is that balanced, i guess the senior staff all live in Northampton?
	The proposed harmonisation of charges highlights the inefficiency of the former Borough. Those of us outside are seeing a significant drop in value for money.
Road safety?	There are proposals to build, but no capital schemes to improve road safety in rural communities impacted by other plans.
Tax.	I don't understand how daventry, is getting an higher increase then the likes of Northampton which is double the size. Daventry has got a high amount of low income families which is not fair at all.
Residential units at M & S / BHS sites	A lot of potential living space with not much in the locality to support the residents, such as doctors, dentists, grocery shopping. Are these units actually needed other than for student accommodation which is transitory
General comment	Instead of some of the rejuvenation schemes in the town centre. I would prefer to see youth clubs brought back in local areas of houses, so there is more to do for the young. Eg music sessions etc.
All schemes around town centre.	Surely these should come from the monies that is coming from central government or be self funding.
	No mention of green infrastructure or green sites
All	Not a great deal of help towards Towcester and Daventry. For a start get the NTFC debt collected.
Abington street	Seems a very good idea.
All	These schemes are extremely Northampton-centric.they appear to offer nothing of direct benefit to non-Northampton residents. I feel that i am being exploited to subsidise developments taking place elsewhere.
Capital	Just making your residents pay for your over inflated pensions
	How come you are selling off so much land for development but still require more off us. Where is this money going?
Capital Programme Additions for 2022/23	None of these capital projects relate to Towcester or even most of south northants south of the M1 why should we subsidise these projects
	Northampton Borough area centric.
Four Waterside, 41-45 Abington Street, 35-39 Abington Street, Emporium Way, Marefair Heritage Gateway	Having read through the research and recommendations set out by 5Plus and your subsequent plans brought forward, I would highly commend these and encourage this type of future development. As highlighted in various places, the way our town centres are being used are changing and as a business owner, would be interested in migrating my organisation to Northampton. My head offices are currently in [name of place outside West Northants] which has seen and benefitted from this type of development. Regent Court, has attracted boutiques, high quality stores, alongside a variety of restaurants and creative cafe's, all built below high quality apartments and housing. This has resulted in

	additional footfall and the rejuvenation of a quiet corner of the town. I currently operate my business from home, however should the regeneration and resulting offices deem suitable and beneficial, I would contemplate taking advantage of this renewal.
Roads	What about spending money of the local infra structure ? ie roads, they are such a state
Abington Street	Both projects. Strongly support to increase footfall in town centre. Sites are suitable for developments that are not allocated parking spaces.
	All based in Northampton, I hope this is not a sign of things to come!
Old Stratford Roundabout	We were promised increased capacity a number of years ago with. Highways England scheme. We had almost a year of disruption for the provision of tinkering of the lanes and a cycle and pedestrian route. The roundabout is frequently highly congested and desperately needs investment in new lanes and slip roads akin to the roundabout at the southern end of MK. The adjacent landowners and the council are now proposing 11 warehouses and sine 10,000 new homes and yet not one proposal seek to make good the existing highway capacity shortfall. This is a disgrace and needs to be rectified as developers will only fund infrastructure due their developments not the existing shortfall in capacity.
All of them	Why am I being charged for schemes that are no where near me, what I will never use and the council will make money on and gain from it, while penny pinching..
All	These could easily be funded through private investment without the need to access the public purse.
All	I have looked at the full funded schemes and cannot see any benefitting West Northants. I would like to know what benefits this end of the county will receive from the capex.
Scams not schemes would be a better name	
All Northampton p	As someone who rarely visits Northampton now I see little point in throwing good tax payer money at a schemes in which WNDC have very limited experience or competence.
	General comment. There are so may outstanding schemes which have been promised over the past 25 years that we are still waiting to come to fruition.
	I fail to see how the average resident can comment on this and understand what it all means!
	Why do we need another development at Waterside which in all likelihood will remain empty. Office space is not needed as people work from home. Turn it into homes if necessary. Why are we paying to develop the M&S and BHS sites. Get a developer to do it at their cost. Councils can't run development projects without going overbudget.
Secondary School for development West of Northampton.	The three significant development schemes approved from the Harlestone Road, through Harpole and on to Upton will produce around 7,500 new houses. There is therefore an urgent need for a new large secondary school to meet the demand this will create. No such provision has been made. Where will these youngsters go as trhere is clearly no capacity in existing schools?
Capital and Assets Board	fully agree about being self funded, but consider the abuse of purchasing decisions in the past, these should be reviewed and have a value for

	money rating, is it worth actually continuing with it, or bite the bullet and stop/sell off the interest
	The link to appendix E could not be opened, so I can't comment.
Funding for schools etc	Notice that bulk of the funding is going into schools based mainly around the Northampton town area, no mention of any of the village schools getting anything?
Roads	There seems to be a lack of investment on local roads. The state of these roads are awful and instead of short term repair which is not cost effective, these patchwork quilts of roads need to be re-layed properly. Perhaps you would receive less claims on damaged motor vehicles
	I don't feel qualified to comment but the school schemes seem acceptable
Improvement/development	You have anialated the town centre to a ghost town, do something positive give us something save Northampton. It is now a cold dark uninviting town full of vagrants
	Do something about Northampton town centre, it's a dump, it looks dirty, feels unsafe and there are always weird-looking people hanging around. How on earth do you hope to attract any shoppers or any investors to a town that looks so awful and feels unsafe. Not providing support for homeless people or businesses is short-sighted and year in year out damages the town's chances of ever improving and thereby ever bringing in more income. Change the parking in the town centre to pay and display, I have to cut short my shopping to get back to the car park at the other end of town in time, meaning less income for businesses. I've had so many tickets that I prefer to shop almost anywhere else.
Capital schemes	How come all the capital projects are in Northampton? Do the other regions not have any?
	None
	Stop go back to basics rather than dreaming up ideas that never go ahead but just waste the public's money
All	As before, no increases in fees to residents.
All of your schemes	Just a rip off the lot if it!
	The capital program is Northampton centric, why are the former Daventry and South Northants areas being left behind?
Schools	Not enough secondary school places available. Parents put down 3 choices but the reality is it's a waste of time as you rarely get the school you really want. Improve standard of all secondary schools many are not fit for purpose. Overcrowded, tired, no air purification systems to reduce Covid transmission. Spend on secondary education and stop building more and more primary schools. Provide adequate outdoor space for schools and stop building on it.
All schemes	As long as the Council Tax is not increased to fund the schemes, I am happy for them to be completed
Funded Programme Additions	Why, when the Council Tax standardisation appears to be having the greatest negative impact, in terms of cost increase, in the outer regions of WN control is every single capital budget addition focused, entirely, within Northampton? How can the rest of the councils regional/rural centres be excluded from any new funded capital projects yet still contribute, via Council Taxes, to the capital fund in the first place? Seems hugely imbalanced for a budget that seems to have, as a central tenet, regional standardisation and alignment of services and delivery??
All	As per previous comments, every scheme is Northampton based supporting the belief that the new council is too Northampton centric

	and is failing to invest in the remainder of west Northamptonshire and merely sees them as a new cash cow to feed only schemes targeting Northampton
Northampton Town Centre Housing; Duston School	Northampton Town Centre Housing - I assume all housing from these developments will be council owned accommodation for residents of WNC. If not they should not go ahead. Low cost, council housing is essential to allow poorer residents of WNC to remain in the area. Duston School. How does it cost £400k to provide 30 places at a school. One team = £70k; and then £330k for a temporary location...! This is crazy. Any business would be embarrassed to propose this as a cost. Provide detail and background for this for residents to understand the costs.
	You have no vision. So that will be wasted.
Capital programme	It should be more fairly applied to encourage better rural services
All schemes	They seem to be all about Northampton. The residents of WNC don't all live in or travel to Northampton. We would like to see our own town centres improved.
Four Waterside	Why are you wasting money developing grade a offices when Covid has clearly shown that office space is NOT the future whereas working from home or remotely IS
9) Improvement to sport and community facilities at NSG	It states that: "NCC have an obligation as part of the s77 consent to make £2.75m capital receipt available to NSG for increase in sports facilities" NCC? Northamptonshire County Council no longer exists, apparently. The schemes are all very Northampton based. WNC is an NCC takeover poorly disguised. Where is the investment on the rest of the area?
Green	Nothing seems to be investing in green projects which could reduce costs in the future and help save the planet for future generations.
1. Four Waterside	I remain unconvinced on the business case. Office facilities, including the Regus/We Work models, will see oversupply and regardless of the suggestion of a location near the railway, it is highly unlikely to see a return in any realistic period. The case needs to be revisited and tested against current working models and how much capacity is and will be locally and within some 30 miles of the town. Likewise, a hotel - a rather unambitious - inclusion. What rational is there for a hotel given the immediate and longer term challenges for the hotel/hospitality sector when business travel is being reduced by changing working models and a projected excess room capacity challenge in the future that will affect profitability and potential investment in hotel infrastructure. The project should be called in and formally reviewed so WNC do make the mistakes NCC made (the bus case for One Angel for example).
	Who are your partner's and what is the transparency of the relationships. Consultancy fees account for too much. How much money is wasted on process. Where are funds such as open town centre safely??
No comments	
Temporary bulge capacity at Duston School	£400k costs are excessive Programme is too Northampton focused there are other areas that need investment
Fully funded scheme	As a rural ward representative, i just note the scheme are Northampton centric

Residential plans	Are these for HS2 workers. Northamptonshire has too many new houses being built. We need to see a balance and lower rates for retail to attract us back to the towns. Its greener for us to make 1 or 2 shopping trips, rather than about 10 vans delivering 1 product at a time. Our towns have become dull and uninteresting and too many coffee/fast food places. Getting ridiculous, well soon be saving space by building houses without kitchens! I defiantly hate to think our money being wasted, and when HS2 is complete houses left to rot.
Cycling and walking infrastructure	There is project resource budgeted for, but no firm plans or investment. Northampton town, Weston Favell and Abington is a horrible experience to cycle due to non segregated roads / pathways and over use of cars / lack of affordable public transit.
Capital programme	I notice that the income from S106 payments will be £8m. However, not a single project will be funded in my village or local area where some of this income is obtained. How can this be fair on householders? I strongly object to this.
	It is impossible for the ordinary citizen to know how many millions are needed for particular projects. Scrap HS2 and the marshalls. Give traffic wardens more responsibility for e.g. Minor traffic and litter drug offences with on the spot fines to streamline management of minor misbehaviour
Four Waterside	This scheme should be reviewed - the pandemic has changed the way we work for good. Do we really need another hotel? Is there sufficient demand whilst allowing the existing hotels to continue to trade?
Service Investment	I am concerned that, where many major towns and cities across the UK are investing in infrastructure to enable (not just promote/encourage) active travel, West Northants continues to treat it as an afterthought and spends millions on drivers. The first tranche of funding provided by the government for active travel was largely wasted, and investment in this budget is minimal. More needs to be done if our county is not to be left behind.
6, 7, 9, 10	6 & 7 - consider a local level for bulge capacity (ie in catchment area) gathering funds from these popular areas rather than a global fee raise with no be if it for the majority of areas. 9 - NSG facilities are adequate, suggest capital investment would be best place in local libraries rather than a well served school. 10 - suggest investment would be better placed in existing school (eg Sywell) and costs of a new school should be paid for by the development (eg by including a fee in the cost of new properties)
	none
Market Square	Not sure if this belongs here, but what a waste of money
I do not understand this make language more user friendly	
Abington Street	There seems to be little mention in the budget of money specifically dedicated to addressing climate change. It is of concern that the funding for these developments will allow for environmental sustainability in their design.
Bulge capacity	Your information generation for future schools sizing appears exceptionally poor. Radstone School recently opened and is under-capacity... Needing an extension plus sending young children some distance away. If you understood Data Information Knowledge Tactics this would never happen. HUGELY WASTEFUL
None	None

	I am surprised that the North West Relief Road is not included here. I saw the news that the Council was going to agree a £20 million loan to meet the remaining costs of this project, and would have thought that it should therefore be included. I am also surprised that the Active Travel schemes are not included. As you know, funding was given from National Government to implement Active Travel schemes and the Council has to date underused these. The Cycle Lane in Rushmere Road has not had the wands replaced as promised. The Cycle Lane in Billing Road appears to have disappeared and although the document claims that the budget delivers on the Council's priorities as laid out in the Corporate Plan, I see no evidence of anything to deliver on the "Green and Clean" priority. Finally - I see no evidence to suggest that the Council has a vision to support Leisure and Sports Activities. Here in Kingsthorpe we have tennis courts that lay derelict after years of neglect from the Council, and football pitches without changing facilities. By focussing the capital budgets on big-ticket items within the Town Centre, the Council runs the risk of neglecting other parts of West Northamptonshire.
Assets management	Council flats and houses shouldn't be sold. Council invest a lot in renovation and selling then for portion of price. If they have to be sold should be valued at current prices
	Little effort has been made to make the Draft Capital Programme easy to understand or explain what it means. Very difficult to respond to
	Overall this is very Northampton heavy, why are Daventry and South Northamptonshire being left out?
	Given the appalling performance in this county so far, we have little faith in any of those future projections. Also why do we need an HS2 Marshall?
	Keep within the existing budget
Four Waterside and Abington Street	We don't need anymore houses built whilst we still only have Town funding. We don't have the funding to keep Northampton looking clean and tidy, the busses are a mess, and the roads are tiny and awful. We're one of the largest towns in England, we shouldn't be building more houses.
Abington Street and Waterside	I trust these developments are of high quality and environmentally sustainable.

Other comments

This questionnaire focusses on the new proposals for the draft budget 2022/23 that will likely affect residents and service users. However, you can comment on anything within the Draft Budget.

Before moving on to the Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2022-23 section of this questionnaire, is there anything else you would like to tell us about the proposals set out in the [Draft Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan](#) and it's Appendices:

- [Appendix A – Budget Summary](#)
- [Appendices B1-B7 – List of Proposals](#), which contains the full list of budget proposals
- [Appendix C – Draft 2022/23 Fees and Charges schedule](#)
- [Appendix D – Dedicated Schools Grant budget](#)
- [Appendix E – Draft Capital Programme](#)
- [Appendix F – Initial Equality Screening Assessment](#)

Q. If you have any other comments you would like to make about the proposals in this draft budget that you have not already told us, including any alternative ideas about how we could save the same amount of money or generate the same amount of income as outlined in the proposals, then please tell us here:

There were 62 responses to this question.

	Rushden needs a train station maybe that should be considered!
HS2 marshall	What on earth is this- functions should be covered within existing services!
Budgets and tax increases	i know someone who works for the council, who took 9 months to pay a poultry 2% pay increase, that had already been agreed in feb/march, blaming unions for the delay. [They] also told me that the senior staff, earning silly money themselves, were trying to tie next years pay award at 2%, when inflation is already at 5.2% and the new council have increased [their] council tax last year by 8% and you're going to hit [them] again at a stupid level. [They have] also been told to expect a pay cut when they "harmonise", something I've told [them] isn't allowed under TUPE rules. disgusting! time for new leadership I think.
Reserves	The report states that the finance officer feels that reserves should be 5% of net expenditure. I venture to suggest that this is the wrong approach. For example, if net expenditure was nil it would suggest no reserves are necessary. Yet nil net expenditure could be £300m spending and £300m income--the risk there being around the gross turnover of £600m. Reserves should be set based on an informed assessment of the risks faced by the council in the coming year. That is an assessment based on each significant budget line of income and expenditure.
Schools budget	Everything starts with schools. Properly funded schools mean well educated children, happy parents, better social conditions etc
Northwest Bypass	Impact on Kingsthorpe local roads not clearly explained.
Saving money	The councils of Northants have wasted millions of taxpayers money and continue to do so. They do not hold themselves accountable to the taxpayer who elects them by default and pays their wages. Time to make things more efficient and employ people who can work to a sensible budget and get priorities right. Currently the system has failed and continues to do so
Council charges and garden waste collection	Please: 1) extend the period of council harmonisation to protect residents like myself from excessively steep taxation increases in a very difficult economic climate. The legislation allows for this - precisely for these kinds of circumstances. 2) please utilise your central government windfall gain to remove or reduce significantly the fee level for garden waste collection.
Pay for what you think the services are actually worth	Soon see what local residents think of your plans and their value for money
School grant budget	More funding needs to be given to SEND students. There's lots of children who haven't received any support due to covid. There is now a huge backlog of children that need to be seen by an educational psychologist but you're unable to give the required time to see all children forcing schools to look at paying privately. This also forces the school to pick and choose which kids are their priority. This shouldn't be the case. All children should have the opportunity to a good education and the right support. This is in addition to the failings of the current system which I understand is under review by government however, this doesn't stop you putting more money where it is

	needed. Too many SEND children are being failed or slipping through the net.
	The increase for the ex DDC area is too much at one time given the rise in cost of living etc at this time. This rise although possibly necessary should be incremental and staggered over subsequent years.
Fees and charges	Budgets are formulated on anticipated Government grants, which always means an increase in council tax. I have never known council tax to be reduced the following year when the grant was higher than expected.
Green Bin	Amalgamation of the councils was sold to us as a means of providing efficiencies and savings. This is highway robbery particularly as the 'shortfall' in funds has been more than made up for it in recent additional central government money. Lastly, if green bins are to be surcharged I assume the councils budget for cleaning up fly tipping will increase and the amount it pays to dump black bin waste in landfill has been increased in the budget to mirror likely behavioural changes there by negating any saving.
	Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances. BIN THE CHARGES
Soft Plastic collection	I would actually welcome the council collecting soft plastics from kerbside.
Green bin	This is idiotic as all it will do is lead to more black bin waste, less recycling of green waste and worse environmental metrics...
Green bin proposed charges for SNC residents	WNC is currently consulting on its draft budget. When this was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated. The government has now informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than those estimates. WNC does not have to change to empty green waste in my green / brown bin. WNC can remove this charge to ALL residents across the whole district. There is no financial reason to charge a second time. WNC have the cash, their budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more. BIN THE CHARGES. Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO
Charges	Absolutely ridiculous to charge for garden waste removal!!
	General comment. We are in need of new secondary schools in the area. With the thousands of. new houses under construction, the two schools at Duston and Bugbrooke are already around maximum capacity.
Bus Services	Towcester needs a decent bus service with hourly services to Milton Keynes and a frequent say every two hours to Bicester and Oxford, as we used to have until Northants CC cut the subsidies and made a real hash of the tendering process which caused all the bus passengers using the Oxford service to go by car. Total incompetence on behalf of the council as normal.
the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - staffing levels should be reviewed with the aim of reductions in costs and expenditure - value for money - view existing projects and are they able to provide value for money - out sourcing - review areas like libraries and parks to be sponsored by local entities - parking charges - bear in mind that if parking charges are introduced/increased, fair enough in theory it may raise more money, but will it really, there is a fine line where people are just fed up of the charges

	and will simply go else where. For example with the cost of parking in Northampton, we just don't go - overnight parking - van life is now a thing, so why not make the most of it, provide bins and aires for supporting events like Silverstone and get practical use from them and encourage them to come.
Dedicated schools budget	Notice that most of the schools budget, is set out for schools in or around the Northampton area, but none set out for smaller village schools ?
	I think there should be some thought on where money can be saved rather than spent
Executive Salaries	To point out that Boris Johnstone gets £186,000 for running the whole country – while we have department heads running half a county earning £140,000. If 'sensible' salaries were paid to [descriptions] (or there were fewer of them) then we could afford [description] to actually do the work! And don't reply with the 'waffle' that 'we have to pay market rates' - the council write the job descriptions and set the salary profiles against them. Why not offer a 'hungry' junior executive a, say, 10% rise to do the job and get rid of these expensive posts!
	As previously stated go back to basics
Increase in community charge..	We already pay for too much, services are not improving. What does money actually do on. How can you justify that just increase
	No to increase of Council Tax
	So our council tax is increasing yet our amenities are deteriorating as [number] houses have been built really close to our property when we once had open countryside. Dirt is also encroaching our village. I would have thought with the vast increase in housing in the Daventry district and the subsequent extra council tax there would be less need for such an increase. Daventry seems determined to build whatever the cost to the remains residents. Our area is no longer rural.
Reserves: COVID / Future	It is interesting that you note that you have had to move £2.2M from reserves for COVID impact, but have still increased the costs to residents who are going through worse pressures. This is a level of double-think that Orwell would be proud of. Future years - WNC are planning a deficit for 23/24 and onwards. This is unacceptable as budgets should balance given the current situation. There is no indication on the budget that WNC even consider this to be a problem!!
Project Northampton	Don't lend to fraudsters millions and expect us to bail you out. Get off your asses and deal with things. Emailing all day will get us nowhere, as we are seeing.
The promotion of bus services	Rural bus services have been historically neglected until they are at such a low point in terms of routes and frequency as to be unattractive or unavailable to potential users. The failure to finance services in the past leads to not only increasingly uneconomical outcomes for the council and bus operators, but goes against all common sense and declared projections for such overriding objectives as reducing climate change and promoting environmental awareness. This is particularly so in the case of encouragement or otherwise of integrated rural transport but also applies to many other outcomes of the proposed Budget. All budget proposals should be looking at their longer term effects rather than short term survival principles. "Clause 6.16 of the Corporate Plan says: "The plan is based upon the Council's six priorities: 1. Green and Clean - Environment and Wellbeing 2. Improved Life Chances – Health, Social Care and Families 3. Connected

