



Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 28 February 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

Access to the Public Gallery

Access to the Public Gallery is on Level 3 of the Town Hall Extension, using the lift or stairs in the lobby of the Mount Street entrance to the Extension. **There is no public access from any other entrance.**

Filming and broadcast of the meeting

Meetings of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee are 'webcast'. These meetings are filmed and broadcast live on the Internet. If you attend this meeting you should be aware that you might be filmed and included in that transmission.

Membership of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Councillors - Russell (Chair), Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Clay, Davies, Hacking, Hitchen, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, B Priest, Robinson, Rowles, Simcock, Wheeler and Wright

Agenda

1. Urgent Business

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

2. Appeals

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

3. Interests

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

4. The Council's Budget 2022/23

The following procedure applies for this item:-

- (i) The Committee will receive a statement by the Leader on the Executive's budget proposals and the key issues underlining the budget process;
- (ii) The Committee is invited to consider any issues arising from individual Directorate Budget Plans that chairs of scrutiny committees wish to draw specific attention to;
- (iii) The Committee is invited to receive a Statement from the Executive Member for Housing and Employment regarding the Housing Revenue Account calculations and to consider any amendment proposed in relation to the Housing Revenue account 2022/23 to 2024/25;
- (iv) The Committee is invited to consider any amendments to the budget proposals; and
- (v) The Committee is invited to summarise its findings and formulate its recommendations to the Council meeting on 4 March 2022.

4a. Minutes of the proceedings of Executive on 16 February 2022 relating to the budget for 2022/23

To follow.

4b. Minutes of the proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees relating to the budget for 2022/23 7 - 20

Minute extracts of the February 2022 cycle of scrutiny meetings attached.

5. The Council's Budget 2022/23 - budget papers pack

In connection to the above, the following documents were considered by Executive on 16 February 2022.

- (5a) Revenue Budget Monitoring to the end of December 2021
- (5b) Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/22
- (5c) Revenue Budget 2022/23
- (5d) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 and 2024/25
- (5e) Children and Education Service Budget 2022/23
- (5f) Adult Social Care and Population Health Budget 2022/23
- (5g) Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget 2022/23
- (5h) Growth and Development Directorate Budget 2022/23
- (5i) Corporate Core Budget 2022/23
- (5j) School Budget 2022/23
- (5k) Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 to 2024/25
- (5l) Capital Strategy and Budget 2022/23 to 2024/25
- (5m) Strategy Treasury Management Statement 2022/23, including borrowing limits and annual investment strategy

These documents will be available to view on the Council's website using the following link and via the Modern.Gov app on tablet devices:-

<https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=137&Mld=3732&Ver=4>

Due to the combined size of all of the above documentation, paper copies will only be provided to Elected Members on request.

(The Constitution provides that amendments to Executive's budget recommendation are to be submitted by 4:00pm on the seventh day after the meeting of Executive).

Documents not contained within the budget papers pack

In addition to the above budget pack and in accordance with Council Rule of Procedure 18.3, the Committee is also required to consider any amendments to those recommendations which affect those calculations or the level of Council Tax.

5n. Budget Consultation Results 2022/23

21 - 42

The report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and Head of Strategic Communications is attached.

- 5o. Budget 2022/23 Equality Impact Assessment**
Report to follow.
- 5p. Details of proposed Budget Amendments (if any)**

Information about the Committee

Scrutiny Committees represent the interests of local people about important issues that affect them. They look at how the decisions, policies and services of the Council and other key public agencies impact on the city and its residents. Scrutiny Committees do not take decisions but can make recommendations to decision-makers about how they are delivering the Manchester Strategy, an agreed vision for a better Manchester that is shared by public agencies across the city.

The Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee areas of interest include finances, Council buildings, staffing, corporate and partnership governance as well as Council tax and benefits administration. .

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. If you have a special interest in an item on the agenda and want to speak, tell the Committee Officer, who will pass on your request to the Chair. Groups of people will usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson. The Council wants its meetings to be as open as possible but occasionally there will be some confidential business. Brief reasons for confidentiality will be shown on the agenda sheet.

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Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council Committees can be found on the Council's website www.manchester.gov.uk.

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

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Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

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This agenda was issued on **Friday, 18 February 2022** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

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Scrutiny Committee Minute extracts 8 – 10 February 2022

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 8 February 2022

CESC/22/09 Neighbourhood Directorate Budget 2022/23

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which stated that, following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25. The report set out the high-level position. Appended to the report were the priorities for the services in the remit of this Committee, details on the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers and the planned capital programme. The Committee was invited to comment on the proposals prior to their submission to the Executive on 16 February 2022.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Current budget position;
- Scrutiny of the draft budget proposals and budget reports;
- Next steps;
- Headline priorities for the services;
- Revenue Budget Strategy; and
- Capital budget and pipeline priorities.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods provided an overview of the financial position of the Council, including the uncertainty in future years. He highlighted some of the priority areas within the budget, including funding to address gender-based violence and funding to each ward to address their priorities. The Deputy Leader emphasised the Council's commitment to making Manchester a safe city for women and girls and outlined initial work taking place to address this.