	Communities – Transport and Connectivity 4. Thriving Villages and Towns - Place shaping and homes" None of these will be achievable without are fully efficient and integrated rural transport system.
Budget summary	There is no indication that the cost of grounds maintenance for NBC is not being charged in full to the relevant parishes as special expenses and that the remaining costs are allocated to general expenditure to be paid by all residents of WNC. The costs of maintaining specific items of land should be charged to the residents of the area in question, providing a saving to the overall budget.
Highways	Instead of HS2 Marshall's and any other half cocked woke ideas your contemplating could you get back to the basics of repairing the roads please. Entering Northampton's road network is akin to starting a drive through Beirut nowadays.
Free car parking	Why is it that Wellingborough seem to manage their money so much better than Northampton. They have had free parking for years.
HS2 Marshal	This proposal should be funded by HS2 or central government and the matter should ideally be dealt with by (be the responsibility of) central government. Any WNC monitoring input should be capable of being resourced without the need for additional resources or budget.
The creation of an HS2 Marshall post for three years	I cannot seem to find further detail regarding this post to form a proper opinion. Just from the title it would seem unfair that we have to pay for anything to do with HS2. We, local residents, are seeing the destruction of our local areas, road closures, chaos, noise, mud everywhere, all of the negatives that come with this project. we will see no benefits in the future either. We have no choice about any of that, it's happening. But why the heck do we have to have salt rubbed into the cut by paying for an appointment of a Marshall for three years? HS2 should be paying for any staffing required.
	Poor planning. To do nothing would be criminal was a reason to pass a school next to other schools with bad road infrastructure. How do you get away with this??
Realign pensions towards defined contribution schemes average contribution rates	Pensions need to be reformed.
	Roads are awful, costs me loads to repair my car from the state of the roads
	Take, take, take and ask because the previous councillors were Happy down down spending on total irrelevances!!!! Shameful way to carry on
	<p>The council has declared a climate emergency and has a serious air pollution problem. The single biggest cause of CO2 emissions and polluted air is motor vehicles, yet the council wants to spend significant sums on roads, but is putting off doing anything significant at all to get people to change from driving to cycling and walking.</p> <p>The only way to achieve this is what most other towns and cities are already doing - provide proper segregated cycle routes. The Local Cycling and Walking Plan for Northampton took 2.5 years to produce (from government funding) and now it's been withdrawn so that it can be looked</p>

	at again. It's totally irresponsible to create active travel in this way while continuing to encourage driving by widening roads.
Green bins	You will make money from us with these charges but what do we get from it. We recycle saving you doing the sorting, our green waste produces energy etc . We do the work and you charge US it. So wrong. No incentive.
Capital programme	We need more opportunities for small independent businesses which Northampton used to be known for and less flats or HMOs.
Public transport, cycling and walking	Please prioritise public transit, cycling and walking. rather than expanding road space which just encourages more driving of private cars! Northampton has lots of ok cycle paths around the edges but nothing in the older urban areas or is very unconnected or requires some use / crossing of busy roads (e.g. Norbital)
	Probably last comment should be here
General	Minimal investment outside of city center area should be reviewed. Minimal investment in green schemes for example improved foot and cycle paths, which would reduce traffic and improve transportation links. No details of efficiency gains or savings expected.
	no more
All of them	Please make the wording of these proposals more user friendly to read.this disadvantages people.
Na	No comments
All	Stop the corruption and back handers and do a crystal clear job of using our hard earned money
Improving walking and cycling	If climate change targets are to be achieved, the revised LCWIP would need to follow the government guidelines set out in GearChange in introducing school streets, , segregated cycle lanes and walking paths and low traffic neighbourhoods.
Sarah alexander	
Draft Budget MedTerm Financial plan	Item 6.48 - 'project resource to promote walking and cycling routes' - this should also consider provision for multiuser routes to include disabled and other vulnerable road users such as horse riders, in order to create more safe and circular routes as per the Councils RoWay improvement plan. Item 6.42 - 'add investment in highways team' - there is a large backlog of definitive map modification orders. These are potentially still legally useable Rights of way that were omitted from the definitive map in 1949. These routes could provide further access to the countryside for all to enjoy. This is important as development creates a larger burden on roads surrounding new developments, making them more dangerous for vulnerable road users, as well as being subjected to more pollution in built up areas. The council needs a rights of way infrastructure plan to include all vulnerable road users and not just a new road infrastructure plan. Sufficient parking should also be available at country parks etc for all types of users, cyclists, walkers, horse riders and the disabled. This will allow people to travel if roads are too busy in certain areas. May be some roads should be closed to large traffic vehicles during certain times unless there is a major accident on the motorway and need to use an alternative route - signage system on certain roads - possibly on a Sunday or between certain hours to make the roads safer out of peak hours for instance.
None	None
Increase to High Needs Block	There is a provisional increase to the high needs block in the education budget, for support of Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Good, but - does this cover mental health support ? There has been a substantial increase in mental health issues in young

	<p>people (as reported nationally), also for many people across the age range as a result of the pandemic.</p> <p>The impacts on people suffering from dementia have also been much more severe due to the lack of stimulation and social contact. I have not found anywhere in the documents specific recognition of the resources need to address these issues.</p>
Equality Screening Assessment	<p>How can a budget that increases costs, especially as the cost of living is increasing, be said to have a 'Positive Impact' and No negative impacts? This budget will have a negative impact on my finances and on my day to day life. It will have an even greater negative impact on fellow residents still struggling from the council tax increases in your last budget. Saying 'Positive impact' makes me think you have not spent any time thinking realistically about the impacts of this budget - how was this impact assessment determined?</p>
	<p>Again the public are paying for the council's incompetence...same old councillors said old story, just a bigger area to bleed dry.</p>
	<p>Stop wasting taxpayers money by inept financial skullduggery.</p>
Angel building	<p>How much was lost over that move????</p>
	<p>Council to do a better job of not wasting money and bringing more services in-house.</p>
Promotion of Cycling and Walking	
Uplift in Contracts and Grants to the VCSE sector	<p>Contracts are for periods of delivery that are too short, not a longer term commitment to the future delivery. (Often work is offered in response to an immediate crisis or funding availability.) Contract funding does not allow for suitable uplifts due to wage inflation or inflation generally. Contracts are often too weighted in relation to the outcomes (reduction of hospital re-admissions) that need to be achieved rather than the inputs or outputs (hours delivered, clients supported). This is too high a risk for many organisations given the uncertainty of 'cause and effect'. Contracts are often too widely drawn rather than a focus on a specific or clearly defined area of work or responsibility. This favours large scale contracting and national providers, rather than local delivery. (Local consortia should be considered and encouraged explicitly.) Contracts can be curtailed or ended at short notice for many reasons, notably performance. Whilst this reduces the risk for the commissioner it does not allow for the charity to build up their delivery accordingly. (This also supports the point for the need for a longer term investment.) Funding is often available for a short term need with expectations that the delivery or service will be self sustaining. The timescales for this to happen are often unrealistic and good provision is lost for the sake of a longer term core commitment. Contracting and funding is often too narrowly focussed. The value added of many voluntary organisations is that they bring excellent knowledge and connections of onward referrals and support. This wider network of referrals is then not rewarded or recognised. This can create a lack of capacity downstream.</p>

Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2022/23

Local housing authorities are required by law to keep a Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

This HRA shows the accounts for the council's housing provision, identifying the major elements of expenditure and how these are funded, mainly from rents.

There are strict rules surrounding the costs and income that can be charged to this account. Much of the income and expenditure is dictated by legislation and regulation leaving the Council with limited direct control over a number of these budgets.

A national policy that came into effect in April 2020 that allows annual rent increases on both social rent and affordable rent properties of up to the rate of inflation (Consumer Price Index - CPI) plus 1%. The CPI in September 2021 was 3.1%, and therefore we are proposing to increase rent from 4 April 2022 by the maximum 4.1% on average across the Council's housing stock in line with national government policy. This will increase the average rent from £93.66 to £97.50 per week. An increase of £3.84 per week.

This increase ensures we are able to invest in high/quality housing service for our tenants. Failure to increase the rents by the statutory amount will not only have a significant impact on income in the current year but also in each year going forward. It is estimated that a 1% reduction in the rent increase would reduce the rental income by approximately £0.5 million in the current year.

The Council is proposing a 3.1% increase in general service charges (in line with CPI at September 2021), and to increase garage rents and the commuter surcharge on garages by 3.1%. This will increase the average rent per garage from £9.66 to £9.96 (or £0.30p per week) and the commuter surcharge from £15.35 to £15.83 (or £0.48p) per week respectively.

For further information please see the [Draft Housing Revenue Account \(HRA\) Budget 2022-23 report](#), and its appendices:

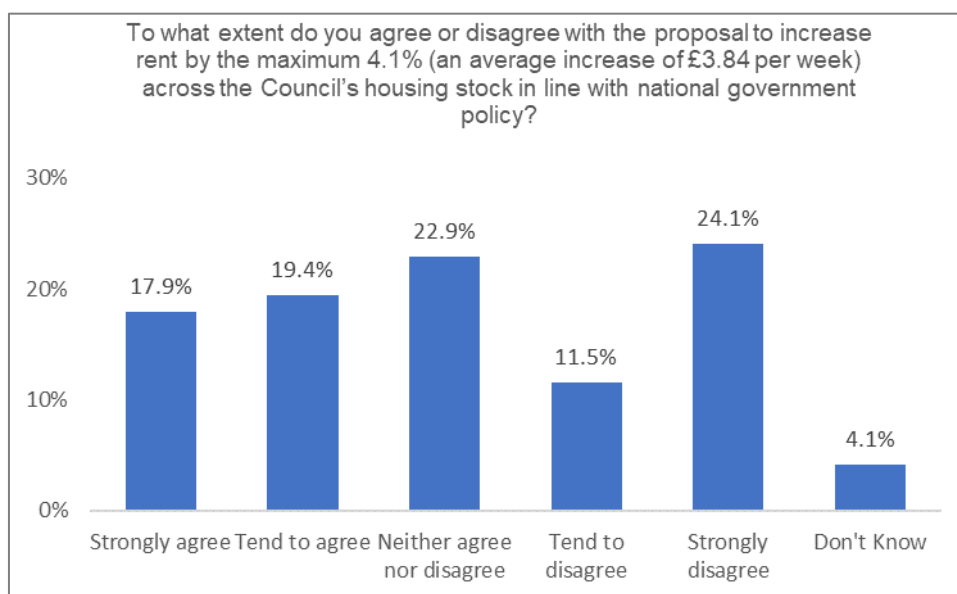
- [Appendix 1 – Draft HRA Revenue Budget and MTFP Summary](#)
- [Appendix 2 – Draft HRA Capital Programme and MTFP](#)
- [Appendix 3 – HRA Fees and Charges Proposals](#)
- [Appendix 4 – Northampton Partnership Homes Draft Total Fee](#)

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase rent by the maximum 4.1% (an average increase of £3.84 per week) across the Council's housing stock in line with national government policy? Please tick (✓) relevant answer

Example: What would a 4.1% increase mean for a local authority tenant?

- As an example, a 4.1% increase would result in an average increase of £199.68 per year (£3.84 per week) for 2022/23 for the average local authority tenant.

There were 340 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	61	17.9%
Tend to agree	66	19.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	78	22.9%
Tend to disagree	39	11.5%
Strongly disagree	82	24.1%
Don't know	14	4.1%

Q. If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:

There were 121 responses to this question.

Strongly agree/ Tend to agree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While there is a need to recuperate some cost through rent, the current financial climate may indicate a freeze for the next couple of years. Rises are happening for everyone in homes, it should apply to all, not only homeowners The properties need to be maintained to a decent standard to ensure the health of tenants Council prices do not reflect the real world. These should be brought in line with other prices Rent needs to be paid that reflects the costs of maintaining the property. However, the Council then needs to ensure the property is maintained as and when repairs are needed Mortgages are going up so rental charges need to mirror this Supported rents should be linked to housing benefit needs only I have to pay private landlord and this goes up 10% each year. They should pay the market rate equal to the private sector.

- Council tenants pay significantly less rent than those renting privately
- I believe that the reasons outlined above are satisfactory and that to continue to invest in this sector, it's appropriate that those living and benefitting from the housing and associated services, pay what is permissible.
- Tenants should Start paying reasonable fees for council properties, not making everyone else subsidise them
- I think that the increase should be as much as is allowed by central government in order to fund other housing services.
- It should be a bigger increase, iv worked hard all my life and have my own home and a mortgage, if people who rent want a new kitchen or whatever they should pay for it with a bigger rent increase...
- It's time housing paid for Its self
- The rent is very cheap for todays market prices
- Rents should increase in line with inflation. Raising above inflation should provide increase in maintenance and service.
- This is already far too low when compared to those that don't qualify and have to pay more for rent. This is extremely good value for those currently in social housing renting at such a subsidised rate! Perhaps the garden refuse collection price is subsidising this already?
- An increase of c. £16 per month doesn't seem too high compared with what private landlords charge
- Rent too low, wi generate badly needed funds however you must spend wisely by investing in our town eg: make it inviting again invest in young people ask them what they want from Northampton now & in future. Please listen.
- I feel council rent should be more in line with general rent if the individual is able to work and earns over a set amount.
- Social rent is way below private rent
- An increase in council rent would generate more money, those that struggle to pay get help from benefits so targeting better off people
- I agree, but only if you are able to ensure no tenant than cannot afford rent.
- A balanced rent rate comparable to other nearby areas is acceptable. The receipts from housing rent must be seen as value for money and reinvested into supporting the rental housing stock
- it is worth increasing to provide better council services also the current rent amount is less than that of private renting.
- Rents need to increase by small but regular incremental amounts in line with wages in order to avoid hardship.
- Tenancies should be reviewed every 5 years and if the tenant's financial situation has changed their tenancy should be re-considered on the same basis as if they had just applied to the housing register. Too many people remaining in social housing when they should be in the private sector.Tenants should not be allowed to remain in a house that is too big their needs, in the private sector people often have to downsize when their family leave home, why should social housing tenants have a guaranteed tenancy for life. I strongly object to social housing being built only to be sold to tenants a few years later at less than it cost to build, putting a burden on tax payers and leaving the Council short of housing. End right to buy before building any more social housing.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The housing stock is in need of renovation and rents have been far too low to maintain them. Those of limited means will have stayed aid to cover cost increases. • Council housing is cheap to rent and then they get huge discount when they buy the property. Private landlords charge a lot more. • Tend to agree but suggest that there needs to be a clear statement to consider the potential impacts on the cost of living for tenants (as context to the affordability of the proposed change). • Rental must continue to pay a fair price for services but what calculations have been made against the additional revenue versus bad debt? • Because being joused and everything else paid for is a bargain if you can get it. • Housing rent increases are accepted if the money goes back into funding repairs. • We need to strike a fine balance as our tenant's finances could be precarious. So make sure that we have a mechanism in place that as we enter a period of recovery, That our tenants can alert us in case of difficulty. In mitigation, it seems that in our county, employment opportunities might be strong. • Tenants should be assessed on an individual basis, annoys me that some sit & smoke/drink all day & then say they can't pat their rent yet i work & have no choice • People who have worked hard and bought their own property are always penalised as all help is given to people on benefits and never done a days work in their lives • Not high enough • 2 bed flat on market in Northampton is minimum £700 and Council renting for half that price. • Council rents have been too lenient in previous years. This is now causing issues with maintenance of council housing stock.
Neither agree nor disagree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I imagine this could really put another strain in the poorer households, as so many bills are rising now. • I am not aware that the local council owns council or public housing stock. When a friend applied some years ago [they] was told that all public housing was owned and run by housing associations and he was unable to be allocated housing. • Social housing should be available and affordable to those who are eligible • Stop selling ex-council houses so cheap. • I am not a local authority tenant therefore I do not feel that I have enough information to form an opinion. • Okay as long as people on limited income get help to pay. • 4.1% would seem a little high • Our housing was sold off to a housing association. At the time it was said rents would basically be in line with the councils. So why are councils charging less for rents????? • I don't rent property- however increasing rent for those on a low wage may be difficult • None • It doesn't affect me • i do not use council housing so i feel i can not answer, this should be for people who do use it
Strongly disagree/ Tend to disagree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop wasting our money.

- These people should be supported and helped with their bills, charging them more will not help them.
- No one's pay has gone up by this amount a week.
- You do nothing for rent payers in Daventry, try walking around the Southbrook estate.....
- Families are struggling as it is, with other bills all skyrocketing people will struggle to eat.
- With the increases in council tax, energy, and food, council tenants can not afford a rent increase
- You don't even bother keeping the older houses in good shape. Maybe it's time for solicitors to get involved, some of us are freezing even with heating on because you don't care with insulation, blankets and hot water bottles are a must. Probably be cheaper living in a car. No more rent, council tax to pay.
- What happened to the fair rents act that ment that social housing would be inline with private rents.
- You charge enough with little return for the residents as it stands.
- Along with increased fuel costs this could have an impact on families so that they may not be able to afford food
- You are targeting those with the least and in most need. You could of bucked the trend and avoided following gov policy
- They should be in line with sector charges not supported by local taxes.
- As long as this is fair and does not lead to homelessness
- Stop it. Again more more
- Who do you know that has had a wage increase commensurate to all of your proposed increases plus all of the utility increases? I would suggest that all of your management team take a pay cut and stop all outside consultants to save wasting our money.
- see below
- The rising cost of living and reduction in employment due to Covid-19 for some, is a perfect storm to debt or homelessness. Whilst the charges do not seem expensive because the way you've written them, a £3.84 increase a week leads to £15.36 a month and that to £184.32 a year. The majority of people in these accommodation types are of low incomes, such an amount could have significant implications for them. Any increase to those in part rent-part buy schemes need to be carefully analysed. There a greater implications here due to potential increases in mortgage interest fees. With an increase in rent and mortgage, the tenants may find themselves unable to afford that house no longer. This would go against exactly what that scheme was there to achieve.
- Tenants include a greater proportion of lower income households. Lower income households have been harder hit financially during the pandemic than higher income households.
- With increasing fuel and other household bills this will cause a lot of poverty. I'm in social housing myself and will be hit by these increases
- Breaking it down by week does not fool anyone. Most tenants pay monthly and the impact to them, in addition to the proposed increases in other areas does not marry with the average wage/benefit/pension increase.