The Executive Member for Children's Services informed Members about the proposal within the budget to invest more money in the commissioning of youth services, highlighting that 2022 had been designated as "Our Year", dedicated to the city's children and young people.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Housing Operations outlined work to monitor and address the effectiveness of Northwards Housing, particularly in relation to repairs. The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods advised that this related to housing management and that a report on this would be considered by the relevant scrutiny committee.

Decision

To endorse the proposals which are relevant to the remit of this Committee.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 8 February 2022

RGSC/22/8 Corporate Core Budget Report 2022/23

Further to minute (RGSC/21/46), the Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor, which provided a further update on the saving proposals being proposed as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- Following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25;
- Overall, the settlement announcement was towards the positive end of expectations and it was expected that mitigations in the region of £7.7m, as previously identified, would be sufficient to balance the 2022/23 budget;
- The budget assumptions that underpinned 2022/23 to 2024/25 included the commitments made as part of the 2021/22 budget process to fund ongoing demand pressures as well as provision to meet other known pressures such as inflation and any pay awards (estimated at 3% from 2022/23);
- Whilst this contributed to the scale of the budget gap it was important that a realistic budget was set which reflected ongoing cost and demand pressures;
- The focus would now be on identifying savings and mitigations to keep the Council on a sustainable financial footing; and
- It was proposed that budget cuts and savings of £60m over three years would be developed for Member consideration which equated to just under 12% of 2022/23 directorate budgets. In addition, £30m of risk-based reserves had been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences.

The Leader advised that whilst there was no major changes to the proposed budget following the report in November, a decade of austerity had resulted in £420 million having been removed from the Council's budget, resulting in a 15% reduction in spending power compared to a national average of 2.4% and if Manchester had had the national average applied to its budget, it would have a further £85 million in its budget today.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- The Council found itself in a situation of uncertainty with just having a one year settlement, forcing it to make preparations for massive reductions in budgets which could have been avoided if the Council had received a longer Finance Settlement;
- The Committee applauded the commitment by the Council to continue to provide Free School Meals during school holidays to those who were entitled to free school meals attending schools and early year settings;
- It would be useful to receive more stringent proposals regarding the capital investment to support carbon reduction measures on the Council's corporate estate at a future meeting;

- What progress had been made on the potential naming rights for The Factory and what guarantee was there that the loan to The Factory Trust, provided by way of grant, underwritten by the Council's MIF reserve would be repaid;
- Assurance was sought that in identifying a suitable naming rights partner, the Council would ensure its reputation would not be adversely impacted;
- More information was requested on the HR/OD service redesign saving proposals;
- Had there been any indication whether there would be any associated administration costs to help support the Government's announcement that people would get a £150 council tax rebate in April to help with the cost of energy;
- Was there any indication yet on what the pay award for staff will be yet;
- With the increase in energy and food costs, was the Council expecting an increase in the number of residents that struggled to pay their Council Tax; and
- Were the proposed savings associated with operational property as a result of the Council exiting leases of office space or the sale of council owned buildings.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that there was a report being considered by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee that set out the details of the investments made to date into the Council's climate change agenda which supported the Action Plan and proposals for additional investment in the next financial year.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that work was underway in terms of fundraising for The Factory. The partner to assist in finding a suitable naming rights partner had been procured and was working closely with the Council and commercial discussions were underway. The proposal of the loan was to underwrite any cashflow issues from the reserves that was funding the future grant for MIF, which was a deliberate decision to avoid a cost to the Council. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer assured the Committee that comments made by this committee previously in relation to the naming rights had been taken on board and there was a strong ethical policy that sat alongside the agreements. The Leader emphasised this point, advising that she chaired The factory Board, which received regular updates in terms of how money was being spent as well as the progress being made around the naming rights.

In relation to the proposed HR/OD service redesign saving proposals, it was explained that in terms of the Corporate Core, there were two sets of savings, one being the adjustment to the vacancy factor and the other being through staffing changes as part of a service redesign which would be completed in quarter 4 of 2021/22.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that negotiations on the staff pay award were still taking place and a decision in the percentage increase had not concluded. In terms of the £150 council tax rebate, it was confirmed that there would be new burdens funding, but the allocation had not yet been determined.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that it was difficult to determine what the impact of rising energy and food costs would be at this stage. Those on lower incomes did receive financial Council Tax support and the service

also provided additional support around helping those getting into financial difficulty. In relation to the proposed savings associated with operational property, the Council was exiting two office buildings within the city centre.

Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Endorse the budget proposals.
- (2) Endorse the recommendations that the Executive:-
 - Note the development of the funding agreement set out in Appendix 1.
 - Support the initial underwriting of the Factory Trust fundraising costs by way of a grant agreement, to be met from the Council's existing MIF reserve and reimbursed when fund raising is received, and delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor to finalise the grant agreement, including any conditions for drawdown and repayment.
 - Approve lease arrangements with delegation to finalise the details to Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor.
 - Continue the support to families to provide free school meals for the 2022 Easter Holiday at £15 per pupil per week. Vouchers will be distributed to households on a pupil basis via schools. This will be funded in line with the arrangements set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
 - Note the Chancellors announcement on the proposal for a £150 council tax rebate for all band A-D properties.
 - Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in conjunction with the Leader of the Council the finalising the detail of the administration of the council tax 'rebate' £150 payment.
 - Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in conjunction with the Leader of the Council responsibility for designing and implement the discretionary support scheme. The scheme will be reported back to March Executive.

RGSC/22/9 Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 to 2024/25

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which set out the details on the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2022/23 and an indication of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- The HRA Budget Position for 2021/22, which as of December 2021, was forecasting that net expenditure would be £11.621m lower than budget, linked to delays in capital projects;
- Although the expenditure is lower than originally forecast, it is still more than the annual income and the forecast in-year deficit of £5.073m will be drawn down from the HRA reserve

- The Budget Strategy 2022/23 - 2024/25,
- The management of Housing Stock and the implications of “Right to Buy” on rental income;
- Details of the various budget assumptions;
- A proposed 4.1% increase to dwelling rents and garage rents
- A proposal to establish a £200,000 hardship fund to support vulnerable tenants; and
- The Reserves Forecast 2022/22 to 2024/25

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- Whilst welcoming the proposed hardship fund, what was the timeframe for the distribution of these funds;
- Would the hardship fund be available to just Council housing tenants or for also other social housing tenants;
- PFI housing partners should be encouraged to contribute to the hardship funding;
- In relation to investment proposals, was there scope in the budget for any additional HRA council housing;
- Was there any indication from Government of additional funding to assist in the retrofitting of existing properties to achieve zero carbon targets, either direct to Manchester or via the Combined Authority;
- What lobbying was taking place to address the need for further government funding to deliver more social rent homes in Manchester and when was the current round of this policy going to be reviewed;
- How many properties associated with the operational overspend of £0.947 where council properties;
- Clarity was sought on the proposed heating tariffs;
- What was the current level of bad debt and consequently how had it been determined that the ongoing forecast requirement was 1% for the life of the plan;
- What was the capital expenditure on fire safety and what was anticipated to be the level of spend required to meet legislative requirements and the cost of going beyond this requirement to meet any potential future changes in legislation;
- What funding was being allocated on the decent homes programme, with reference around improved kitchen and bathroom facilities

The Director of Housing Operations advised that the process for distributing the hardship fund would be finalised over the coming weeks using the established mechanisms ins place for welfare support use during the Covid crisis.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment confirmed that the hardship fund would only be available to tenants in council owned housing stock (Northwards) and those in Council controlled housing stock, including tenants who resided in properties within the two PFI schemes. Other Registered Providers were also establishing their own hardship funds to support their tenants

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment advised that the current budget outlined the two housing schemes and also investment in existing stock in terms of air source heat pumps, thermal insulation and triple glazing and improving existing stock to net zero carbon standards. Further capital outlay into further housing stock was an ambition of the HRA to deliver on the Council's priorities in delivering social rent homes in north and east Manchester.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment advised he would look into when the current policy on government funding for more social rent homes was to be removed. He added a lot of work had taken place on safety improvements to towers blocks and money was set aside on the HRA to continue this work. In addition, he reported that Greater Manchester had been successful in receiving £10.5 million to help with the retrofit works. Details of how this was to be distributed were yet to be announced but Manchester would be lobbying strongly to get a fair share of this.

The Head of Finance agreed to provide details following the meeting on the number social HRA properties that were contributing to the operational overspend. He also advised that as the increase in gas process was at present unknown, Officers had outlined a range of various pricing models to give an indication of what the increase could potentially be and was based on the volume of consumption against price. He also agreed to confirm why the pay by point of sale for Northwards 2/4 Blocks was not proposed to increase in comparison to other schemes.

The Committee was advised that in relation to bad debt, there had been an underspend for the last few years as the impact of the roll out of Universal Credit and the pandemic had been lower than originally forecasted. Therefore, the business plan had been adjusted for 2022/23 onwards. The forecast provision for bad debt in 2021/22 was around 0.65% of rental income, and so the ongoing forecast requirement of 1% for the life of the plan was a 0.5% reduction from the previous assumption in the business plan. The collection rates and level of bad debts would be kept under review

The Director of Housing Operations advised that the majority of capital programme spend over the last two years had been on fire safety and compliance. In terms of the Asset Management priorities, these had been focussed on decent homes, re-roofing, widow replacement and replacement of kitchen and bathrooms. He agreed to provide the Capital Programme to members of the committee for information.

Decision

The Committee note the report.

Health Scrutiny Committee – 9 February 2022

HSC/22/09 Health and Social Care - Adult Social Care and Population Health Budget 2022/23

Further to minute (HSC/21/45) the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Adult Social Services and Director of Public Health which provided a further

update on the saving proposals being proposed as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25;
- The finance settlement was towards the positive end of forecasts and no actions beyond those outlined in November were required to balance next year's budget;
- The settlement was for one year only and considerable uncertainty remained from 2023/24;
- A longer-term strategy to close the budget gap was being prepared with an estimated requirement to find budget cuts and savings in the region of £60m over the next three years;
- £30m of risk-based reserves had been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences;
- A description of the Adult Social Care Priorities;
- An overview of the Manchester City Council Adult Social Care Budget and Manchester Local Care Organisation aligned budget; and
- The capital budget and pipeline priorities.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- The need to explicitly articulate the demand on the Adult Social Care budget and the services that the Council is statutory responsible to deliver, in the context of continued austerity and budget cuts;
- The need for a fair, long term financial settlement for the city;
- The budget should be used to address the recognised health inequalities within the city;
- The Government was in denial of challenges faced by the NHS;
- Paying tribute to the Deputy Leader and officers and NHS partners for their continued commitment to protecting the most vulnerable residents within the city; and
- Was there any possibility of further additional one off funding sources.

In response to comments the Director of Finance (MLCO) stated that there were no further additional one off sources of funding, adding that the integrated approach to the budget ensured that there was an appropriate use of the budget and resources available.

The Deputy Leader commented that whilst the overall settlement announcement was towards the positive end of expectations, this did not constitute being a good settlement and the Council had lost over £400m from its budget since 2010. If the Council had received the average level of cuts in funding, this year it would have at least £85m in its budget. The Council was also still dealing with the legacy of the COVID pandemic and the promise from government that it would compensate local authorities with whatever they needed. She added that it was not possible to undo a decade of cuts with a settlement in one year that was not as severe as anticipated

and looking beyond next financial year there was significant worries which meant that the Council needed to continue its call for fair and sustainable funding.

The Deputy Leader commented that whilst the settlement was better than anticipated, the Council still faced a very challenging three year budget position. In 2022/23 the Council would be using the last of its commercial income reserve to help balance the budget and there was a remaining budget gap of approximately £37m in 2023/24 and £58m in 2024/25. As the settlement announcement was for only one year, the Council was facing increasing uncertainty with proposals around fairer funding reforms and the implications of these.

The Deputy Leader commented that the ASC budget accounted for 35% of the Council's overall budget as it was required to provide statutory services and the settlement provided no additional funding for increased demand in ASC. She stated that a fair, sustainable plan was needed in order to plan effectively so as to provide essential services for Manchester residents.

The Chair welcomed the inclusion of addressing climate action within the Population Health Team's priorities for 2022-23. She further commented that the Committee would schedule an item on the Work Programme to consider the Equalities Impact Assessment of the Better Outcomes, Better Lives programme.

Decision

The Committee note the report and endorse a recommendation that the Executive approve these budget proposals.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 9 February 2022

CYP/22/10 Children and Education Services Directorate Budget 2022/23

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Children and Education Services) which stated that, following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23, the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25. The report set out the high-level position. Included in the report were the priorities for the services in the remit of this Committee. Appended were details of the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers and the planned capital programme as well as information on the 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant. The Committee was invited to comment on the proposals prior to their submission to the Executive on 16 February 2022.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Summary of Council budget;
- Current budget position;
- Scrutiny of draft budget proposals and budget report;
- Next steps;

- Children and Education Services context;
- Budget overview;
- Dedicated Schools Grant; and
- Capital budget.

The Executive Member for Children's Services drew Members' attention to the budget reports which had been submitted to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee which included proposals for additional funding for youth services and for Free School Meals over the Easter holidays respectively.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- To what extent the budget had taken into account the need for more special school places;
- Funding for improving the condition of school buildings, including school-based Early Years provision;
- To welcome the focus on carbon reduction around schools and to recognise the additional benefits of investing in reducing carbon, such as lower energy bills and improving children's well-being;
- Whether the Council had considered asset transfers for buildings which had previously been Council-run daycare provision but were now commissioned to other providers;
- Concern about home to school transport putting additional pressure on the Children's Services budget, as outlined in the report; and
- Concern about the national insurance increase referred to in the report.

The Director of Education reported that school places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) were funded by the Department for Education (DfE) through the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, which would be increased by £10 million next year. She informed Members about additional special school places which had recently been created and about plans for more to become available from next year. She advised that the Council had a capital maintenance grant each year to assist schools with significantly expensive maintenance issues, such as a new roof or boiler, and so had an understanding of the condition of school buildings; however, she drew Members' attention to proposals to undertake condition surveys of school buildings which, she advised, would formalise this knowledge and enable the Council to plan work for the future. She reported that the DfE was going to be making some funding available for new school buildings and that these conditions surveys would help the Council to provide evidence to the DfE about why some of this funding should be awarded to Manchester. In response to a question from the Chair, she confirmed that the Council only had statutory responsibilities in relation to the maintenance of the buildings of local authority-maintained schools, not academies.