- £3.84 per week may not seem much to you but for people on low incomes that could be the different between putting food on the table or not. £3.84 for people on low incomes could potentially be half of their weekly food shop for example.
- We have just experienced a global pandemic whereby people's incomes have been affected. Those living in council housing are already on lower income
- Why yet more rent increases- no improvement has been made to my home in the last 3 years at least and yet the rent keeps increasing.
- The rules are that tenants should be assessed every 5 years as to suitability. Many council tenants are on low pay or pensioners or disabled. its wrong to expect these groups to keep paying out more. To many of these people. £5 is quite a lot.
- Ppl are in social housing because they normally struggle. The way I see it is that those who work and pay their rent who live in social housing will struggle more and those who do no or cannot work and live in social housing will have their housing benefit increased meaning that money has to be collected from somewhere enterme and my husband hard working tax payer. Hike up our tax and cripple us more than you already do.
- Another example of passing on the costs of poor centralised budgets to residents that probably can't afford it!
- Cost of energy bills, food, fuel bills, water rates etc all are pushing people into deeper debt. There should not be in an increase in rents. Instead rented properties should be looked at more carefully to ensure they are not being sublet and council properties should never be sold to tenants. They should be there for the needy in our society
- fair enough mentioning about the annual increase, but what about the people who are working but they haven't had pay rises, companies aren't giving out pay rises and it's ok with the council saying it's in line with the government, but are these people getting an increase to be able to pay it.
- I believe people in social housing don't need extra income stress. 3.84 may not sound a lot but to some that may be the difference of putting food on the table for a family.
- It's too much. Prices for food, utilities etc are increasing it will stretch people too much and ultimately children will suffer
- Again, people on low incomes or universal credit are also going to feel the pinch of other costs going up. Now is a terrible time to be doing this!
- I have my Own home but how do you expect people to pay this with all the other increases!
- The cost goes up but the service never improves
- Most people rent because they cannot afford to buy, increasing rent keeps that cycle going. You need to support people into a position to purchase their own property.
- No increase to wages to cover rent increase
- Another cost pressure on those who can afford it least?
- The poorest in society should not have to pay for the failures of the previous councils. Any reduction should come from savings in the council budget and penalising those involved in the decisions in previous losses. There must have been significant failings within the civil service, and only when those people are removed

from office within recompense should you consider increasing costs of those who need housing.

- This increase will make life extremely difficult for some of the poorest people who are living in council accommodation and struggling to make ends meet already.
- 4.1% increase for rent during this time is outrageous considering all repairs during covid-19 have been massively reduced and wait time has increased on some indefinitely. The service has seen dramatic reduction in contact from designated housing officers and no-one is available to discuss issues. The whole service is shambolic.
- Again, you are squeezing tenants for more money at a time when their budgets are already threatened
- Ridiculous rents for the quality of housing supplied, especially for over 65s.
- How do you expect people to be able to find the money for these increases?
- Tory policy to tax and suppress the poorest and weakest. Put higher taxes on higher bedroom houses with more cars. Give more wealth opportunity to more deprived areas. Public transport for example.
- Again the cost of living increases generally will have a negative impact on residents to increase rent by such a some will place great hardship on some.
- Not a council tenant why should i pay towards there housing
- As I am unsure what is paid now a nearly £200 a year increase seems too high
- Another money making scheme by WNC until the cost of living and fuel comes down then no increase should happen
- What council housing stock, private contracted council housing? The reason the property market has gone insane is due to council housing sell offs!
- our pensions are not keeping up
- Too high especially when the cost of living is rising and energy prices going through the roof.
- Again, after the council run a surplus budget this last year, it's questionable why the extra money is needed? You've already updated all the council houses with new windows/doors and cladding. You could have made extra money by going to all the ex-council houses to ask them if they wanted the work done to their houses at the same time and you could have offered a discount to them and they would have bit your hand off as they wouldn't want to be the odd one out in the street. Now you have council properties that look all shiny and new from the outside and you can spot all the ex council (home owners) with the old grubby cladding/doors.
- If you didn't sell to tenants there wouldn't be a shortage of housing
- Everything in life is rising but benefits
- Properties aren't looked after the way they used to be, everything is now down to the tenant to sort out or is fixed by Bodge it and Scarper contractors!!!!!!
- This will harm families that are being hit hard by the cost of living crisis.
- Why don't you cut some of the top wages first and then I might agree. You are taking money from people struggling already but single working disabled people are not getting any additional support even though it costs us more to live and its really hard to claim PIP.
- Housing owned by councils should be affordable further increases in rent will have a detrimental effect on those that most need help
- We cannot afford to fork out much more

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rents do not reflect better customer care and responding to repairs which have deteriorated in the past 2 years • Have you heard about fuel rises? How can people pay more rent??? • Council house tenants are very often low paid or on benefits and would not be in a position to pay increased rents. • It will only fall on the tax payer as most have rent paid • This will impede those on low incomes most • Why increase garage rents by less than housing? Is it fair to increase rents above CPI? There is no reference here to increases in private sector • The increase in social rents has been set at the maximum allowable, from April. This will come at a time when those most vulnerable are hit hard by the removal of the energy cap , not forgetting the increase in council tax too. This does not seem the right time to make a maximum increases • I don't rent your property but too many family's are on the breadline already.
Don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • got bored answering your silly questions • I do not rent from the council • No idea of needs or costs

Q. If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be mitigated?

There were 56 responses to this question.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing seems to change every year cash squandered . • Same as above. • People will be poorer • I imagine this could really put another strain in the poorer households, as so many bills are rising now. • As mentioned, you don't care about maintaining properties as long as they pay rent for your own pockets • For example. Futures housing in Daventry are not giving residents a satisfactory service and councillors have received numerous complaints • No improvement • Minimal impact • See above. Contract rather than expand, drop your ridiculous city status for the shambolic town of Northampton. • There is a need to minimise the impact on the Councils residents at a time when a great number of them will be struggling, (some to the point of impossibility), to meet financial obligations with regard to the supply of electricity and gas due to wholesale price developments of 2021 and price cap adjustments. • The rising cost of living and reduction in employment due to Covid-19 for some, is a perfect storm to debt or homelessness. Whilst the charges do not seem expensive because the way you've written them, a £3.84 increase a week leads to £15.36 a month and that to £184.32 a year. The majority of people in these accommodation types are of low incomes, such an amount could have significant implications for
--

them. Any increase to those in part rent-part buy schemes need to be carefully analysed. There are greater implications here due to potential increases in mortgage interest fees. With an increase in rent and mortgage, the tenants may find themselves unable to afford that house no longer. This would go against exactly what that scheme was there to achieve. Greater and sustainable revenue can be achieved through charges to the private building companies making so many homes within the area. Their application fee of a nominal £300 is almost laughable. I believe the council should look into those application fees and see if they can implement fees based on how many houses are proposed, rather than a flat rate. This way single applicants for a personal home will not have to pay the same amount as a private company attempting to create 300 homes.

In addition I feel the council should also look at the potential to buy land for development, and creating lease hold. This will provide income upon initial buy and subsequently thereafter.

- Make government aware of hardships caused by this policy and lobby for increases in minimum wage and benefits.
- Improve rent recovery from non payers. Implement your own policies regarding lease breaches.
- Cannot afford all these hikes - it is not fair
- It means what is the point in us working if you are just going to bleed us dry extra tax on food, fuel, energy bills, increasing the cost of social housing mainly affects those who don't live in it
- Can't pay the rent...get evicted!
- People will push back arguing that of course you're going for the maximum you can. They'll be annoyed at the extra 1%. I'd suggest finding a way to make the information easy for people to understand the why of it
- further pushing people to make that crucial decision, assuming they haven't had a pay rise, do they eat, heat or have somewhere to stay. Companies are not giving pay rises out, especially at the moment, there is so many other people who are willing to do the work without the payrise
- A slightly lower percentage might be more acceptable to tenants
- I feel this will be positive & ensure people focus on what's important safe place to live with family/food/warmth. These are the essentials
- As above
- More people at food banks and people sitting in the cold!
- You are taking money from people who need it the most.
- Unable to afford paying rent
- The poorest in society should not have to pay for the failures of the previous councils. Any reduction should come from savings in the council budget and penalising those involved in the decisions in previous losses. There must have been significant failings within the civil service, and only when those people are removed from office within recompense should you consider increasing costs of those who need housing.
- People renting or owning a home getting hit again.
- As above
- Absolute negative impact as per previous comment, not enough interaction from housing staff to tenants only if rent arrears. No personal contact now, I don't even know who my current housing officer is and I can never get a straight answer when

I try to find out. Not sure what the increase will do other than raise funds to build new houses.

- There are already discounts in place for people who suffer hardship, review them to ensure that they will relieve hardship where they need to.
- Placing individuals and families into very difficult financial constraints
- More people losing their homes, especially working people caught in a poverty trap.
- Evictions.
- Again look at reducing costs within including refurbishment projects to housing stock at this time.
- People in this type of housing generally are not well off and cannot afford this
- People who are in the bread line or only just surviving will now go under
- Can people afford it? Wages have stagnated over the years. How is a tax increase without wage rises going to help people that have financially struggled the passed two years, due to government decisions going to be a positive outcome?
- cannot afford these increases
- More poverty
- None
- I cant afford to live at the moment im struggling and benefits aren't increasing
- Decrease for pensioners not increase!!!!
- I believe that it will help our tenants if our stock of housing is put to an optimum standard of energy efficiency
- If we were cheated when housing stock was sold off, then council rent charges should be raised to what we are expected to pay to housing associations.
- It increases further poverty
- Most people in council/social housing are on low incomes. Increasing rent payments further eats into this and reduces the chances of them ever being able to get onto the property ladder.
- Of course it is a negative
- Additional upset waiting for repairs. Ok to increase stock of homes but needs to be balanced with excellent customer care
- Move tenants into appropriate size properties, they do not have the right for life....its council rented after all so 1 person or couple... 1 bedroom.... NOT 1 person in a 3 bed property just incase a family member comes back home....stop selling council houses
- Increased rents would put more families into food and fuel poverty
- Again less available money for families who support their own families
- Always seems a little pointless.

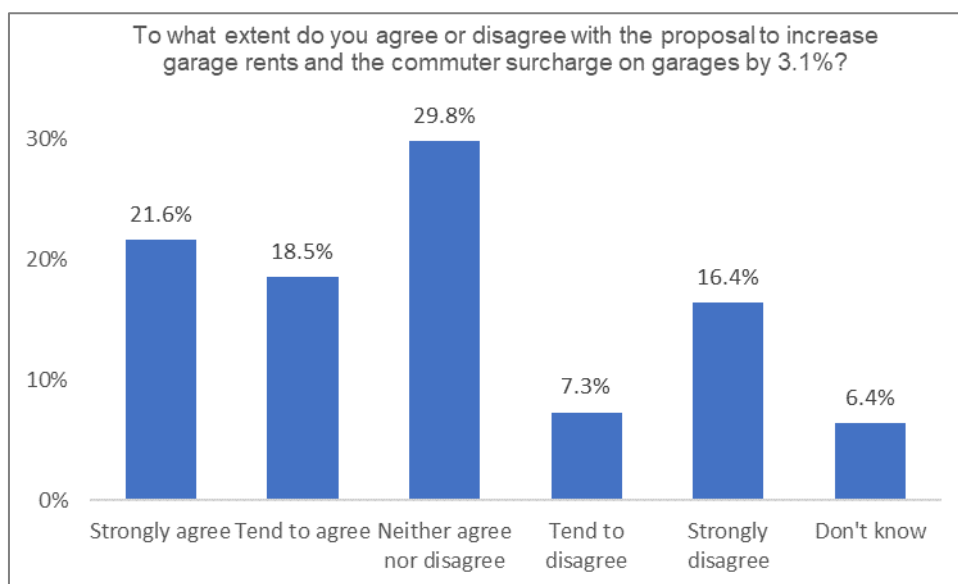
If a person in a council house is also claiming housing benefit, the council is paying for it, so why increase the rent so the council is paying itself more from a pot that they say is dwindling. The money is just going from one department to another.

Plenty of people who are in council houses do not have their rent paid, so this will impact them hugely too, in a negative way.

- Those that already struggle to afford their rent
- None
- See above
- Less People will be able to afford the rent and yet again the council will lose money
- I don't rent your property but too many family's are on the breadline already

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase garage rents and the commuter surcharge on garages by 3.1%? Please tick (✓) relevant answer

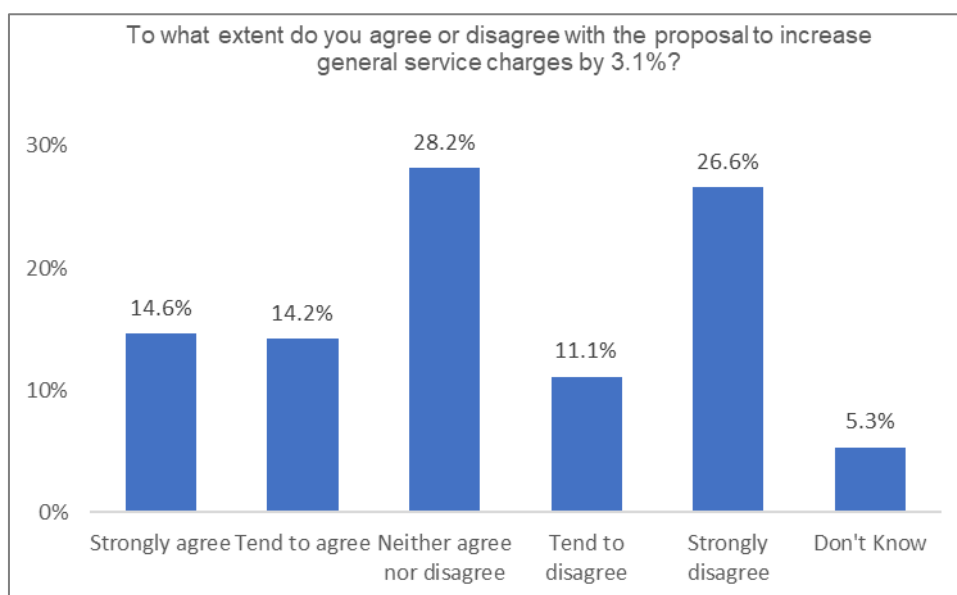
There were 329 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	71	21.6%
Tend to agree	61	18.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	98	29.8%
Tend to disagree	24	7.3%
Strongly disagree	54	16.4%
Don't know	21	6.4%

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase general service charges by 3.1%? Please tick (✓) relevant answer

There were 323 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	47	14.6%
Tend to agree	46	14.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	91	28.2%
Tend to disagree	36	11.1%
Strongly disagree	86	26.6%
Don't know	17	5.3%

Q. If you have any comments regarding the HRA Capital programme and indicative budgets for 2023/24 to 2026/27 as summarised in the [Draft Housing Revenue Account \(HRA\) Budget 2022-23 report](#) and [Appendix 2 – Draft HRA Capital Programme and MTFP](#), then please tell us here:

There were 26 responses to this question.

- None
- [expletive] greedy council. too many overpaid staff. you don't return value for money!
- I thought that the councils sold off their housing stock.
- Start making people pay for these extra services, not make others subsidising these services
- Pay market rates
- I don't understand why you use garages which were meant to be used with "council houses " as an income stream this has just lead to cars parked on roads and verges the estates were not designed to work this way.
If the garages are to be used as an income stream the money should be reinvested to improve parking and estates not put in other budgets.
- i do not know enough about it to make a comment

- When housing stock was first sold off to housing associations, the improvements were really noticeable. Today, we see that the standards of repair etc have fallen as these companies strive for more profit.
- say goodbye to rural Northamptonshire - more houses being built for people with an infrastructure that just can't cope. For example, Towcester's traffic is ridiculous, the number of times there is an accident on the M1, meaning more traffic coming through Towcester, but there still isn't a much needed bypass. You're just making Towcester another no-go zone, why bother going there, the traffic is terrible, parking is a joke and the time waiting to get through the traffic just gets worse
- Na
- There should be no increases this year
- Garages rents have always been notoriously low, these need to be brought into line with national average of potential use of space and what impact the loss of service would have on the area in general. Usually used as dumping grounds because the rental is so cheap.
- As are rents, service charges are taken, but service is totally inadequate .
- Okay as long as people on limited income get help to pay.
- We pay enough for everything anyway
- Garages are a luxury. If you have a garage, this is a luxury add on. Housing is a must.
- Increase the value of the services you provide then perhaps people wouldn't be so averse to ask these increases!!
Encourage people to work, help pensioners, stop just making life harder for everyone
- As i have never been [job role] with HRA responsibility, i feel that i am not yet able to contribute fully to the debate. Next year, i hope i can
- Garages are a desirable asset so an easy target for revenue
- Do the costs reflect inflationary rate rises ? They seem low and are in effect subsidised, rises should reflect true cost of provision increases.
- none
- What exactly does this mean? Please use plain language
- Money from the sale of council houses to better off tenants should be used to fund the upgrading of the existing stock, rather than making hard pressed families pay by increasing rents.
- Only to say that along with new development budget - budget should be also include provision to make sure any existing rights of way don't become disadvantaged and fragmented from the rest of the network in future. This has happened countless of times - new trunk roads with no underpasses, no proper provision to include Bridleways in a built up housing estates, improper surfaces, obstructions, fast traffic etc. opportunities should be sought to extend networks not diminish connectivity where possible. Pleased that budget has made disabled provision
- None
- What was the outcome of the bid for £6.08 million for Wave 1 ?
The social housing decarbonisation fund is subsidising a whole house retrofit programme to solid wall council homes in KIngsthorpe/JKIngsley/Abington. If obtained how will this be implemented across the wider West Northants ? More energy efficient homes across social housing will be beneficial to residents, there should be an aim for this to be equitable across West Northants.

Q. If you have any other comments you would like to make about the details within the Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget report and its appendices, that you have not already told us, then please tell us here:

There were 12 responses to this question.

- Rushden needs a train station.
- Hard to see why housing rents increase more than garage rents.
- I have made my points and would appreciate useful informative feedback acknowledging my time spent in filling in this survey
- more affordable houses but with suitable supporting infrastructure
- It's about time that a co-ordinated regional housing provision programme was developed; public/private partnerships that invigorate the council owned/managed housing stock and effectively address the issues around homelessness, inequality and environment.
The planning process is woeful and the private house building provision is focused on profit at the expense of quality, the environment and need.
- If the draft budget has taken a full and frank view of the current services properly delivered and managed then I am supportive but in my view the current systems are poorly managed, money is being wasted daily on loose contracts and no control on major works. No supervision of subcontractors and no come back is works not done to standard. Already losing money should be more accountable.
- Covid has to be paid for, everyone in the private sector is facing increases to pay for public services, as long as hardship processes are in place, social housing tenants need to make their contribution.
- All this information is rather difficult to understand and reflect upon. Plain English please so everyone can have the opportunity to respond. I found myself thinking a person would need a Harvard Law Degree to understand all this.
- None
- How confident are we that other neighbouring authorities aren't more attractive and people move elsewhere.
- I applaud plans to increase town centre housing. Please increase active travel and apply 20mph speed limit across town centre and villages to improve urban experience
- I welcome the green initiatives for new build, but would like to see more specific targets. How can some of these initiatives be adapted to existing stock ?

Demographics

Q. Are you responding to this questionnaire as an individual or on behalf of an organisation/community group? Please tick (✓) relevant answer

There were 401 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
As an individual	396	98.8%

On behalf of an organisation/community group	5	1.2%
--	---	------

Organisation/community group respondents

Q. If you're replying on behalf of an organisation or community group please tell us the name of your organisation and your job title/role:

Name of organisation:

There were 3 responses to this question.

- [Name] Parish Council
- [Name] Parish Council
- [Name] of organisation

Job title/role

There were 3 responses to this question. We have not listed the job titles / roles of respondents within this appendix in order to ensure respondents' anonymity is retained.

Individual respondents

As an organisation, we collect specific demographic information from the people who take part in our consultations or complete surveys to build up an accurate understanding of the communities that we serve so that services and policies can be delivered to meet the needs of everybody, and ensure that everybody has an opportunity to have their voice heard.

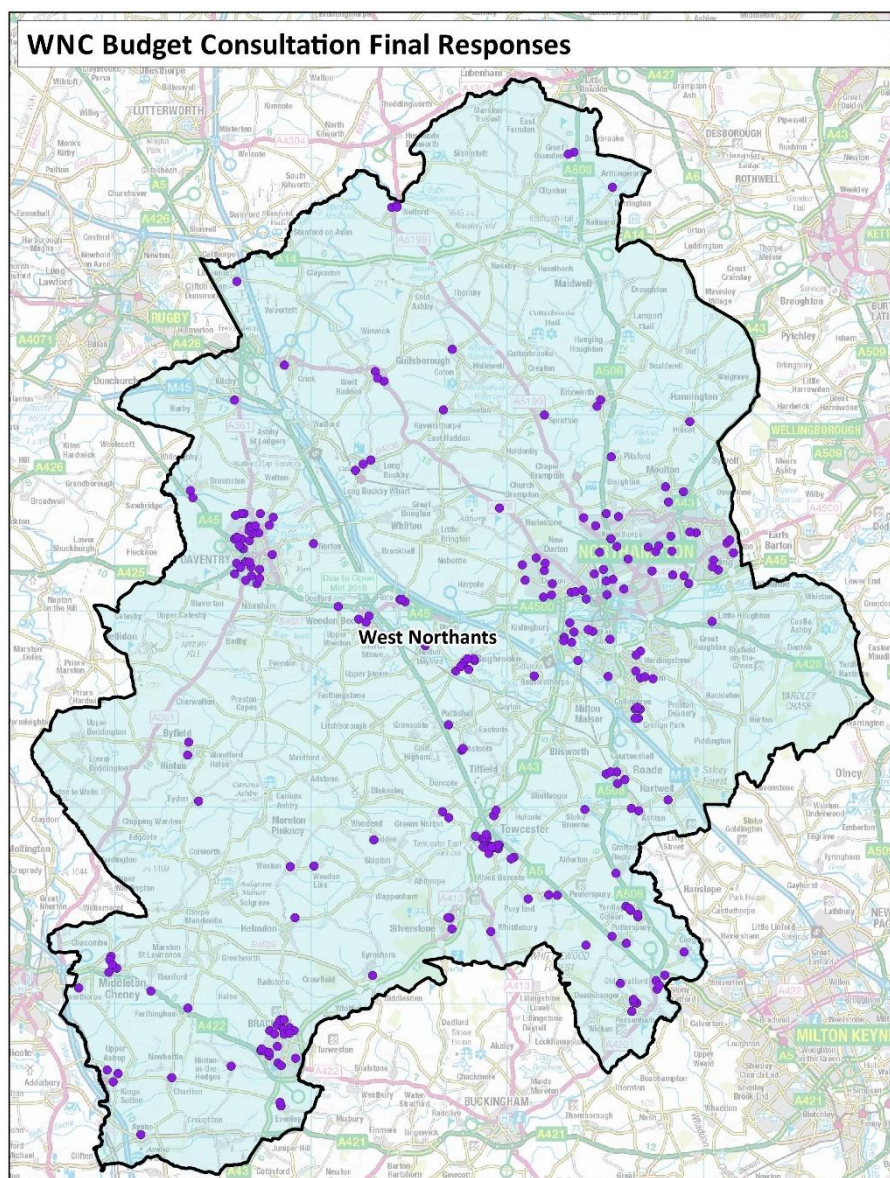
Please feel free to leave any questions which you do not wish to answer.

Any information you chose to provide will be treated confidentially and in accordance with data protection legislation and regulations.

Q. What is your postcode?

By providing us with your postcode, you are consenting for us to use this information to understand where respondents live. If you do not consent to us using this information in this way, please do not provide your postcode.

There were 270 valid postcodes provided within West Northamptonshire, 32 were incomplete, and there were no postcodes from outside of the area.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2021 Ordnance Survey licence no. 0100063706
Created by Business Intelligence, West Northamptonshire Council



Q. Are you: Please tick (✓) the appropriate box
There were 373 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Male	161	43.2%
Female	178	47.7%
Other	3	0.8%
Prefer not to say	31	8.3%

Other (please state):

- Non-binary
- Irrelevant
- vegetable
- ?????

- All of it like the [redacted]

Q. Are you currently pregnant or have you had a baby in the last 6 months? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 360 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	9	2.5%
No	307	85.3%
Prefer not to say	44	12.2%

Q. How old are you? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 371 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
0 to 9	1	0.3%
10 to 19	0	0.0%
20 to 29	17	4.6%
30 to 49	119	32.1%
50 to 64	106	28.6%
65 to 74	61	16.4%
75+	14	3.8%
Prefer not to say	53	14.3%

Q. Do you have a disability? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 370 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	56	15.1%
No	262	70.8%
Prefer not to say	52	14.1%

Q. If 'Yes', please tick the appropriate box(es) which best describes your disability? Please tick (✓) all that apply

There were 59 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Mental Health	14	23.7%
Physical Disability	32	54.2%
Hearing Impairment	13	22.0%
Learning Disability	4	6.8%
Sight Impairment	5	8.5%

Other	12	20.3%
-------	----	-------

Q. What is your religion or belief? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 358 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
None	143	39.9%
Christian	145	40.5%
Hindu	0	0.0%
Jewish	1	0.3%
Muslim	0	0.0%
Sikh	0	0.0%
Buddhist	1	0.3%
Prefer not to say	68	19.0%

Other:

- Pagan **(3)**
- Why do you need this information - religions and beliefs are not required - see GDPR rules
- Not relevant to this questionnaire
- Quaker
- No religion
- what does religion have to do with this?
- Tolerancism
- Moraly correct
- My business

Q. How would you describe your ethnic origin? (Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 326 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
White – British	273	83.7%
White – Irish	1	0.3%
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0.0%
White - Other White Background	12	3.7%
Asian or Asian British – Indian	1	0.3%
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British – Chinese	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British – Other Asian Background	0	0.0%
Black or Black British – Caribbean	0	0.0%
Black or Black British – African	1	0.3%
Black or Black British – Other Black Background	0	0.0%
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Background – White & Black Caribbean	0	0.0%

Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Background – White & Black African	0	0.0%
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Background – White & Asian	0	0.0%
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Background – Other mixed / multiple background	1	0.3%
Other – Arab	0	0.0%
Any other ethnic group (please state)	2	0.6%
Prefer not to say	35	10.7%

Other:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Why do you need this information - ethnicity is not required - see GDPR rules • White English • Na • White English • Maltese /British • Welsh • wouldn't describe it at all. It is what it is • East European • Actually English. • All of it like the [redacted] • Flesh coloured • None of your business • My business • WHITE ENGLISH • ENGLISH • White Scottish

Q. If you are 16 or over which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 347 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Bisexual	7	2.0%
Gay Man	6	1.7%
Gay Woman / Lesbian	2	0.6%
Heterosexual	247	71.2%
Prefer not to say	85	24.5%

Q. Is your sex (called your gender identity) the same as the gender you were given when you were born? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 351 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	283	80.6%
No	1	0.3%
Prefer not to say	67	19.1%

Q. Are you: Please tick (✓) the appropriate box
There were 361 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Married	196	54.3%
Single	44	12.2%
Civil Partnership	1	0.3%
Co-habiting / Living together	38	10.5%
Widow / Widower	10	2.8%
Other	4	1.1%
Prefer not to say	68	18.8%

About this consultation

Q. How did you find out about this consultation? Please tick (✓) all that apply
There were 373 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
From the local media (i.e. newspaper or radio)	40	10.7%
On social media	252	67.6%
As a member of the West Northamptonshire Residents' Panel	24	6.4%
From an email alert from my local council	39	10.5%
From a voluntary sector organisation providing me with support and advice	3	0.8%
Other (please give details)	31	8.3%

Other:

- I work for the council
- Daventry Facebook group
- facebook because the council never told anyone, a user found this "consultation" and shared it
- Word of mouth
- Via Twitter
- internal communications from Chief Executive
- From an email from one of my WNC ward councillors
- I work for WNC and it was in [Chief Executive] weekly update
- My local councillor on Facebook
- Social media
- From a Lib Dem Councillor
- Website
- Facebook
- Facebook page of disgruntled residents
- MP's facebook page
- By keeping aware of societal affairs

- WN App Twitter feed
- Parish Council
- Mentioned on Facebook by my local MP
- Luck! Very poor publicity for this.
- WNC council staff briefing from [Chief executive]
- Newspaper
- Working for WNC
- Social media
- As a councillor
- FROM A FRIEND
- Accidentally on social media. Maybe you should have sent letters to everybody in this area.
- Facebook
- Flore Facebook page
- On a Facebook group was not advised otherwise
- Twitter
- Via Daventry CLP
- From this consultation website
- From Councillors

The next steps

Once the consultation period closes on 1 February 2022, we will analyse the results and then final budget proposals will be developed before going back to the West Northamptonshire Council Full Council meeting on 24 February 2022.


Your feedback on this consultation is really important to us, and all consultation feedback will be analysed and considered, and will help Councillors make a final decision on the budget for 2022/23.

This meeting is held in public. Anyone wishing to submit a statement to the meeting must contact Democratic Services by email democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk or by post or in person (One Angel Square, Angel St, Northampton NN1 1ED) by 6pm 23 February 2022. Up to three members of the public are permitted to speak for up to three minutes each on any agenda item although this may be extended at the Chair's discretion.

Appendix 2: Other responses

Feedback receive via letters / emails

There were 90 written responses received.

- Whilst it is all noble what you are telling us what you want to achieve as it is nothing we have not heard before in the past, it is disgusting at the amount we are being charged in council tax. This increase will take it not far off the £200 barrier. That is a joke for council tax. In fact there has been a reduction a few years ago, and we have to pay for our garden waste, also the roads in Daventry are so poor, the patch work repairs are failings. How much more do you have to bleed from us. All I have seen is rising costs year on year from a corrupt Northamptonshire council but no visible improvements. Why are we paying the most expensive tax in the county, region, in fact would not surprise me if it's more than most of the country? I would like to know what my money is paying for, apart from your expenses and pay rises. (Which the Northamptonshire county council are famous for) hence why they were millions in debt I have no doubt and now we are having to pay for it. I think this is day light robbery. You are going to plunge more working class people into more debt because of this and some even homeless. How does that make you feel even when just not myself but other working class people have not had any pay rises or not enough to cover the increasing living costs. Your a JOKE and this country is a JOKE. We are to simply put it, run by [description].
- This would appear to be outside government guidelines.
Daventry increase is greater than the limits set by the government.
There is no fairness in your proposals for the former rural councils.
Please expect an appeal and complaint leading to a parliamentary level complaint if this is approved.
Northampton have a history of poor financial management, proven in their recent history of spending and investment.
It would appear to be unresolved.
- Can you tell me please:
How much, and as a proportion of total expenditure, has been dedicated to climate change and biodiversity issues?
How will this money be spent? Please provide a breakdown.
- Thank you for your request for comments
Please can I have further information about Investment in young driver training - please give details eg what is the budget amount, what young people receive this training and how many. Why this investment at all as opposed to investment in more green issues like funding for more buses and routes or a mini bus service for more rural areas
- I object to the proposed green bin charge on 2 principle grounds.
 1. It has become an unnecessary imposition on individuals finances due to the increase in government funding not included in its draft budget.
 2. The disincentive to use the bins correctly will reduce the available compostable waste to effectively  and particularly discourage legal disposal.
- I wholeheartedly agree with the move to bin any extra charges for the west northants area (was sndc)

Please add my name to the long list of people who think this is an unnecessary and ridiculous increase

- I do not feel that the green budget should be increased or funds allocated to it. Net zero is a confection and we should not be buying in to it

I would prefer not to have green bin charges at least for the first one, but if it is a choice between free green bins or better social cars then I would accept the need for the charge.

- BIN THE CHARGES

I am disappointed that you are trying to charge for green bin waste collection when you clearly said when the councils merge you would not be charging us for this service which is already included in my council tax.

Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.

BIN THE CHARGES

As the council will not be out of pocket they should get rid of the tax, full stop. I trust you will take notice and learn.

- As a resident in the former South Northants Council area I am already paying for my green bin to be emptied in my council tax. As WNC budget For 2022\23 appears to be much better than anticipated I feel it might be good if the charge for emptying green bins across WNC could be removed.

- Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.

BIN THE CHARGES.

- Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.

BIN THE CHARGES

- south northants bin charges

so we now pay twice for the same service - typical of this money grabbing society / council as the cost of living / inflation is going through the roof, the council is just adding to it.

The council elite of course are comfy with their high salary / gold plated pensions.....

and of course working from home in their PJ's !!!

NOT a happy bunny

- Why are you looking to charge me double for green bin collections. I have been paying for these within my council tax for years and to start charging now is effectively charging me twice. Is that legal?

The government have provided £3.8m more than expected so you do not need the extra £800,000 this charge would achieve. I am happy to pay £42 if you reduce my council tax bill by the corresponding amount.

- I think it is utter stupidity to charge people in the south of the county £42 per year to have a green bin, where it has never been charged before.

At the moment I only put my black bin out about 4 times a year, as I'm careful what I buy, and I recycle a lot, as I think its important to look after the environment for future generations and the planet as a whole.

I have a large garden, so I presume I will be putting grass cuttings, etc into my black bin every two weeks which will then go to landfill and produce harmful gasses into the atmosphere.

PLEASE reconsider this charge and let us have our green waste bin as it has always been, part of the council tax that we pay

- Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Greenwaste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.

BIN THE CHARGES

- I am writing to protest about the proposed green bin charges.

The cost of this has been up till now, included in our council tax charge.

We, like many others pay £200 per month which is a lot of money to us, and we certainly can't afford another £42 for what I assume will be for less than 12 months of the year of green fortnightly bin collections.

This would represent a rise of almost 25% on our council tax bill for emptying one bin! This can't be right?

If only one person in our street opts in to this, the bin lorry still will have to come I assume once a fortnight, just to collect one bin?.

Surely this would not be cost effective.

So, how do we dispose of our green waste if we don't have space for a compost heap? I am pretty sure there will be an increase in fly tipping in our local countryside which will cost the council a lot of money to tidy it up.

So why don't the council turn our green waste into compost and sell it back to us, thus generating more income? I would buy some for our garden.

Just to finish, we will not be opting into this extortionate extra cost.

- West Northants Council are wanting to charge £42 per year to empty the green bins. This has been emptied for "free" or rather in our council tax charge in the former SNC area but has been charged for in the former Daventry and Northampton areas.

WNC hope to raise £800k from SN area bringing the total raised from green waste charges to £3m

There is no need to have this charge at all. Why?

WNC is currently consulting on its draft budget. When this was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated. The government has now informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than those estimates.

WNC does not have to charge to empty green waste in our green / brown bin.

WNC can remove this charge to ALL residents across the whole district. There is no financial reason to charge a second time.

WNC have the cash, their budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more.

- OBJECT to Green Bin charge. Council con trick as Govt funding more than estimate.
- In response to the West Northamptonshire budget proposals, I would like to add my name to the, presumably, many others in South Northamptonshire who find the proposed garden waste collection charge totally unacceptable.

In South Northamptonshire, we have some of the most expensive council tax bands in the entire county. Previously, some of that council tax was used to cover the the garden waste collection. Yet, despite this being removed from the services paid for via council tax, we are facing a 2.99% increase in tax.

Either scrap the proposed bin collection charge or reduce our council tax contribution in lieu of a reduced service.

I'll take this opportunity to remind you that this is a Conservative majority council, which is supposed to be the party of low taxation.

- I strongly object to the proposed levy to be applied for the removal of Green Waste given as £42 a year.
Following your Draft budget for the year it is now understood that the Government has now informed West Northants Council that it will receive £3.8 million more than the original estimate. This makes charging those residents who came under South Northants Council totally unnecessary.
This proposal comes after years of astronomical Council Tax rises, during which time we have received an ever-reduced service.
May I suggest that the Remuneration packages of workers within your organisation are aligned to those living in the real world, making the demand placed on those hard working members of the Community year on year less onerous ? I, for one, see no reason why I should prop up Final salary Schemes for other individuals.
I await your response.
- It has come to my attention that there is a consultation regarding a charge for the green waste bin.
I feel this is very unfair as I don't use it and would happily return it, if the charge goes ahead.
Many households have been hit with increased charges and cost of living but wages have barely increased thus making it hard to live comfortably.
I think you should consider scrapping this charge.
- Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Greenwaste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.
BIN THE CHARGES
- I understand that the Council are looking to introduce a £42 annual charge to empty our green bins. With the increases in council tax, I fail to see why this is necessary, and it will undoubtedly lead to increased fly tipping, which is already an issue in the area and which, you will have to foot the bill to deal with! I can not see why this is a good business decision and welcome information on your justification for this.
- I wish to protest about the proposed Introduction of a fee for emptying the green bins in the West Northamptonshire region.
We have a green bin collection once a fortnight and once a fortnight of grey bins. We pay for this service in our council taxes. Your proposal means we are paying twice for a service.
We already have a problem with fly tipping in the area and your proposal may lead to
 1. Additional clearance costs of fly tipped materials
 2. People ceasing to recycle and simply using their grey bins for all household waste
 3. Issues with neighbours where people deposit their rubbish in others' green bins.
- BIN THE CHARGES
Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.
BIN DOUBLE TAXATION
The draft budget includes a 1% adult social care precept but does not separate this from the additional revenue taxpayers will contribute via the increase to national insurance contributions. If we are taxed by HMRC for the additional finances needed to cover social care, why are we being taxed again?
BIN RENT RISES

Raise rents? Yes. Raise by the proposed amount? No.

Around £20 per month for a house with garage is proposed in addition to increases in NINO increase and a huge rise in fuel charges will push more people into poverty as benefits, pensions and wage increases do not equal the % raise in basic living costs.

- Yet another charge, we pay a fortune for our council tax £280 + a month, now you're trying to get another £42 out of us.

Please explain what is the charge for I don't understand why we have to pay this robbery. Are we paying for your black hole in your pension scheme. How much of their wages do they get on retirement I do believe it's 80% of their wages is this what we are paying for. They should should get a nominal pension like everyone else

You squander public money buying new premises selling old premises, where the money gone from that. From the money you get from new builds we're does that go.

Stop paying extortionate wages which you can ill afford and give a more sensible wage and pension People can't afford such luxury as paying for a bin emptying that we currently pay for in our council tax.

People will dump the waste and I don't blame them. How long do you sit there wondering what you can charge us next, it's never ending.

At this rate we'll have to move to a better cheaper area that's isn't congested with houses and grid locked roads.