The Executive Member for Children's Services confirmed that a range of different options were considered for buildings used for Early Years daycare provision. He suggested that the Committee might want to receive a report on the condition

surveys that were due to be carried out on schools and Early Years buildings, once the work had reached an appropriate stage.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services highlighted the approach that had been taken to budget savings, which had focused on preventative work and cost avoidance rather than cutting services. The Chair welcomed the way that this approach had worked in recent years in reducing costs through early intervention to prevent children and young people from entering the care system.

Decision

To endorse the proposals outlined in the report.

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee – 10 February 2022

ECCSC/22/07 Neighbourhood Directorate Budget 2022/23

Further to minute (ECCSC/21/27) the Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided a further update on the saving proposals being proposed as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25;
- The settlement was for one year only and considerable uncertainty remained from 2023/24;
- A longer-term strategy to close the budget gap was being prepared with an estimated requirement to find budget cuts and savings in the region of £60m over the next three years;
- £30m of risk-based reserves had been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences;
- An overview of the headline priorities for the service;
- A description of the Neighbourhoods Revenue Budget Strategy;
- A description of the Capital budget and pipeline priorities; and
- A description of the Climate Change Priorities and Investment.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Noting that the Government had failed to adequately fund the Council and they needed to be held to account;
- Supporting the reported Climate Change Priorities and Investment;
- Whilst recognising the varied work and initiatives delivered by officers to tackle climate change and support communities, more needed to be done to publicise this work and communicate this positive work with both residents and Members;
- The need to improve air quality across the city, making reference to those issues caused as a result of poor traffic flow and cars idling;

- The continued call for the Council to act as a catalysis and influencer to escalate the activities and actions needed to address climate change;
- The need to scrutinise the cost effectiveness of the Council's financial contribution to the Manchester Climate Change Agency; and
- Calling for the continued, long term funding of the Climate Change Officer posts.

In response to questions, officers clarified the capital spend reporting that had been presented, the rating of Carbon Literacy training, adding that this training was now mandatory for all staff and information relating to the Cargo Bikes referenced within the report.

In considering the budget proposals, a Member recommended an amendment. He recommended that a Capital Budget of £1m be established for the Executive Member for Environment, with this budget specifically used to support work and initiatives to tackle air pollution across the city. He recommended that this budget could be funded by levying a Section 106 charge of £1000 for all new build homes for sale in Manchester (excluding social housing and a reduced charge for affordable housing).

This recommendation was supported by the Committee.

A further recommendation was proposed that funding be provided to permanently fund the Climate Change Officer posts. This recommendation was supported by the Committee.

Decisions

The Committee recommend that the Executive;

1. Establish a Capital Budget of £1m for the Executive Member for Environment, with this budget specifically used to support work and initiatives to tackle air pollution across the city. This budget could be funded by levying a Section 106 charge of £1000 for all new build homes for sale in Manchester (excluding social housing and a reduced charge for affordable housing).
2. That funding be provided to permanently fund the Climate Change Officer posts.

Economy Scrutiny Committee – 10 February 2022

ESC/22/06 Growth & Development Directorate Budget 2022/23

Further to minute (ESC/21/53), the Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided a further update on the saving proposals being proposed as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- Following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25;

- Overall, the settlement announcement was towards the positive end of expectations and it was expected that mitigations in the region of £7.7m, as previously identified, would be sufficient to balance the 2022/23 budget;
- The budget assumptions that underpinned 2022/23 to 2024/25 included the commitments made as part of the 2021/22 budget process to fund ongoing demand pressures as well as provision to meet other known pressures such as inflation and any pay awards (estimated at 3% from 2022/23);
- Whilst this contributed to the scale of the budget gap it was important that a realistic budget was set which reflected ongoing cost and demand pressures;
- The focus would now be on identifying savings and mitigations to keep the Council on a sustainable financial footing; and
- It was proposed that budget cuts and savings of £60m over three years would be developed for Member consideration which equated to just under 12% of 2022/23 directorate budgets. In addition, £30m of risk-based reserves had been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences;

The Leader advised that whilst there were no major changes to the proposed budget following the report in November, a decade of austerity had resulted in £420 million having been removed from the Council's budget, resulting in a 15% reduction in spending power compared to a national average of 2.4% and if Manchester had had the national average applied to its budget, it would have a further £85 million in its budget today.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) commented that the 2021/22 budget process had included £393k savings in respect of holding/deleting 11 posts in planning and building control. Whilst the service redesign was expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2022, it would take time to implement the changes and recruit to all the posts. To allow for service delivery, and succession planning it was necessary to amend the structure and invest in some areas, therefore it was anticipated that ongoing savings of c£150k would be realised from reduced staffing costs across planning and building control. This would require alternative savings of £243k to be identified and delivered in 2022/23.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- There was concern in relation to the ability to effectively ensure the enforcement of illegal planning if it was still proposed to reduce the number of staff within planning and building control;
- Was it possible to have a breakdown of the proposed savings at a ward or neighbourhood level;
- What opportunities had been identified from the review of Council assets to help tackle the level of savings needed in future years; and
- Had there been any work undertaken around the anticipation of additional costs and pressures on the service as the Council emerged from the impact of covid.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) commented that the original saving of £393k had been identified through existing vacant posts and through the forthcoming service redesign, additional resource would be added to the service to ensure it operated effectively. She also advised that due to the nature of the work of the Directorate, it was difficult to break this down to a ward or neighbourhood level

as a large part of the Directorate's budget was made up from staff costs who worked across the city. It was proposed that a more detailed overview of the work of the team could be provided for Members.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment acknowledged the need to improve how the work of the Directorate was reported back to ward members on work in their respective wards.