Northampton is the most expensive place in England to live.

What a let down since moving

A very disgusted, disillusioned and angry constituent.

- Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.
- When the WNC draft budget was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated.

Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should therefore be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.

- I am totally against this charge you have proposed to empty the green bins, on two counts.
 1. It's not needed
 2. It will increase fly tipping
- I wish to have my feelings known about the proposed increases to next year's council tax.

I live in the old South Northants area & see there is an increase of £46.84 proposed. I understand there needs to be some increase in line either the cost of living

But why is there also a £42 charge being added to empty our green bins? Other councils manage without this and it encourages residents to recycle..... wait for more flytipping to occur.

I understand the council are getting £3.8m more from central government so it astounds me that this is necessary.

Since we have combined to become West Northamptonshire, surely with the extra money, this green bin charge should be ended for residents.

I look forward to a response

- I am totally against green bin charge. This is not necessary as you have been given more than you were expecting in your budget.
- BIN THE CHARGES
 West Northants Council are wanting to charge me £42 per year to empty my green bin. This has been emptied for "free" or rather in my council tax charge in the former SNC area but has been charged for in the former Daventry and Northampton areas.
 WNC hope to raise £800k from SN area bringing the total raised from green waste charges to £3m
 There is no need to have this charge at all. Why? And I do not even have a green bin any longer.
 WNC is currently consulting on its draft budget. When this was formulated the amount of government grant was estimated. The government has now informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than those estimates.
 WNC does not have to charge you to empty green waste in your green / brown bin. WNC can and will remove this charge to ALL residents across the whole district my address [address]. There is no financial reason to charge a second time.
 WNC have the cash, their budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more.
 BIN THE CHARGES
 Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Greenw waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.
 BIN THE CHARGES.
- BIN THE CHARGES
 Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was expected. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. Also if Green waste becomes chargeable, it might be disposed of in the black bin. That will increase landfill. I understand there is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances. BIN THE CHARGES
- I strongly disagree with this. I understand that Council Tax is increasing to enable services to run smoothly and to support Adult Social Care.
 I cannot understand why there is a necessity to introduce this garden refuse charge. The Council have been awarded more funding from the Government than expected so surely this proposal should be reconsidered.
 We have a problem with fly tipping and I believe by introducing this charge it will get worse, which will put more pressure on Council funds to clear up! Also some of the people who don't pay will probably just leave their garden rubbish to accumulate which will cause other problems, which the Council will be called upon to resolve, resulting in more costs.
 So what is being seen as increasing revenue will, in fact become a cost as you will be called upon to 'clear up' which will create extra pressure.
 Please reconsider.
- Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.
 BIN THE CHARGES.
 We have never had to pay this charge in South Northants, so in effect we will get a double whammy with increased council tax and a green bin collection charge. This is patently unfair.

- I am want to object to the proposed increase in my council tax to pay for emptying green bins. It is an unnecessary rise, it is not financially necessary and again money wanted to pay for ineptitude of previous authority. I already pay money for a useless parish council so object to more of my hard earned cash being greedily sort from local government.
- Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed!!
Green waste will generate £3m in revenue.
There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances. BIN THE CHARGES
- I am disgusted to see that since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed!!
Also disgusted to see that Green waste will generate £3m in revenue.
There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances. BIN THE CHARGES you are encouraging fly tipping which will cost more money to clear up.
- I'd like to say that I have no problem with this. It represents good value for money at £42/yr.
Given all the other statutory demands on strapped finances,such as schools, adult social care,child care,roads etc.
I'd rather you were able to maintain these to a reasonable standard. Although I realise that is a challenge in itself!
- Cut my lawn once a week throughout the summer. It takes me almost 3 weeks to fill then bin so only goes out accassionally.
I certainly don't think I will get value put of a green bin charge.
Not sure where this money will be spent in my area.
- PLEASE BIN THE CHARGES for the emptying of green bins in West Northamptonshire.
There is no need to have this charge at all. Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.
Additionally to the issue of generating unnecessary council revenue, the extra cost may impact already struggling families placing them under further financial strain. People may become tempted to dispose of green waste in their general waste bins or, worse, by fly tipping.
Please use your common sense and stop pursuing this any further - BIN THE CHARGES.
- BIN THE CHARGES
Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.
BIN DOUBLE TAXATION
The draft budget includes a 1% adult social care precept but does not separate this from the additional revenue taxpayers will contribute via the increase to national insurance contributions. If we are taxed by HMRC for the additional finances needed to cover social care, why are we being taxed again?
BIN RENT RISES
Raise rents? Yes. Raise by the proposed amount? No.

Around £20 per month for a house with garage is proposed in addition to increases in NINO increase and a huge rise in fuel charges will push more people into poverty as benefits, pensions and wage increases do not equal the % raise in basic living costs.

- I think the need to charge every household £42 a year for collection of green waste is unnecessary.

We as tax payers already pay council tax and this should include the collection of household waste. If you are proposing we pay for green waste collection does this mean in the near future we will have to pay for collection of recycled waste?

Households already have taxes/bills to pay, and leave some households on little income after expenses at the end of it, by introducing this you are going to impact this and there will be a rise in poverty which we are already on the brink of when you take into account inflation, national minimum wage, rising bills due to covid 19.. I could go on.

This is a needless expense and should be included in council tax along with all the other services it provides.

Thank you for reading.

- BIN THE CHARGES

Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Greenw waste will generate £3m in revenue. There is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.

BIN THE CHARGES

- I would like to query the ridiculous and unnecessary bin charges expected by WNC for the doubt Northants area and do not wish to be given the usual rubbish line that seems to be going about that it's to bring in to line with Daventry etc...

Northampton and Towcester are not Daventry and should not be treated as such!

We've also been hit every every year with significant increases and according to your own budgetary information proposed for next year, the council will make an additional £3m, seemingly from ripping off customers once again.

We have been stung year on year with larger than average hikes in our county and already pay for this service within these 5 and 8% increases we have had. You are now also proposing another £47 a year increase for the next year and I would like to know for what benefit do we get out of that?

I used to work for [name of organisation] who also at the time offered every week collections of both recycling and black waste and have not had the increases we have since our 'Council' bankrupted, Northamptonshire hasn't offeres every week collections of both wastes in the 8yrs I've lived here so we are already receiving a sub standard service for a higher price in my opinion.

I am disappointed and frustrated that not when it was SNC tending Towcester, I used to be able to get on the phone to discuss council tax or any other issues very promptly, now, I cannot get through to an actual person eve after half hour of going round the houses. The customer care from WNC seems to be nonexistent now.

All these charges will achieve will be more dumping and fly tipping and fires or people will increase their black waste by putting it in there instead!

I implore you to reconsider this very badly thought out money making scheme and to scrap the charges for the green waste collection for the sake of the residents, the additional rubbish dumping and costs associated that will materialise, and for the sake of WNC reputation. As an ex Council worker I am saddened that the bottom line now seems to be the priority over doing right by the people in the area you are supposed to support.

Sincerely, a now low income single working [parent] who cannot afford [their] council tax even with 25% discount!

- The draft West Northants Council budget is seeking to charge me £42 per year to empty my green bin. This has been emptied for "free" or rather from my council tax charge in the former SNC area but has been charged for in the former Daventry and Northampton areas.

I understand WNC hope to raise £800k from SN area bringing the total raised from green waste charges to £3m. There is no need to have this charge at all.

WNC does not have to charge any resident in the former SNC area to empty green waste. WNC can remove this charge to the whole of the unitary areas. There is no financial reason to introduce a charge given the government settlement for the Council is favourable to the tune of £3.8ion. WNC have the cash, the budget can remain intact and have almost £1m more.

Please bin the charges. Household are being faced with rising energy costs, the bin charges are completely unnecessary.

- I'm against this new bin tax for Green /Brown bin collection... If this comes in I and other will only just put our Garden waste in the General Bin...

As you are aware many householders don't even do sort there Plastic Cardboard Bottles Recycling items

South Northants household's have a very good reputation about recycling over the past year's and with the pending New Cost this is in danger..

What with the pending increase in in Energy cost this unwanted cost is going to put a lot of Households under even more financial pressure..

I'm Pensioners and live on a very small income with No Government benefits at all do you really think this is fair...

- I find this planned stealth tax absolutely disgraceful. As if householders don't have enough to deal with amongst the past two years of an ongoing global pandemic with all the disastrous effects piled onto everyone's life and finances.

I understood that the green waste was the basis of enriching the earth with compost created from the green waste. How on earth can it be acceptable to now charge householders for this service which has thousands of people on board to contribute to this aim?

The struggle for the community since the pandemic causing horrendous experiences of the huge number of deaths of loved ones - alone with no loved ones allowed to be with them. Loss of jobs, income and the huge impact upon mental health?

We are still battling through this nightmare and gardening has become a healthy and therapeutic part of huge numbers of people since the country's lockdown.

I find this planned tax an abhorrent insult to us all.

- I'm hugely disappointed that West Northants are considering removing the inclusive green waste bins from our council tax charge. I have felt immensely proud that our council had not followed the ill advice of some other councils, and has enabled it's residents to properly dispose of garden waste at the kerbside. I feel we should be making it easier for people to get rid of their waste kerbside, not harder.

Making garden waste bins chargeable, an optional extra, will only cause more people to either put the garden waste in the normal household bin, so it can no longer be separated out, or the more irresponsible people to dump it somewhere out in the countryside. In turn encouraging fly tipping.

Everyday I walk the village paths and fields, picking up rubbish that has been thrown, blown or dropped onto our paths and into our hedges. Bags and bags of the stuff. It makes me so sad that we can't take care of our lovely planet properly. Please reconsider this extra charge.

- Removing the green waste collection from the standard charge and then charging an additional fee means that the tax is increasing more than the allowed percentage set by the government.
What services are you going to charge separately for next year, street lights, police.
Absolutely scandalous especially since the last council went bankrupt out of mismanagement and not for charging too little.
- Everyone wants everything for nothing, if I can't afford to pay for the green bin I won't have one will have to take it to a tip or where ever you can take it. I have made a incinerator to burn all dead woody stuff let it dry off a it's gone in minutes not perfect but it's gone. People have got to start thinking for themselves and I don't include the [description] who flytip and I'm sure a lot more will come out of the cupboard if this happens so hopefully the will spend some of the money catching then. Our generation have had it to easy people have become a bunch of bloody pansies.
- I have a query with regard to the collection of green waste. I understand a charge is to be imposed in addition to the annual rates bill in respect of emptying resident's green bins. I understand a government grant is allocated to the council for this and indeed more is to be received than estimated.
Therefore the charge should not be made to residents. Indeed, I feel there should be significantly more attention applied to the removal of the accumulated leaves which make walking along the streets of Old Stratford very precarious, not to mention unsightly.
I have for the past few years found it necessary to contact our parish council as the footpath located on the Deanshanger Road leading from the Old Stratford Community centre becomes very overgrown in the summer and becomes virtually impassible. Perhaps some of the additional budget payment could be used to enhance the area as both winter and summer there seems to be very little maintenance carried out by the local council.
I would be interested to receive a response.
- I would like to make a formal complaint about the proposed charge to have green bins emptied. The cost of all bin collections should be covered by our substantial council tax payments we pay every month. This additional cost is nothing more than a stealth tax and should be duly reviewed.
- I understand that WNC is planning to charge £42 per year to empty our green bins and I am writing to complain about these charges.
'The government has informed WNC that it will get £3.8m more than it's previous budget planning estimates. Since the publication of the draft budget the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed. Green waste will generate £3m in revenue'.
I feel that there is no need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances.
- Are you having a laugh!! Why on earth do you think Daventry should have the highest increase?
Black bins emptied every 3 weeks, the police station is hardly open, pot holes everywhere!
Do you feel this is appropriate at the moment with domestic fuel increases, fuel for cars, NI increases and food price increases? Increase fir grown bin collections!
What quality of life so you want for people!
We should be having a reduction or at the very least no increase at all! I'm currently paying nearly £250 a year, why!!!

You're a disgrace, you waste so much on paying your staff, giving them discounts on cars and such like!

I'd love to know what the current MP is doing about this, apart from voting yes to everything Boris puts before parliament.

- This is a disgusting addition to our council tax considering the amount each individual household pays and the services we all get. Our council tax is based on the type and size of property we live in. I would like to know in that case, why we pay the same band D in a 2 bedroomed retirement flat in Brackley as we did in a 4 bedroomed detached in Towcester? (Same Council). In addition to this, we pay a large service charge as well. I know there are a lot of hidden costs including street cleaning, etc but it is beyond me how the powers that be come to this conclusion. It seems as though we are paying astronomical charges for having our bins emptied. This charge will no doubt increase dramatically in April as well. Any comments please?

- Since the publication of the draft budget, the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed.

Green waste will generate £3m in revenue.

There is no justification nor need to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances. BIN THE CHARGES

- There is no justification in the proposition that green waste should be charged for as an addition to the normal waste charges - green waste if properly handled can actually generate income through composting - green waste collection costs should be treated just the same as other waste collection costs and included in Council Tax charges to all.

I strongly object to a separate charge being made for green bin use.

- I wish to object most strongly to the proposed new charges for collection of the Green Bins in West Northants area.

Over the years South Northants Council have served its residents very well. We had a good partnership with Cherwell District and in that time the financial services were well maintained and were able to pay for all our services from our Council tax. Now the new Councils have been agreed and South Northants are partnered with, among others, Northampton Borough Council, who carry a well advertised deficit. Why do you now feel it is fair to charge residents of a well run Council for the failings of others.

Since the publication of the draft budget, the council has been awarded £3.8m more than was assumed.

Green waste will generate £3m in revenue.

There is therefore no need or justification to charge for green waste collection anywhere in the WNC area. The charge for green waste should be set to ZERO with no impact on the council's finances. BIN THE CHARGES!

- There were many who said Sth Northants will pay for Northampton budget fiasco in recent years, and now it is a proven fact.

The old SNC provided a full service to its residents. Now for that same service, SNC residents are being told to pay extra..... for no other reason than the budgetary regimes of the other previous authorities demanded their residents paid extra for green bins.

So the residents of former SNC paid for green bins in their old charges, but will have to pay double next year. Once in their normal charge, and secondly through an extra charge.

I can only hope that the fly tipping clean up budget is being increased to cope with the inevitable mess this policy will precipitate.

All the talk of a better council working for the residents..... Proven utter rubbish..... The new Northampton dominated council is just running a bigger area in the same, appalling way it ran Northampton in the past.

I was a local council supporter..... but times are changing....

- I understand we are to be charged for the Green bin , but my understanding is we are already paying for our bins to be emptied should we be paying twice ? Our council tax went up last year , I live in a village and we don't have the amenities that the towns have could you please reconsider this option
- I wish to object to the proposal to charge for green bins.

I think a charge will mean that people will avoid the charge but will instead deposit their garden waste in other places such as in fields, at the side of roads or maybe in other people's green bins. Maintaining the free green bin system will help to keep our local area tidy.

- Reference the need to 'harmonise' green waste collections.

The timing, justification and logic of this charge is very wrong:

Households are facing very difficult financial challenges - of which we haven't begun to see the full extent of yet.

The environmental message and support for it, which of course includes recycling / composting, must be encouraged - dramatically - not reduced!

To opine: The most sensible harmonisation, if such a condition is demanded, would be to eliminate the charges already applied to Northampton residents.

A [job role name] South Northants council has stated that additional central government funding budgeted for the new council group more than exceeds the revenue generated from this charge.

- The draft budget was published with estimates as to the level of income from Government.

The draft settlement from government was published approximately a week later and showed £3.8m income that the estimates, comprising a new grant of £3.5m and a slight £0.3k surplus on the estimates. The council could not have known about the new grant and their estimates on government being £300k out were accurate.

In addition to this there has been a general rise in interest rates which will give the council further additional windfall income on its £170m investment portfolio. I recognise that the flip side to this is higher inflation that will drive its own pressures too. The budget has an adjustment of £1m to correct an overly ambitious estimate of investment income (stemming from the former NBC I believe).

That inflation affects our residents as well as councils and every other company in the country who don't enjoy tax raising powers and powers of collection for non payment.

The budget assumes £3m of income from green waste charges. These charges can be negated with the bonus income the authority has received and still leave approx £1m spare cash. Charging for green waste is unnecessary anywhere in the West Northants District.

This proposal does not affect the tax base it does not weaken the financial status of the council. They have the option of charging in future years should the financial position force it. The council has a contingency built within its budgets, and a level of reserves that the Chief Financial Officer has stated is more than adequate.

The residents will experience an average council tax rise of 2.99% Residents in the former Daventry area will be higher as the effects of harmonisation carries on, those in the former South Northants area will now have a £42 per year green bin tax as well. We do need to give our residents a break from constantly picking their pockets.

No green waste charges will ease the burden a little for all.

BIN the BIN CHARGES

- Further to your consultation statement, I would like to raise the below issues and look forward to receiving a response.

First I would like to open with a general point of view. When the proposal of West Northants Council was put forward, it was stated that joining all areas would allow residents better value for money due to the areas being combined.

I am yet to see any of this statement come to fruition, Council Tax has risen and yet what we get in the South Northants community has gone down. In Brackley we pay some of the highest council tax rates in the county, yet services are being eroded.

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN REFUSE AND RECYCLING

I am very interested to know more about this proposal. From what I can see is that you are taking green waste out of our inclusive package, despite this being built into our council tax rates so I cannot see the extra investment that is going in here. Also these are generally a private contract, why is this not been picked up in a value for money tender service. Recycling is being sold at record highs, especially plastics, aluminium and cardboard, you should actually be looking for costs down. In terms of recycling, the Packaging industry is charged tax every year to cover 100% of the costs of recycling and investment. Why is this not been covered from this pot of money.

Recycling services have been massively underfunded and this tax has been pocketed for profit for many years, with the plastic tax and the new EPRs being legislated for this investment within the next 12 months, I cannot see how it is reasonable to claim more from your residents.

I look forward to hearing from you.

- I am a Duston resident and am absolutely appalled at the HUGE council tax rises you are planning to impose on already struggling families.

I am a single parent of 2 teenagers and I work full time.

I cannot afford to pay any more tax rises! It is a choice between heating and eating! Never mind clothing! Forget any treats!

You already charge us to take our garden waste.

There is a HUGE hole in your finances which residents of this county are not prepared to plug anymore!

I am absolutely disgusted! I will object to any rises as there is never any improvement in any of the services you provide, quite the opposite.

There are barely any shops left in the town centre!

[name] and the Sixfields Stadium debacle, where's that money!???

You have an absolute cheek to place further financial pressure on people who just cannot afford to live anymore despite working all the hours they can.

I am just flabbergasted with you people.

- I think that as a council we need to prioritise and invest heavily in a green agenda to reduce all forms of carbon emissions.

The budget agenda needs to include encouraging and assisting a switch from cars using fossil fuels to renewable electric alternatives. This means providing a public recharging infrastructure. All schools need to be made carbon neutral by using solar and wind generation options. The very positive benefits of living green and environmentally friendly also needs to be taught to children so they can gently pressure their parents in a similar way to the benefits of stop smoking. Global warming is a very serious threat to us and future generations. We need to take action immediately to help our children and grandchildren.

Businesses and farmers in our region also need to be taught and encouraged to find ways to be carbon neutral and minimise their carbon emissions.

Households using education and marketing need to be shown how they become more self sustainable in what we grow and eat. Increasing working from home is a good starting point using technology to assist make this happen where appropriate. It also helps generally with a better work life balance.

The council's housing stock also all needs to be converted to be carbon neutral by using renewable energy options and improving build options.