In terms of Asset Management, it was reported that this was something that the Directorate was actively looking at and a Strategic Asset Management Plan would be implemented this year which would look to ensure that the assets held by the Council across its Development, Operational and Commercial estates were used to maximise the benefits to the city.

The Leader commented that there had been a number of areas as part of the wider budget setting process that had been looked at as to how they would likely be impacted as the Council emerged from the impact of covid, such as the discretionary support the Council had been able to give to residents and the support to businesses. She added that the current competitive environment for government funding was not helpful and was not a long term sustainable approach.

Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Note the forecast medium term revenue budget position.
- (2) Endorse and recommend that the Executive approve the budget proposals.
- (3) Propose that as part of the Committee's Work Programme setting meeting in May 2022, it receives a report that provides a detailed overview of the Directorate and the teams that sit within it.

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Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Resource and Governance Scrutiny Committee (Budget) - 28 February 2022
Budget Council – 4 March

Subject: Budget consultation results 2022/23

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and Head of Strategic Communications

Summary

This report provides a summary of the results of phase two of the budget consultation on the savings options for the financial year 2022/23, as well as a summary of the responses received.

Recommendations

To note the report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
The budget supports all 9 corporate priorities including the zero-carbon target for the city.

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The Council's budget, including the monies generated by Council tax, supports the delivery of the Our Manchester Strategy outcomes and all of Our Corporate Priorities.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	

A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	
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Position: Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy, please contact one of the contact officers above.

Online budget consultation (consultation now closed)

<https://www.manchester.gov.uk/budget>

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council consulted with residents on the proposed savings options for the 2022/2023 financial year for a four-week period from 11 January 2022 to 8 February 2022.
- 1.2 As the budget for 2022/23 is a one-year forward planning budget, and there have been no statutory consultations around individual options identified, a full 12 week budget consultation was not required.
- 1.3 This report provides the full results of the consultation and a summary of coded free text responses and comments.

2.0 Budget consultation

- 2.1 A standard budget consultation on Council tax increases was conducted seeking feedback from residents and businesses on:
 - Proposed Council tax increases
 - Proposed Adult Social Care (ASC) precept
 - The nine Council priorities
 - General feedback and suggestions on the budget
- 2.2 The Government's Spending Review allowed Councils to increase Council tax by up to 1.99 per cent plus an additional 1 per cent precept to help meet ASC costs.
- 2.3 The consultation asked residents for their comments on the potential increases, which together would be a 2.99 per cent increase to help protect services from further cuts and especially, to support adult social care for those most in need.
- 2.4 Residents were also asked for their views on the nine Council priorities and for general suggestions and comments on the budget via supplementary open text boxes.

3.0 Channels and engagement

- 3.1 Communications channels comprised an online questionnaire supported by web content, e-bulletins and a social media campaign across a range of platforms using a mix of organic, boosted and paid-for posts, supported by engaging digital content.
- 3.2 Paper copies of the questionnaire would usually be printed and distributed via our network of libraries however, COVID-19 presented a number of issues which made this challenging for 2022:
 - Hygiene – printed literature is avoided to limit the spread of COVID-19

- COVID-19 restrictions – Government guidelines during the majority of the consultation period mean that many of our residents were working from home and visiting the city centre, local centres and libraries less frequently
 - The Government’s December and January work from home directive meant that staff were not in the Town Hall Extension to receive and input any returned consultation forms.
- 3.3 As a result, paper copies were not printed for the 2022 budget consultation and instead, residents were signposted to the library digital support text service for help getting online, getting access to a computer at a library or to fill in the consultation survey over the phone.
- 3.4 Activity was supported by proactive media releases and reactive media statements and inclusion in the Council’s various e-bulletins and via internal staff channels.
- 3.5 Two standalone budget e-bulletins were issued during the consultation period. These performed highly, reaching an average of 25,500 recipients each time and resulting in 20,895 combined opens and 2,167 click throughs to the budget consultation web pages. A message was also included in the monthly resident news bulletin, resulting in 120 click throughs.
- 3.6 Responses have been gathered via an online questionnaire on the Council’s website. Approximately 3,500 unique visitors were driven to the budget pages on the website. A complete figure cannot be given as visitors to the website can decline the cookies, which means that we can no longer track all visitors to the website. The majority of those that accepted the cookies were signposted to the consultation as a result of receiving a standalone Council budget e-bulletin and messages posted on the Council’s Facebook page.
- 3.7 The consultation was promoted widely on Council social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn signposting people to the online survey.
- 3.8 Across social media channels 13 budget messages were posted organically resulting in 56,740 impressions. Activity resulted in 512 click throughs to the consultation pages, 69 retweets/shares and 63 likes and 26 comments.
- 3.9 Paid digital posts were used to target Manchester residents resulting in 62,085 impressions, 626 click throughs to the consultation web pages, 23 likes, 46 comments and 6 shares.
- 3.10 A total of 1,680 people completed the consultation survey.
- 3.11 A further 320 people partially completed the survey, without answering all questions or submitting their response. Participation is generally higher when

consultation surveys comprise multiple choice/tick box questions. Those that comprise free text boxes require more thought and consideration and generally see higher levels of drop off and partial completion, but do result in a greater quality of result.

4.0 Consultation questionnaire

4.1 The consultation questionnaire comprised three closed questions to understand levels of agreement/disagreement, questions one and three with supplementary open text boxes in which residents could express their views freely. Question two asked respondents to tick the Council priorities that were important to them.

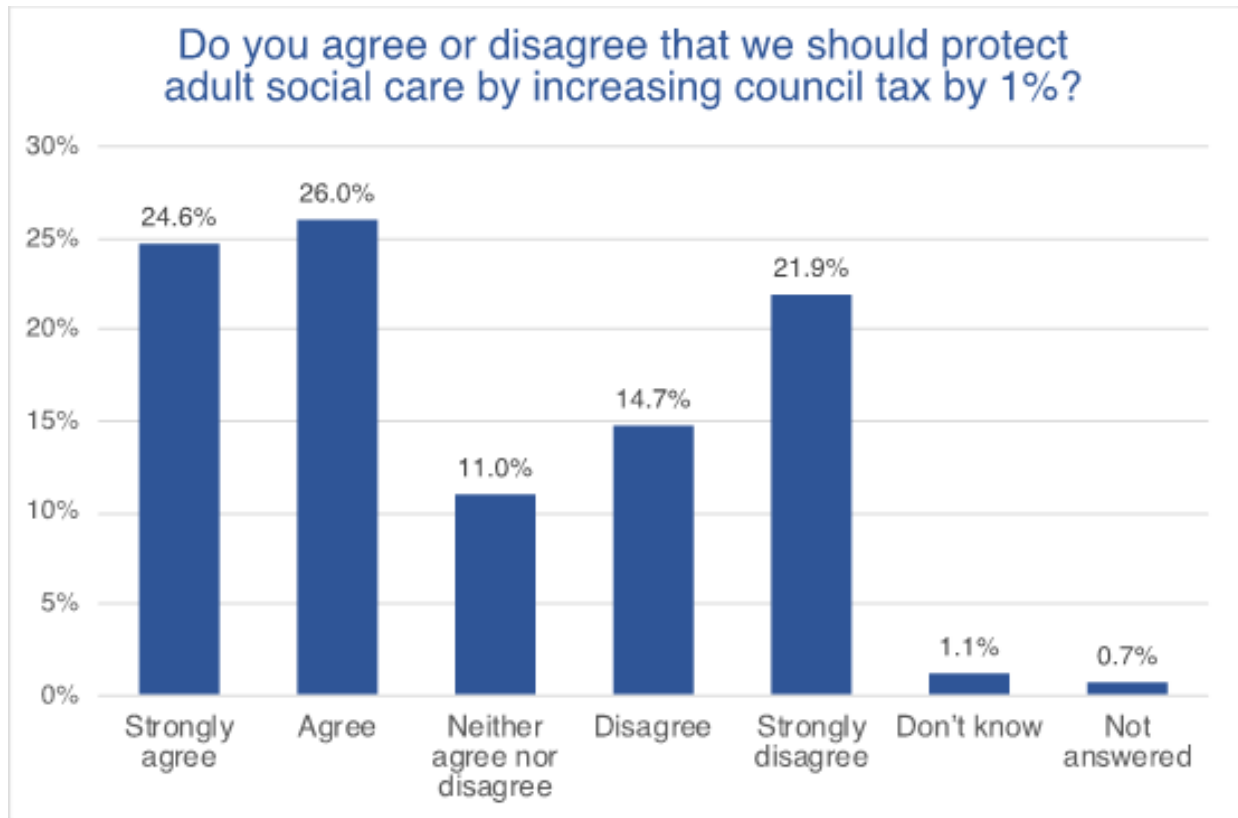
- Question 1a. Do you agree or disagree that we should protect adult social care by increasing Council tax by 1%?
- Question 1b. Please share any comments on alternatives or the impacts of the 1% increase you think we should consider.
- Question 2a. When we asked Manchester people what matters most to them, we listened, and we 've used their priorities to help set our budget. Do you agree or disagree that we should continue to protect and invest in the priority services that residents told us matter most?
- Question 2b. Please tick the priorities that are important to you
- Question 2c. Do you agree or disagree that we should increase Council tax by a further 1.99% to enable us to deliver the priorities that residents told us matter most?
- Question 3. Please share any comments on alternatives or the impacts of the 1.99% increase you think we should consider.