2030 is the government's carbon neutral target. WNC in writing such as agenda and budgets needs to align to this target. A 30% green budget would be a good start and show commitment to us and the planet. The council needs to reach these objectives before 2030 including the council geographic areas of influence I have quoted above. We have to do all we can as a region to achieve this and help other council's to meet the the same end goal.

There needs to be a clear entry in the budget to this positive cause and objective. It needs to be clearly defined and should not be hidden in any WNC fine print.

- I am emailing to express my concerns about the Green Waste opt in service, I think this charge is complete madness, unless West Northamptonshire Council can convince me otherwise,
 - 1 - why should tax payers pay twice once through council tax and again through an opt in service? Or will my council tax be reduced by this amount?
 - 2 - the council and elected councillors need to look at the business model and the contract of the waste processors that take our waste... I am not familiar with the commercial arrangement however in general the council will pay a gatefee based on the total tonnage of residual waste delivered. I would imagine charging residents for green waste will end up with more green waste in the residual waste stream (black bag/black bin). Most of the green waste is moisture so the councils are paying the waste processors for taking moisture all the waste processor then needs to do it dry the waste to make profits a relatively easy and cheap process. Lest say for arguments sake £100/ton... If the moisture content is 40% the processor then only needs to pay an off taker (an incinerator) for 0.6tons of waste at say £50/ton, maybe even less than 60% if they can also extract some recyclates such as paper/farous and non farous metals with sell for positive values. The water content that is removed through drying is easy profit, and is returned to large organisations (violia / biffa etc) and there shareholders not to the local authority.
 - 3 - We should be promoting waste separation at source, not creating extra financial barriers. The cleaner and more separation at source leaders to better quality recyclates and our tax is not spent on paying organisations to do extra sorting through hand pick processing or through multimillion pound investments in sorting lines.
 - 4 - what is the 42 odd pounds been spent on... Certainly in Brackley and more specifcly The Radstone Fields development the Section 106 aggrement/Community Infrastructure Levy includes provisions to provide extra waste collection vehicles to South Northamptonshire Council so I assume the £42 odd is not being used for investments in this respect. Is this to cover deficits elsewhere in the budget? I would have expected council costs to have reduced given the synenergys that should have been achieved with merging 3 councils.
 - 5 - People will be asking to have their green bins removed, adding further cost to the council to arrange the collection of the unused bins. What is the estimated cost here?
 - 6 - what additional cost will fly tipping add to the councils budget for the green waste from. Households that are not willing to pay the opt in fee?
- All in this feels like an ill thought out plan to raise council tax via a backdoor. I look forward to hearing the councils response to my questions.
- I live in Brackley and wanted to check that our council tax will reduce in line with the new £42 charge for green bin collection?

I understand this change is to bring us in line with other towns under West Northants rather than increased costs to yourselves in bin collection. Our bin collection costs have always been budgeted for as part of the council tax we pay, now you're gaining this additional income from us, presumably the council tax for these towns will reduce accordingly.

If this isn't the case, can you please confirm why you need this additional income and exactly what additional services this will be spent on for those towns who's council tax bills previously covered these costs?

- **OFFICIAL OBJECTION TO GARDEN WASTE CHARGES**

Not only is your proposed charge higher than neighbouring Oxfordshire, but one begs the question "what are we paying £200 a month for in terms of council tax"? We live in King's Sutton. Have no bus service, no library and disjointed sporadic train service which is not subsidised at all.

Your proposal to charge for garden waste disposal will merely add to fly tipped rubbish which is already an issue around our village and it's borders.

I strongly urge you to re-think this post code lottery additional tax to an already poorly served Northamptonshire village.

Await your response by return.

- At this time in our planets crisis where recycling should be at the top of the agenda, I strongly oppose the introduction of a charge for empty our green bins. Towcester has always been at the forefront of recycling, well when it was part of south northants anyway. Stepping backwards is not an option that should be considered.
- I am just writing with regards the £42 charge for our green bin collection, I disagree with this charge as surely we pay for refuse collection in our Council Tax Fee's.
- I am writing to express my objection to the proposal to charge for Green Bin collections.

With annual council tax increases outstripping inflation every year and at a time where households are under real financial pressure with soaring energy, household bills etc this makes such a money grabbing scheme even more reprehensible.

Although this may be affordable for your Chief Executive on a package of well over £200,000 per annum it is another monetary blow for the ordinary member of the public

It is also a very real concern that this is the thin end of the wedge and if this proposal is agreed it paves the way for other services to be stripped out from what should be provided under the already extortionate council tax bill and charged separately

- Please see below my comments on the draft budget for 2022/23.

As context for these, may I say that I appreciate the financial constraints the council is under and that setting a budget is no easy task. As a West Northamptonshire resident I am deeply concerned about the impact we will see, and in fact are already seeing, as a result of climate change. It is irresponsible not to take action now.

As [role name] of Climate Action – West Northamptonshire I am committed to using the group's resources to do everything in our power to inform and educate the residents of our area about climate change and what they can do about it. This includes exercising their power as voters and consumers to insist that local and national government, and businesses, step up to take the bold decisions and actions that are needed.

I read through all the draft budget documentation with care and have to say that with the exception of the information about decarbonisation of housing stock in the

HRA budget, it's hard to tell that the council is even aware that there is a climate emergency. This simply isn't good enough.

- This draft budget is supposedly aligned to delivery of the WNC Corporate Plan, which includes the priority 'Green and Clean - Environment and Wellbeing'. The council has also committed to sign the UK100 pledge to 'take bold action towards Net Zero'. The UK as a whole has a legally binding Carbon Budget that requires carbon emissions to be reduced by 78% by 2035. With the sole exception of a role to drive a Tree Strategy, there is no specific provision within the budget for funds to deliver the changes needed to meet these obligations. A Tree Strategy, whilst in itself a very good thing, needs to be part of a much more wide-ranging funding strategy to cut carbon emissions and protect natural resources.

- All spending plans must be subject to environmental impact assessment, with any spend that results in one-off or ongoing increase in carbon emissions requiring specific approval and being included in regular public reports, so that voters can hold the council accountable for spending decisions that contribute to climate change.

- The extremely high level and generic statement 'Investment to drive forward the sustainability/green agenda' within the Service Investment section is not supported by any information about the amount of this investment, or about where accountability lies for ensuring it is used effectively. This is completely unacceptable and gives no confidence that this statement is underpinned by detailed spending plans.

- Language relating to services with positive environmental impact is weak, for example: 'Promotion of bus services'; 'Project resource to promote walking and cycling schemes'. Bus services are inadequate, and walking and cycling schemes do not exist at all, so what is there to promote? More meaningful commitments would be to 'Expand and improve bus services'; 'Develop and implement walking and cycling schemes'.

Thank you

[name]

[name of organisation] – West Northamptonshire

- West Northamptonshire Council is focussed on becoming a greener and cleaner authority, a great place in which people can live and work, and visit." Please concentrate on the safety and health of cyclists and pedestrians living and working in this area. At the moment it appears WNC spend their money on "improving" motor vehicle highways and ignoring anyone else.
- Budget Pressure Caused by Reduction in Off street Car Park Use
Free parking was a popular initiative prior to Christmas which allegedly boosted footfall in the centre. Given it's popularity, would the council consider making free parking permanent? This could be offset by implementing a Clean Air Zone charge in the centre of Northampton - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/driving-in-a-clean-air-zone>. This would fit with the Councils 'Green and Clean' agenda as it would encourage the use of green modes of transport and it would allow for free parking which was so popular with residents.

Paperless Meetings

Is £7000 per meeting the correct figure for the purposes of paperless meetings? Could the Council provide a breakdown as to why it costs this? Could the Council also provide details as to who provides this service to them?

Tree Officer - Green and Clean

The only reference to any specific green initiative is the inclusion of a Tree Officer. Whilst this will look good for the Council and will be popular among residents, can the Council consider other specific ways in which a green agenda could be implemented and make reference to them in the budget? Implementation of the Clean Air Zone mentioned above could be one of them.

Waste Strategy

Are the Council able to provide more detail as to what a waste strategy will entail? What are the intentions, what parameters are in place for the person whose responsibility it will be?

Bus Promotion

I am pleased to see the promotion of bus services is included within the budget. Can the Council confirm this will include moves to make bus travel more efficient, for example through the creation of more bus lanes?

Does the Council foresee a future budgetary pressure caused by bus drivers being attracted toward working in the better paid haulage industry, as well as the issue of staff shortages caused by Covid? Is there a possibility these issues could affect the implementation of the Councils Bus Strategy?

How does a reduction in bus lane enforcement, also mentioned within the budget, help toward promoting bus services?

Active Travel and Highway Service

As part of their investment in the highways service and in conjunction with active travel, can the budget include a specific reference to funding set aside for the construction of cycle tracks?

HS2 Marshall

Given that HS2 is a national project, is not one the residents of this county will experience any direct benefits from and one that some will have to suffer the destruction of their home landscape, is it right that the council should be funding a HS2 Marshall from it's own reserves? Will the council speak to the MPs in the relevant areas about sourcing funding from central government?

- I am a resident of Brackley. Can somebody please explain to me why I am facing a extra charge for having my green bin collected when I already pay over £200 a month in council tax.
- I would like to comment on the WNC draft budget for 2022-2023. Please can I ask where is the commitment to Climate Change?

It all looks a little wishy washy with no specific detail on your intentions to achieve a more substantial and green agenda within the service investment sections.

WNC committed to sign up to take bold actions towards Net Zero. What exactly have you budgeted for?

You mention services with a positive environmental impact but what does that mean?

Where I live the idea of promoting walking and cycling would be great as we take our life in our hands every time we walk or cycle out of the village. Our bus service is non existent.

Investments into shop locally and reducing the number of car journeys we have to make would certainly help.

Please be more specific about what actions the council will take to address these issues through your corporate plan which includes your 'green and clean - environment and well being'.

- I have lots to say but I know it will fall on deaf ears. I am a [age]year old woman who is so embarrassed by the state of Northampton, and where I live, that I avoid inviting anyone to visit me. I am always apologising for the state of the town. I do not feel I get value for the money I pay for Council Tax and therefore I begrudge paying it. I sweep and litter-pick the street most weeks because it's a mess and that mess invariably ends up on my property. Last year I spent hours (on my own) sweeping, litter picking and clearing overgrown bushes. I pay for a brown bin but it is mostly filled with communal waste. Recently, when I politely asked a refuse collector to empty a bin containing community rubbish which I had swept up, he was extremely rude and aggressive. I also had a fall due to the wet, slippery leaves

on the path going out of [name of road] to the [name of road]. I very rarely go to the town centre as it is depressing.

- We understand there is an intention by WNC to bring in a charge to collect the green bin waste.

We would ask the council to re-consider this charge to avoid penalising residents for keeping their gardens and hedges in order/being able to offload garden waste safely without putting additional pressure on recycling centres or perhaps leading to fly tipping of some waste.

We understand that an extra £3.8m has come the council's way and therefore there should be no need to have an charge per year per bin.

The loss of revenue from not charging is more than covered by the increased funding from central funding and the associated saving on the administration burden of collecting the charges.

- The budget seems to be independent of the climate emergency declared last year. In particular the highways budget seems to be about building more roads and has no reference to improving walking or cycling provision. If this is followed there is a risk that an inspection by Active Travel England will result in loss of central government funding as described in the 2020 DfT publication 'Gear Change'

- I am writing in support of the detailed response given by Living Streets Northampton to the Draft Budget Consultation in respect of Transport spending. In particular I have the following questions:-

1. Why has there been little or no investment in safe cycling routes in West Northamptonshire when the benefits of such investment are universally recognised in terms of reducing CO2 emissions, reducing congestion and improving health? The benefits are clearly laid out in the Department for Transport's recent "Gear Change" documents.

2. The Conservative Party manifesto in 2019 committed to support cycling routes. Why has this been ignored by West Northamptonshire Council?

3. Why has Central Government funding for Active Travel not been fully taken up?

4. Why has the limited amount of funding taken up been spent on pointless cycle counters?

5. Why was the Billing Road cycle lane abandoned without any consultation, after a misleading and factually incorrect online petition was published. Why did nobody from the council support the proposal with facts?

The allocation of transport spending to support the status quo will have negative consequences to local people in terms of pollution, congestion and health. The people of West Northamptonshire deserve better.

- [nameo organisation]: response to 2022-23 budget consultation

Introduction

This proposed budget does nothing to address the major issues in Northampton caused by the overuse of motor vehicles. This is in spite of the recent [Gear Change](#) and [Gear Change: One Year On](#) policy documents from the Department of Transport (DfT).

The problems we have to address are agreed by the Prime Minister, the DfT, and urban planners worldwide:

- Road transport is the [single biggest contributor](#) to CO2 emissions causing climate change
- Road transport is the single biggest contributor to [air pollution](#) causing strokes, heart attacks, asthma, dementia and smaller lungs in children.
- Problems of obesity and ill-health caused by a sedentary lifestyle are increasing, with 1 in 6 UK deaths caused by inactivity ([Gear Change](#), p8)

- We have serious congestion caused by too many cars. In 10 years, traffic has increased 25%, and by 33% on side roads ([Gear Change: One Year On](#), p6)
- 40% of urban car journeys are less than 2 miles, a distance that most people could easily do on foot or by bike if our road space was properly allocated ([Gear Change](#), p11)

Active Travel in Northampton

It is widely known and understood by urban planners that people will change from driving to cycling or walking only if the right infrastructure is provided.

- In Odense, Denmark, [81% of children cycle to school](#) - in Northampton it's [less than 2%](#), with half of all primary children being driven to school ([Gear Change](#), p18)
 - In Northampton, our infrastructure gives so much priority for cars that most people who drive would never even consider any alternative.
 - People riding bikes or scooters feel unsafe on the roads, because there is no segregated space for them, resulting in many riding on pavements. This makes walking feel unsafe too, reinforcing the desire to drive instead.
- Nothing in the budget plan indicates that the council has any plan to address these issues.

Covid, government Active Travel funding, and public consultations

While nearby cities like Leicester, Nottingham, Coventry, Birmingham and London have taken significant steps to use government funding to change the status quo on their roads (a DfT requirement), government funding provided to this council has been squandered on items like cycle counters, with no changes to our roads. Not a single Low Traffic Neighbourhood has been created, there are no School Streets, and no segregated cycle lanes.

- A significant portion of the Active Travel Tranche 1 grant was spent on cycle counters. We already know that we have low levels of cycling in the town, so It's hard to see the value of cycle counters if space is not reallocated on our roads.
- The government Active Travel Tranche 2 grant of £1.3m, provided specifically for cycle lanes along Billing Road > Park Avenue > Park Ave Crescent > Wellingborough Road remains unspent (apart from another £50,000 on cycle counters). The council abandoned the initial consultation well before it's deadline after 2,000 people petitioned about a 1-way section, and after more than a year no modified plans have been produced.
- The council's [Commonplace consultation](#) undertaken in summer 2020 received over 2,000 responses, identifying items that need rectifying to make people more likely to walk or cycle. Not a single one of these responses has been acted on.
- In April 2018 the council received government funding to develop a Local Cycling & Walking Plan (LCWIP) for Northampton. It took 2.5 years to draw up a plan. Now, the LCWIP has been withdrawn for "further development" (using another government grant), with no details on timescales, consultations, or management structure.

Additional Notes

- If we continue to neglect Active Travel, the council is likely to see an overall reduction in DfT funding: "an authority's performance on active travel will help determine the wider funding allocations it receives, not just on active travel." ([Gear Change: One Year On](#), p21)
- Northampton has no Action Plan for its seven Air Quality Management Areas despite being legally required to do so

- Important decisions about Active Travel are repeatedly put off, with councillors apparently afraid of any controversy. Yet as the Prime Minister points out in [Gear Change](#) (page 5): "...when the results of consultations and opinion polls came back, our opponents [of Active Travel Schemes] were often surprised to find themselves in a small minority. People *want* the radical change we are committing to in this strategy."
- The council cabinet now states that it [intends to use Active Travel funding](#) (see item 37) to improve the crossing at the top of Rushmere Rd. This must referring to Tranche 2 funding, yet this is not what the funding was provided for. The current poorly designed crossing should be put right using existing highways funding.
- Please find below the response from [place name] Environmental Group to the Consultation.
 1. The first Priority area stated in the strategy of the WNC Corporate Plan is entitled 'Green and Clean, Environment and Wellbeing'. This lists 7 bullet points all of which are related to Climate change and/or the environment plus improved outdoor green spaces which would be beneficial to the health of the population. The draft Budget is a financial base on which to deliver the Corporate Plan but it is unclear how much priority these aspects are being given within the spending proposals.
 2. All Council projects must be shown to be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment regardless of their primary purpose. All aspects of our lives have an impact on the environment around us and potentially therefore on Climate Change. This can often be made into a positive contribution with careful and appropriate consideration. The brief for all projects must therefore include proof of beneficial environmental and climate change implications.
 3. There is no indication in para. 6.42 of how the £9.837m will be divided between the 11 'services prioritised by Cabinet members' so it is impossible to know how much investment there is going to be in the services most related to the environment and climate change. It would be helpful to see that breakdown and to know where within the Council the responsibility for implementing and monitoring these services will be.
 4. In some instances the wording used in relation to environmental/health benefit projects is confusing. The word 'promote' is vague, especially in situations where the service referred to does not already exist in many parts of the Council area. It would be more of a commitment to say Expand, Improve, Develop, Implement.

The above are indications of shortcomings in the Draft Budget in relation to the UK's commitment to reducing carbon emissions by 78% by 2035 and to the Council's own already stated commitment to taking 'bold action towards net zero'. If these vital commitments are not documented at this stage there is no evidence that the Council is taking these responsibilities sufficiently seriously or will implement them.
- Please find below my response to the Consultation.
 1. The first Priority area stated in the strategy of the WNC Corporate Plan is entitled 'Green and Clean, Environment and Wellbeing'. This lists 7 bullet points all of which are related to Climate change and/or the environment plus improved outdoor green spaces which would be beneficial to the health of the population. The draft Budget is a financial base on which to deliver the Corporate Plan but it is unclear how much priority these aspects are being given within the spending proposals.
 2. All Council projects must be shown to be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment regardless of their primary purpose. All aspects of our lives

have an impact on the environment around us and potentially therefore on Climate Change. This can often be made into a positive contribution with careful and appropriate consideration. The brief for all projects must therefore include proof of beneficial environmental and climate change implications.

3. There is no indication in para. 6.42 of how the £9.837m will be divided between the 11 'services prioritised by Cabinet members' so it is impossible to know how much investment there is going to be in the services most related to the environment and climate change. It would be helpful to see that breakdown and to know where within the Council the responsibility for implementing and monitoring these services will be.

4. In some instances the wording used in relation to environmental/health benefit projects is confusing. The word 'promote' is vague, especially in situations where the service referred to does not already exist in many parts of the Council area. It would be more of a commitment to say Expand, Improve, Develop, Implement.

The above are indications of shortcomings in the Draft Budget in relation to the UK's commitment to reducing carbon emissions by 78% by 2035 and to the Council's own already stated commitment to taking 'bold action towards net zero'. If these vital commitments are not documented at this stage there is no evidence that the Council is taking these responsibilities sufficiently seriously or will implement them.

- This is my response to the WNC Draft Budget 2022/23 Consultation. You will see that it is the same as the response I sent on behalf of [place name] Environmental Group. This is because I agree with the points made by YEG and wish to make them in my own right as well.

1. The first Priority area stated in the strategy of the WNC Corporate Plan is entitled 'Green and Clean, Environment and Wellbeing'. This lists 7 bullet points all of which are related to Climate change and/or the environment plus improved outdoor green spaces which would be beneficial to the health of the population. The draft Budget is a financial base on which to deliver the Corporate Plan but it is unclear how much priority these aspects are being given within the spending proposals.

2. All Council projects must be shown to be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment regardless of their primary purpose. All aspects of our lives have an impact on the environment around us and potentially therefore on Climate Change. This can often be made into a positive contribution with careful and appropriate consideration. The brief for all projects must therefore include proof of beneficial environmental and climate change implications.

3. There is no indication in para. 6.42 of how the £9.837m will be divided between the 11 'services prioritised by Cabinet members' so it is impossible to know how much investment there is going to be in the services most related to the environment and climate change. It would be helpful to see that breakdown and to know where within the Council the responsibility for implementing and monitoring these services will be.

4. In some instances the wording used in relation to environmental/health benefit projects is confusing. The word 'promote' is vague, especially in situations where the service referred to does not already exist in many parts of the Council area. It would be more of a commitment to say Expand, Improve, Develop, Implement.

The above are indications of shortcomings in the Draft Budget in relation to the UK's commitment to reducing carbon emissions by 78% by 2035 and to the Council's own already stated commitment to taking 'bold action towards net zero'.

If these vital commitments are not documented at this stage there is no evidence that the Council is taking these responsibilities sufficiently seriously or will implement them.

- **West Northants Budget 2022/23 Response**

The restructuring of local government into a West Northants unitary authority to deal with the financial mis-management and bankruptcy of Northants CC has resulted in residents of South Northants experiencing increases in Council Tax (and PFCC precept) while receiving reduced levels of service.

This year, for the second year running, South Northants residents will be seeing a Council Tax increase way above that for Northampton residents - £52.21 (3.34%) as opposed to £36.24 (2.29%). West Northants Council averages out this increase as 2.99% for the whole area and so avoids having to hold a referendum on the excessive increase being levied on SN residents.

This is in addition to the 'levelling-down' of the green bin waste collection service with South Northants having to pay an additional £42 a year. So an actual increase of over £94 (Band D). This green waste charge has been introduced without discounts or payment plans for vulnerable residents so the whole amount has to be found up front.

These increases are way above inflation and will hit many residents very hard.

The WN Conservative Council that is introducing these huge hikes in tax for residents in South Northants are perhaps under the impression that rural poverty does not exist and we are impervious to the national rises in inflation, the imminent National Insurance increases, rising energy costs and that SN can continue to be seen as a cash-cow for West Northants.

Council services in rural areas remain desperately poor with even larger villages like Deanshanger having no youth or family support services. With one bus a day that does not even go to Northampton how can our residents access these services. We cannot even access the nearest Foodbank in Towcester without a car.

WN Council has massive reserves and contingencies (over £170m) and some of this as well as the Revenue Budget should be used to provide support to residents in rural South Northants including:

- Bus improvements to ensure that larger villages, Brackley and Towcester residents can access education, training, employment, Foodbanks and council services – the Bus Improvement Plan is too focussed on urban transport leaving rural areas and its residents way behind
- Anti-Poverty measures are introduced to target work in rural areas to ensure that the most vulnerable and isolated are supported and that the focus is not just on the large areas of the population
- Any increase in housing stock should include South Northants as well as in Northampton
- Family Hubs (0-19) are developed in rural areas so that all residents and not just those in towns can receive the support they need.

- **South Northants Labour Party Comments on Proposed West Northants Budget 2022/23**

The restructuring of local government into a West Northants unitary authority to deal with the financial mismanagement and bankruptcy of Northants CC has resulted in residents of South Northants experiencing increases in Council Tax (and PFCC precept) while receiving reduced levels of service.

This year, for the second year running, South Northants residents will be seeing a Council Tax increase way above that for Northampton residents - £52.21 (3.34%) as opposed to £36.24 (2.29%). West Northants Council averages out this increase as 2.99% for the whole area and so avoids having to hold a referendum on the excessive increase being levied on SN residents.

This is in addition to the 'levelling-down' of the green bin waste collection service with South Northants having to pay an additional £42 a year. So an actual increase of over £94 (Band D). This green waste charge has been introduced without discounts or payment plans for vulnerable residents so the whole amount has to be found up front.

These increases are way above inflation and will hit many residents extremely hard. As such these increases are unwarranted and unacceptable

The WN Conservative Council that is introducing these huge hikes in tax for residents in South Northants are perhaps under the impression that rural poverty does not exist and that we are impervious to the national rises in inflation, the imminent National Insurance increases, rising energy costs and that South Northants residents can continue to be used as a cash-cow for West Northants. Council services in rural areas remain desperately poor with even larger villages having no youth or family support services. With woeful bus services that often do not even link South Northants towns and villages with Northampton and villages with the towns of Brackley and Towcester, how can our residents access these services. Our residents have to rely on cars to get to work, school and college and for many even access to food via a Foodbank is not possible without a car.

West Northants Council has massive reserves and contingencies (over £170m) and some of this as well as the Revenue Budget should be used to provide support to residents in rural South Northants including:

- Bus improvements to ensure that larger villages, Brackley and Towcester residents can access education, training, employment, Foodbanks and council services – the Bus Improvement Plan is too focussed on urban transport leaving rural areas and its residents way behind
- Anti-Poverty measures are introduced to target work in rural areas to ensure that the most vulnerable and isolated are supported and that the focus is not just on the large areas of the population
- Any increase in housing stock should include South Northants as well as in Northampton
- Family Hubs (0-19) are developed in rural areas so that all residents and not just those in towns can receive the support they need.

In addition, we call upon West Northants Council to:

- Become a Real Living Wage employer and to ensure that contracts and outsourcing of services are awarded to Real Living Wage Employers. The level of vacancies in key roles including social care is damaging the well-being of residents and paying staff a living wage will attract and retain these key staff.
- Acknowledge the crisis in social care across the county and ensure that adequate funding is provided to this service area so that a high-quality standard of care can be delivered to all that need it. This will include ensuring that funding is sufficient for the delivery of individual care plans with care package budgets rising to take account of increasing service costs, including staffing costs.
- I am writing in response to your consultation on the draft budget shortly to be considered by West Northamptonshire Council.

My comments on the draft budget are as follows:

1. Inadequacy of the consultation

Entering 'Budget consultation' in the search box on the home page of WNC's website gives a 'No records found' response.

This consultation gives the impression (perhaps wrongly) that WNC is consulting because it feels it needs to – not because it has any real interest in what residents think. Not only has it been poorly publicised, but it is presented in a way that makes it difficult for most people to formulate a meaningful response. There are at least 18 different 'related documents' to which respondents are referred, many of them with no titles other than appendix numbers. Even those who persevere and

study the documents will find only generalized descriptions of what budget lines cover and why they have changed from the previous year.

Local government finance is of course complex, and we cannot expect residents to understand the terminology, the legislative requirements, the funding schemes, etc. Residents should, however, be offered a say on issues where there are choices to be made between alternatives that will have significant consequences for the services people receive. At no point in the consultation is this done. Instead, the consultation appears to focus on what the total costs (and therefore council tax rates) will be rather than on how income will be used and the extent to which perceived needs of communities can be met.

The consultation does not therefore appear to meet the standards WNC has set for its consultations, and in particular clauses 2.2.2, 2.2.4 and 2.2.5 of the Consultation and Engagement Framework.

In the past the case for participatory budgeting has been made. I appreciate that such approaches need more time and thought and they would present Officers with new challenges. However, if WNC is to operate as an institution of local democracy and not just the local management of statutory services, then much greater efforts should be made in future years to engage residents meaningfully in budget decisions.

2. Efforts to reduce the extent and consequences of climate change

The first section of the manifesto of WNC's controlling party promised "the most environmentally friendly you have ever had". Although that was not a very challenging target, the manifesto at least offered a "green agenda" and "green decisions from day-one".

It is therefore disappointing to see so little mention of 'green' actions and decisions in the budget. There is £100,000 "to drive forward the sustainability agenda" but there are other local authorities which have been investing millions in green energy projects and in promoting sustainable lifestyles. A provision of £215,000 for walking and cycling schemes is to be welcomed, but this amount is miniscule when compared with the costs of new roads. Regarding trees, the need is for woodlands (DDC, which included several members of the WNC cabinet, called for a huge increase in woodlands in the county) and the appointment of an officer to deal with tree policy is wholly inadequate.

WNC recently agreed to join the UK100 network. Its CEO has recently spoken of the need to mainstream our response to the climate emergency, rather than regarding it as "an add-on to our economic strategy when it should be embedded within it". The LGA has estimated that 800,000 new green jobs are likely to be created by 2030 and that the response to climate change should be an opportunity rather than a burden. Yet there is nothing in the draft budget which suggests WNC is making any significant changes in its operations to seize the opportunities.

Even if WNC can reduce the emissions from its own operations to near net zero over the coming decade, there is nothing in the budget that suggests it is planning to provide the leadership that's needed to reduce emissions across West Northamptonshire. WNC has declared a climate emergency, but it is not clear from this budget that it has accepted the reality of one.

3. Responding to poverty

The draft budget makes no reference to hardships that many residents will be suffering from high food-price inflation and rocketing energy bills. I would have expected WNC to put aside additional funds to support (directly or through the voluntary sector) those who are pushed into poverty.

Government policy gives residents some protection by limited the council tax increases that can be made without a referendum. That protection, however, does not extend to residents of the former DDC area whose council taxes will rise by

4.2%. Surely in present circumstances there is a case for extending the period over which council taxes will be harmonized.

Similarly, it is surprising that it is proposed to apply the maximum allowable increase to the rents of council tenants. Many of these tenants will belong to the groups who have been worst affected by rising prices.

4. Children's services and adult social care

The pandemic has added to the problems of many vulnerable people. At this time we should be allocating greater resources for projects to reduce the risks of children coming into care, and to give more assistance to vulnerable adults whose sense of isolation will have been increased by lockdowns.

Given the past record of the former County Council, it is surprising that the budget does not offer more support in this area.

5. Promoting Social Value

There is nothing in the budget papers that suggests WNC has considered the concept of Social Value. Legislation, came into effect in 2013, requires those who commission services to endeavour to secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits for their areas.

6. A budget that's mainly for Northampton?

At the time of re-organisation, a major concern of residents in Daventry District was that a West Northants Council would be Northampton-centric. The draft Capital Programme suggests that they were right to be concerned. The document provided (Appendix E) lists 5 major new projects in Northampton, but nothing for Daventry.

In its final weeks, DDC approved a 'Vision' for Daventry's town centre. Not everyone liked the proposals that were made, but the budget suggests that what was termed a 'vision' will simply remain a vision.

- Please find attached a Zero Cuts Needs Based Budget proposal which has been put together by Northampton Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition with the input of local Socialists, Trade Unionists, Activists and members of the public for your consideration. The Budget will also be posted in rich text in case there are any issues with the attached document. We request this budget is considered before the final vote on the budget.

[Name]

No Cuts Budget Proposal

In 2018 Northamptonshire Councils decided to strip their services to the "legal minimum" in other words. The bare bones. This isn't just because of the council's mismanagement of finances. Local government has seen a 49% reduction in the funding it receives from central government since 2010. Another major financial issue at the council was the way the authority balanced its books by selling off its assets such as buildings and land. One of the problems according to a Labour Councillor is that Northampton County Council had flexible use of receipts, throwing money at their revenue accounts. They did it more than any council in the country.

Councils are allowed to use capital receipts to fund "transformative projects". These are schemes that would save the council money in the future or reduce demand for services. Max Caller's report warned that until 2017/18 Northampton County Council had not presented any report about what transformations were being created using the capital receipts.

Instead, from 2013/14 to 2017/18 the council used one-off resources to prop up its accounts. In 2013/14 the council used £13.1m from its general reserves fund but as the years went on it started selling off assets to fund day to day services. By 2016/17, £46.1m of the council's income came from one-off resources, with £21m coming from selling off its assets. In 2017/18 it used a further £35.8m, with

£21.5m coming from its capital receipts. In essence the council robbed Peter to pay Paul. In selling off its assets it reduced what little income was remaining. It's no secret that Northamptonshire Councils have overused Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) to cover a lot of its expenditure. In the list of contracts published online you can see the extent of both PFI and privatisation. PFI is a way of financing public sector projects through the private sector. PFIs alleviate the government and taxpayers of the immediate burden of coming up with the capital for these projects.

Under a private finance initiative, the private company handles the up-front costs instead of the government. The project is then leased to the public and the government authority makes annual payments to the private company. These contracts are typically given to construction firms and can last as long as 30 years or more. Sounds like a sensible option right? Every PFI is basically a loan, like your "buy now pay later" deals, but the interest isn't 0%, in fact it can be staggering. At the end of 2018's financial year on March 31, NCC owed over £1bn to various different organisations and had a number of higher interest 'toxic' LOBO loans in its debt portfolio. And many of these projects proved to be bad value for money with the slow pace of work on care home buildings costing the council while beds lay empty.

At the time County Councils Network chairman and Kent County Council leader [name] said: "Northamptonshire has not managed austerity well..."

And how are we now? Since huge losses to public services and contributions the council has now turned to salami slicing. Rather than axing entire services they are slicing away at services and budgets, a service may still run but the sting of that loss of finances is ultimately felt by the public. And these "efficiency savings" include £9.29m from "Adults, Communities and Wellbeing" without explanation as to what is being taken from where. What this council has not taken back is those privatised services and assets that were erroneously sold off.

Council tax is being increased by the maximum amount possible a second year running resulting in an increase of 2.99% on the average Council Tax calculated for the West Northamptonshire area. Apparently this is to pay for the increasing costs of adult social care. Yet how much public money is being spent on private healthcare facilities which could be council run? Income streams from fees and charges will be maximised through increases where appropriate after considering market conditions. Who will these fees and charges target and punish? The wealthy, or the rest of us. Looking at Appendix C increases in charges include waste collection, parking, visiting the art gallery and museum to name a few. The Council maintains a vacancy factor within its budgets, to manage the natural turnover of staff throughout the financial year. The vacancy factor was previously set at 2% of staffing budgets but has now been increased to 4%, resulting in an efficiency of £2.17m. So the council is remaining deliberately understaffed for the sake of £2.17m in savings.

The council has 326.6 million in its budget and Northampton TUSC, with the help of members of the community, would like to make that money go much further than the back pockets of big business. With that I'd like to introduce our draft. It's a starting point, it's not fully costed, but we are putting our demands on the table for discussion.

Housing

Council tax increased by 5% last year and is set to increase by the maximum amount again this year. Yet according to a Chronicle, the number of people waiting for a new home on the council house list is now at 2,600. The original target of 250 homes was quickly revised down to 50, while as of now, only 3 homes have actually been reviewed by the Social Lettings Agency, despite Councillors claiming that the scheme was 'badly needed'. West Northamptonshire council must build

council homes now! By using councils' borrowing powers for capital spending to build council homes, while campaigning for the government to divert its subsidies for private developers to finance a mass programme of public housing. Additionally the council should restore full council tax benefits, to be funded from council reserves not council tax rises, and campaigns for the government to reimburse councils that do so.

In a recent article published on the BBC, they stated that only three landlords had come forward to have their three properties reviewed, in order to bring those empty homes back into use, even though there are over 1,000 homes in Northamptonshire which have stood empty for at least six months. 206 of these homes are second homes, and 883 long term vacancies. One in every 91 homes in Northampton are out of use, which emphasises the ridiculousness of the housing crisis we are currently in. One of the issues as stated by the BBC says that there is a missing 'Empty Homes Officer' which could be impacting the lack of co-ordination for tackling this crisis, which was revealed by the Conservative-led council to much fanfare as far back as 2016. The council should employ such an officer.

We must use councils' powers to compulsorily register private landlords and set-up council run lettings agencies, as the means to tackle repair standards, high rents, over occupancy, extortionate letting fees etc for private rented homes. Empty buildings should be claimed as a compulsory purchase, which gives the council the power to buy empty properties with or without the owners permission, then turned into affordable housing, which would combat both the issue of homelessness, and the problem with homes standing empty for 6+ months. Landlords must be held accountable for poor housing conditions and maintain all white goods and furnishings with steep penalties for failure to do so.

Before Covid struck and the 'everyone in' scheme was enacted there were approximately 6,000 homeless adults in Northamptonshire, not even taking the numbers of homeless children into consideration. Councils could continue the scheme and make sure those suffering on the streets were given immediate decent and comfortable accommodation and support to transform their lives. In wake of the recent pandemic the council was forced to use hotels. The council should use their funds to buy a large enough property to safely accommodate the homeless rather than relying on hotels, the St Johns building was certainly a good start. The council should also provide paid workers to make this system work as effectively as possible, not rely on volunteers. There should be no "bidding wars" between local charities and organisations trying to provide vital services to the homeless and those in precarious housing who face homelessness. Any charity providing vital services to vulnerable people should be fully funded with the democratic oversight of the local community. The eviction ban must be extended. Homelessness is dangerous regardless of a pandemic. The rules around "voluntarily" and "involuntarily" homelessness are also woefully inadequate. In the event that someone faces imminent eviction or is in a dangerous environment there should be recourse to rehouse.

Education, Children and Youth Facilities

There are 11 schools in Northampton rated either "inadequate" or "requiring improvement", according to the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted). Northampton is proud to boast many outstanding secondary and primary schools however according to Ofsted, some schools are not doing so well simply because of privatization and academisation.

Thomas Becket Catholic School, St Gregory's Catholic Primary School and The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School are all struggling from understaffing and being over worked by the increasing numbers in the class room. Weston Favell Academy is not challenging it's most capable students and failing it's pupils whose first language is not English. Woodvale Primary Academy's Ofsted report included that

the leadership were not ensuring a clear curriculum or that their teaching staff were properly trained. These academies, meant to be the pride of Northampton's PFI initiatives clearly show the failure of private schools. All academies failing to achieve satisfactory Ofsted reports must be immediately brought into public ownership with compensation based only on proven need. All youth clubs cut from privatised schools should be restored.

One of the largest and most tragic problems has been the local authority's struggling children's social care services, which failed Ofsted inspections in 2018 and 2019. In yet another damning report issued by Ofsted in 2019, the service was found to be "failing to keep children safe" and that there were "highly vulnerable children in care who are living in unregulated placements that are unsafe and unsuitable". It followed a separate review that found failings in Northamptonshire Children's Services after two separate, but equally harrowing, child murders in the county. Long term cuts to its children's services department have left the NCC playing catch-up. Coupled with social workers being offered lower than average salaries, it has left the council spending a lot of money recruiting staff and yet still struggling to maintain performance.

No-one working in the sector "wants to work with NCC" and that consequently the council often has to bring in agency social workers that cost far more than if it had employed its own in-house staff. The council must work alongside unions such as Unison to ensure there are adequate numbers of well trained social care workers on trade union rates of pay to meet the needs of our most vulnerable young people. The council should reinstate childcare provision in Sure Start centres where this has been cut and reopen all the centres closed since 2010.

Youth crime has become a stark problem in Northampton Town Centre with a spate of stabbings this year which were fortunate not to end in a fatality. Last year two teenage boys aged 16 were in court over knife crimes. Youth services are seen by those working in the sector as vital in the fight against knife crime, but cash-strapped local authorities – whose funding from central government has dramatically declined – say they have been forced to divert money to frontline services, protecting children at immediate risk of harm.

Where this stabbing took place, it was beside a so called safe zone according to Labour councillors which was a McDonalds in town. There has been an obvious lack on youth investment from the council. Rather than claiming areas as "safe zones" the council should use some of its central properties and convert them into youth services. The Council bought M&S and Debenhams in the town centre. Why sit on those properties and sell them off when they are deemed more profitable? These buildings can be used as proper safe spaces and youth centres rather than collecting dust. They could run courses, host gym facilities, after school clubs and much more. West Northants Council should also seek to bring carnivals and festivals back to the town centre post-lockdown not just for revenue but for the benefit of community cohesion.

Police stop and search on young people is not the best way to tackle knife crime in Northampton, it's a way to drive further resentment from young people towards a council that is failing them. The Council should be reaching out to young people in Northampton to have a public conference much like we have held in drafting this budget, to discuss the needs of youth in the area and how to prevent gangs from attracting our young people. After the recent murder of Sarah Everard and copious examples of police misuse of power, an increase in police presence offers no comfort to the community. Northamptonshire police should be properly trained in de-escalation tactics and seeking to avoid arrest.

The reality of risks that are faced by (particularly) young women in our town was brought to public attention with the death of [name] in 2016. The spate of spikings has provided no comfort to women. The council encouraged women to protect

their drinks with anti-spiking devices but with the growing prevalence of 'needle spiking' the council has failed to acknowledge that people who wish to do harm will find a way. We feel that the council has a responsibility to the safety of vulnerable women in our community including enforcing businesses such as large clubs and pubs to provide a safe room to people who have become incapacitated. For facilities unable to provide this, a system whereby someone who is too intoxicated to enter a facility is not left to be "looked after" by a stranger with cruel intentions, but a community support officer contacted by the security staff who refused a person entry.

By raising the living conditions through council run apprenticeship schemes on £12hr, building council houses, bringing back local services for example refuse collection, ground maintenance etc can tackle not only knife crime but youth unemployment. The council should ensure free school meals for every school pupil, including during holidays. The council should also reintroduce local replacements for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for all 16-18 year-olds who stay on in education. The council should make significant investment into youth services and offer free CSCS training, driving lessons and college tuition.

Jobs, Pay and Conditions

BBC Radio Northampton was one of the first to be hit with compulsory and voluntary redundancies since the start of the Covid crisis. Journalists and producers were among those that lost their jobs as part of a raft of changes to the corporation's regional output. The now-defunct Northamptonshire County Council spent £1.1 million on redundancy payments to 36 workers in 2020/21, government statistic show. Figures from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) reveal there were 30 staff laid off the previous year, at a cost of £1.3 million. In reality we don't know the true scale of redundancies, pay cuts or condition changes over the last ten years. Some information has been made difficult to access since the councils divided into separate unitary authorities. What we do know is that the council now runs on a skeleton crew of workers across services.

Instead of redundancies West Northamptonshire Council could invest in public services and bring a number of employees in privatised services back in house. The Council can immediately ensure a year-on-year above inflation pay rise to begin to restore lost pay as promised. They could ensure that any work undertaken by or for the council is done by workers paid at least £12-15 per hour and could immediately reduce the working week for their workforces with no loss of pay. The council could introduce a high-quality apprenticeship scheme with trade union rates of pay, proper training, and a guaranteed job at the end.

They could end the use of zero-hour contracts by the council and by any company undertaking work for them. They could provide facilities and public support for trade unions fighting in their local authority area for such standards in the private sector and have powers to exclude firms that have participated in blacklisting from tendering for public contracts.

For care workers councils could implement the UNISON trade union's ethical care charter to end '15-minute maximum' visiting slots, zero-hour contracts, and unpaid travel time to support workers and make sure those in need get the care they need. NHS workers did not need an applause, they need and deserve a 15% pay rise with increments above inflation with better working conditions. This will also go a long way to addressing the increasing shortfall of NHS staff.

The council's decision to pass the blame of the [name of business] Covid-19 outbreaks on the workers was a disgrace and a failure of duty to ensure health and safety measures are being effectively implemented and followed. We propose that trade unions be included in such future inspections to ensure that a fair assessment of workplace provisions is determined.

Services

There has been little comfort given to the citizens of both North and West Northamptonshire that services will not be dramatically cut following the dividing of unitary authorities. Not only this but the red tape that has been implemented as a result is leaving people with limited options particularly when it comes to housing. Services must be continued and maintained across the unitary authorities. Councils attempting to pass on responsibility due to funding restrictions allow vulnerable people to fall through the cracks and should face more financial consequence should they refuse to help.

Councils have a proscribed duty to provide library services. It is, simply a legal requirement. Provided for under Section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, "comprehensive library services must be provided". The path of the Council to slash library services isn't new. Only a decision of the High Court preserved the service in 2018, despite the fact the Council's own review found a year earlier that "years of efficiency methods have ensured Northampton library services is exceptionally cost effective." The judge in that case held that the proposed cuts would fail to uphold its section 7 obligation, and its duties under the Equalities Act to disabled/elderly services users.

Regardless, the Council proceeded to cease running 21 of the 36 libraries in the area. 17 of those remained open only on the basis the charity sector took over the running, effectively making up the slack in the Council's inability to meet its obligation. This has a profound effect in service quality, including reducing operating hours etc. Now, 14 remain Council operated. 5 further libraries are "supported" by some funding, the rest being managed entirely by charitable organizations.

This is not likely to make dramatic savings, certainly to the extent that the loss to communities is outweighed. Oxford County Council research suggests that a library service costs in the region of £200,000.00 per year to run.

It would be reasonable to think the bigger underlying reason the Council is so desperate to get rid of the library service, is the buildings and land on which they operate. Since the first financial collapse, they have tried to use the sale of buildings to replace funds. Under the terms of the second s114 notice, that was expressly prohibited, because it was known to be the intention of the Council. In Far Cotton this year, for example, the library was closed despite £15,000 having been raised by the 'Friends' organization who were placing a bid to run the library. They had been led to believe they were working on re-formatting their proposal to the Council. However, the Council proceeded without notice to remove books, disregard the will of the group and sold off the building.

We need to firstly address the Council by stopping them asset stripping to raise funds, and insist that as a priority, library services are reopened and brought back into public ownership to serve their communities. The council should also be decreasing the costs of printing and internet use in our libraries as these services are particularly vital to students and those seeking employment.

The Council cut funding for the voluntary sector in 2018/19, including £300,000 used for providing wellbeing and financial services, underlining that disability services are those which face the most vile cuts. In Craby & Homayoun's essay (the latter being a service user from Northampton) "The Crisis of Local Authority Funding & Implications for Independent Living for Disabled People" the pair note that "disabled people are disproportionately affected by cuts". Nowhere is this felt more than in Disabled Persons Rates, where no increases have been made since 2000. As such, when factoring in for inflation, wages for caring for disabled people represent a huge wage cut, ensuring they are barely legal, or even above minimum wage. This, coupled with Brexit affecting the numbers of migrant workers who were filling these roles leaves the sector close to breaking point.

Most of these cuts are underpinned by ideology, be that the Tories commitment to austerity affecting the most vulnerable, or Labour, led by Starmer and his narrative about the “hardworking poor”, which likely excludes those unable to work or who need assistance. This is underpinned by the consideration of pre-paid payment cards, despite costing £300,000 to set up the service and £90 per person per day to run. The money clearly is there, as long as someone can profit from it.

MENCAP, for example, record that of those with learning disabilities, only 1 in 10 are in employment. This should not preclude their access to a private, thriving life. 60% of Local Authorities have increased the cost of day-to-day assistance services by an average of 70%, having a profoundly negative effect on the lives of many. Those with disabilities are amongst the most vulnerable in our society and need our help. Services need to be brought in house such as with Olympus care. Wages for those caring and assisting people need to be increased to a real living wage of £15.00ph. All those services cut need reinstating with the intention of ensuring the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Article 19 is upheld, which guarantees disabled persons “right to independent living.” The right to independent living should not however place in jeopardy a person’s need for intervention in the event of a mental health crisis or a loss of capacity to care for oneself.

In it’s previous budget for 2020/21, the county council announced it would be cutting £500,000 from its winter budget. This includes reduced road gritting. The new system was put to the test early last year when parts of the county were predicted to freeze and were gritted, only for a sudden cold snap to cause temperatures to plummet on other roads. The council was not able to grit these roads, leading to 11 separate accidents across the county where cars skidded off the road on black ice.

This would sting less if it were not for the fact that 30 full-time fire and rescue workers have been cut from the service since 2010. This has increased response times by fire and rescue services by 16%. The [job role] resigned in 2016 in protest of £800,000.00 of further cuts to services.

On the face of it, the budget has stayed fairly constant. In 2010, Fire Budget for the county was £23.8 million. It is now £25.3 million 11 years later. However, this is far below the figure we would expect even if it had only increased in line with inflation (£29.79 million), showing how fundamentally under-resourced the service is. The only reason the budget is what it is relies on a one off £2 million cash injection that was provided by central government following the election, staving off a planned 1.99% increase in Council tax. £1.6 million has been cut from the county’s budget and staff recruitment, both on the frontline and in administration positions, is continuing to be difficult.

The remit of the fire service has been widely expanded, to include more emphasis on rescues, community outreach programmes, and, following COVID, medicine delivery, all of which take time away from their ability to deal with front line fire operations. Nowadays, the fire brief has been combined with the Police & Crime Commissioner. Herein poses another problem. The combination of those roles has allowed the Council to propose a new threat to the future of the service. Their offices are being merged across the county. The purpose is the same as with library buildings. To account for shortfalls in the budget, the Council intends to asset strip. This must be resisted at all opportunity.

Both Tory MPs for Northampton voted down a Labour motion urging ministers to force developers to carry out all remediation work necessary to make buildings with Grenfell-style cladding safe within a year. According to a Chronicle article 28th September 2021, 1 in 20 buildings in Northampton does not meet current fire regulations. It is, however, worth remembering that Grenfell Tower cladding did meet fire regulations, such is the lax system in place in this country. That article confirms that 16 Houses in Multiple Occupation, 14 schools and 7 care homes

across the county are covered in the same Aluminum Composite Material that was present at Grenfell. Those outcomes, though, were based on a desktop audit only, and therefore it is difficult to know the true figures as to how many buildings are really affected.

We should, probably, assume the amount is higher, rather than lower. It is estimated that nationwide, building numbers are in the 10s of 1000s. The Labour Party have suggested as many as 56,000 people could be at risk and that it would take 40 years to remove all flammable cladding nationwide. This needs to be a priority. The approach of both wider institutions, and the Council, has been to close ranks. At public level, the Council have confirmed that only one building over 18 metres high, the height that needs recording, is owned by them – St Katherine's House. They have confirmed that the cladding on that building is "a different composition & manufacturer" to the Grenfell materials. For context, the Bolton Student Accommodation, which set fire in November 2019 in eerily reminiscent scenes, would not have been above this height and therefore required no legal alterations to be made.

In the private sector, the same response has been evoked. Northampton University have said their 460 strong St John's Hall block was cladded, but that they will wait to "review the outcome of the Grenfell Tower investigation" before acting.

According to students, St John's Student Halls are notoriously in a bad condition with insufficient fire protection inside the building also and yet students are paying extortionate rent to live there. Northampton College, and the railway station, both say "all cladding is compliant with fire safety regulations," failing to understand that that is not in any way a cause for relief.

We need to ensure that priority is made for fully investigating the cladding of all Council buildings, no matter the height, to confirm whether or not Aluminum Composite Material (or other flammable substances) have been used. If so, these buildings must be retroactively sprinkler fitted and the cladding replaced as a matter of urgency, petitioning central government for whatever amount of the £1.6million set aside nationally for this is needed. Leaseholders, both public and private must not under any circumstances be expected to foot the bill, and the Council must pressure private landlords to take urgent action to correct their buildings. The current Government line of simply reminding landlords that "building owners have a duty to act" is insufficient to keep the people of Northamptonshire safe. They could and should seize the buildings of private and housing association landlords which do not also act immediately.

Health and Social Care

According to the Northampton Chronicle between 275 and 279 people in Northamptonshire died while waiting for social care in the last three years. West Northamptonshire Council is cut a further £5.6 million pounds from its adult social care budget. This is in spite of the increase in need for these services. These cuts should be reversed and a percentage of the £28.6 million already cut from adult social care spending by Northamptonshire Council before the division into two separate authorities should be reinvested back into West Northants council with the rest invested back into North Northamptonshire.

This can be afforded in part by bringing all low performing private care companies which use local care packages back in house. Including any NHS trusts operating at arms length and charities. This would not only reduce costs but ensure better care provisions for those in need of adult care services. Investing in more community care settings which encourage independence will also support more people in care to be active and potentially contributing members of the community. 490

Northamptonshire care home residents have been lost to Covid-19 since the start of the pandemic. Many care homes were not given adequate PPE, guidance or

staffing levels to cope with the crisis. West Northamptonshire Council should have a rolling stock of PPE in the event of a new variant or another pandemic occurring. The shortage of care staff is a national crisis. West Northamptonshire is no exception and should invest in carers through union recognition, better training, wages and conditions. This will decrease the need for expensive agency workers and with better staffing levels and training reduce the pressure on emergency services, NHS hospitals and the need for more intensive and expensive care facilities. All PFI in relation to NHS services or social care needs should be scrapped and the money re-directed into the improvements required.

Northampton is not exempt from the drug crisis that is hitting most of the country. Last year saw a massive increase in vulnerable people overdosing on heroin and even crack cocaine that has been cut with a powerful synthetic. Drug and alcohol services in Northampton have limited funding, especially when it comes to detox and rehab facilities which while expensive, save and ultimately change lives for the better. Nobody should be refused such services on the grounds of funding. These services save huge amounts of the costs to emergency services and hospital admissions.

There are some unsavoury facilities taking advantage of our most vulnerable adults and young people. The Council should insist CQC intervention in every rehab and detox facility and take any failing or abusive services into public ownership. West Northamptonshire Council should also pledge to prevent drug and alcohol abuse with adequate child and youth services, trauma-informed NHS services and secular education in schools and universities. The Council should expand needle exchange services including providing a safe injecting site and provide naloxone kits and training to police services to reduce spates of overdose in the community.

Climate Emergency

Privatisation of waste collection has had a notable negative impact on services. With food and garden waste being collected at a fee and recycling being missed due to a lack of HGV drivers willing to work for poor wages and conditions. The streets are regularly filling with rubbish. The "clean your own doorstep" initiative to avoid paying for litter pickers has fallen flat. The herb planters spearheaded by Labour Councillors have also not been effective at deterring fly tipping or littering. Waste disposal needs to be brought back in house and include free food and garden waste collection. Fly-tipping has reached a critical level with those using mobility aids or pushchairs often forced into the road. The council needs to have free collection of large goods and furnishings with the aim of a re-purpose, re-use, recycle approach towards discarded items. This would not only clear the streets of often dangerous rubbish but create jobs in turning those items into useful materials and objects reducing the council's carbon footprint in the process. The council should also bring back public recycling banks.

Year on year Northampton has experienced significant flooding problems, this is in large part a result of a major problem with a simple solution, blocked drains. The council should be ensuring that drains are sufficiently cleaned on a regular basis as this will likely prevent costs later down the line when drains overflow and cause damage. One additional sweeper is not enough. The council's 'Flood Resilience Project' should include Far Cotton as an area hit by flooding in previous years. The Council should cancel any plans to build on flood plains and ensure full consultation with communities and environmental authorities before any building takes place. The plan to build housing on Fraser Park, one of the only green spaces in Thorplands should be shelved in favour of building in a more environmentally friendly area. This is not only important for local wildlife, local residents who would lose an important leisure space but also in the fight to prevent flooding which is worsening as green spaces are concreted over. When building new homes the council should also commit to zero carbon emission homes which generate as

much energy as they use. Councils could start now a mass home insulation energy efficiency programme with penalty's for landlords whose homes are not up to standard in terms of insulation.

Over 2018 and 2019 Northamptonshire County Council received a grant for bus services of £215,193. The County Council took the decision to withdraw its budget for supported bus services, and used the grant to allow those services to be continued to the end of the summer term in July 2018 before being withdrawn. Currently Stagecoach almost has the monopoly on bus transport in Northampton giving them the green light to determine bus fares with little competition.

Northampton Council could provide a low-carbon emitting, affordable bus service to the people of Northampton with a public conference to determine which bus routes should be added after so many villages were cut off from the town centre in recent years. Consultations should also be had to ensure buses do not stop too early in the day for those requiring late buses. Local authorities have powers to intervene in the provision of bus and transport services, which can be used to ensure they are run in the interests of local people, to boost the use of public transport. They can introduce free bus travel schemes for under-25s now and restore all bus subsidies recently slashed. Due to the risks bus drivers faced during the pandemic a minimum wage of £15 per hour should be paid to all bus drivers with safety measures determined through the relevant trade unions.

In drawing up local Climate Emergency plans councils could set targets based on the carbon footprint not just of council-run services but capturing total emissions for the local area, giving a real picture of what needs to be done to tackle the climate crisis. When Anglian Water purposefully released toxic chemicals into a wildlife area in Northampton the company were forced to pay a measly £100,000 to charities. Private utilities cannot be trusted to look after our health or the environment. The council should investigate all energy and utility services with the oversight of community and trade unions to ensure full transparency. There should be legal recourse in the event of safety or environmental failings and where possible, failing companies forced into public ownership.

This budget proposal was put together by socialists, trade unionists, activists but ultimately ordinary members of the community of West Northamptonshire. We demand this council cease all cuts and privatisation. We demand a future and a say in it.

Feedback received via social media

There were 11 comments made directly to our social media channels regarding the consultation. Names have been redacted from social media comments.

- What the point of "having our say" when it gets totally ignored !!!!
- They are ignored because most of them would involve huge expenditure of taxpayers' money and generally come from the people who are bleating the loudest about the level of council tax.
- I've never known you to actually take into concentration anything that has been suggested.

You are taking away the brown bin collection and asking people to pay extra for this service, this will mean more fly tipping as people won't want to pay additionally for this, if they put it in the normal refuse bin, it will not be recycled. In a world where we are trying to encourage recycling I think this is a backward

step. A lot of the villages and towns outside of Northampton have very few services at the same extent as in Northampton even though our council tax is the same. Some of the meetings that have gone around the county they are only during work hours so anyone who works can't attend. I think you need to be a bit more flexible and inclusive, also where did the the section 106 payments go when new houses were built in Brackley because it should of been £k's and I don't think that has been reflected in anything that the town has seen.

- A few of you rural types need to realise that you now live in Greater Northampton.
Because that is what the new council actually is
- What a pointless post - you wouldn't listen anyway
- Council tax- the breakdown on the back says I contribute a lot to other countries. Do I get a choice? I feels like forced charity rather than wanting to do it.
- Just a thought, but could you spend more on services and less on enforcement?
Can you agree a budget that ensures that the very few direct staff you have left providing front line services are paid a decent wage?
Can you make sure the budget enables more supervision of the poor quality private contracts you have dished out over the years? Can you stop awarding million pound contracts for road redesign which is not needed and instead spend the money on maintaining the ones we already have and whilst doing so increase pedestrian and cycling friendly transit?
Can you stop wasting money on cash cow schemes that you have not properly consulted on and then more money reversing the decisions? (eg 24hr bus lanes where we don't have 24hr busses)
And if you really want to save money, can you cut out all the dodgy partnerships with North Northamptonshire Council which disguise the truth that in essence you are still effectively a County Council, and if so can you abolish yourself in order that Northampton can have it's local democracy back?
And if you can't do any of that then at least make sure thet your link to you pointless consultation actually works!
Asking on behalf of 225,000 friends.
- Basically only covers basic services again, nothing 'extra' for the increase in council tax coming....
- What's the point, you'll already have made your mind up?
- my exact thoughts too
- Will any of MY council tax be used towards the £14 million pounds compensation to [legal case] because of the council abuse of powers??