5.0 Consultation questionnaire analysis

5.1 **Question 1a. Do you agree or disagree that we should protect adult social care by increasing Council tax by 1%?**

5.2 In question 1a, members of the public were asked in a closed question whether they 'agree or disagree' that we should protect adult social care by increasing Council tax by 1%. 51% agreed or strongly agreed that adult social care should be protected by increasing council tax by 1%. This compares to 37% of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the suggestion. Finally, 12% were undecided or said they didn't know.

Graph 1 – Levels of agreement and disagreement with the 1% increase to protect adult social care

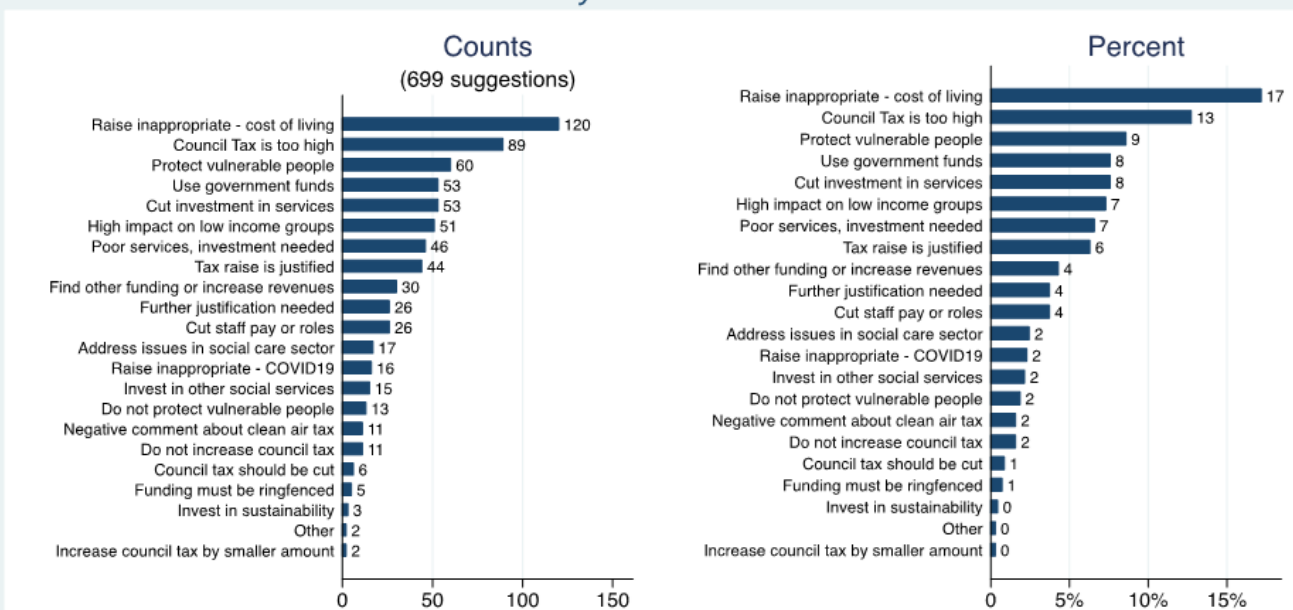


5.3 Q1. b. Please share any comments on alternatives or the impacts of the 1% increase you think we should consider.

5.4 In question 1b, respondents were also asked to share any comments or alternatives on the impacts of the 1% increase that they thought we should consider. Of the 1,680 responses, 535 respondents provided an answer to the open-ended question pertaining to increasing Council tax by 1%. Based on these answers 742 suggestions were extracted.

Graph 2 - Coded responses expressing views pertaining to the proposed increase to Council tax of 1%

Protect adult social care by increasing council tax by 1%?
Please share any comments on alternatives



* Respondents who provided a written answer that was irrelevant or incomprehensible are not displayed in the graph (43 responses).

5.5 Graph 2 shows that:

- The most prominent suggestion across all open-ended responses was the perception that it would be inappropriate to increase council tax by 1% given the current cost of living crisis (17% respondents, 120 suggestions), with concerns about the rising cost of energy bills and other household expenses and the anticipated rise of national insurance contributions particularly highlighted.
- 7% of respondents / 51 suggestions expressed concern of the high impact on low-income groups, with some also calling for a differential increase on council tax or more support for such groups.
- There were a further 13% of respondents / 89 suggestions which stated that council tax was too high, not affordable or that it already increases every year.
- Instead of raising council tax, 8% (53 suggestions) called for the Council to use government funds, including the anticipated NI increase. 4% (30 suggestions) stated the Council should find other funding or increase revenues by other means.
- 8% (53 suggestions) argued that the Council should cut investment in areas such as cycle lanes or should generally reduce inefficiency and wasteful

spending (without specifying). 4% (26 suggestions) stated that the Council should cut staff roles or pay.

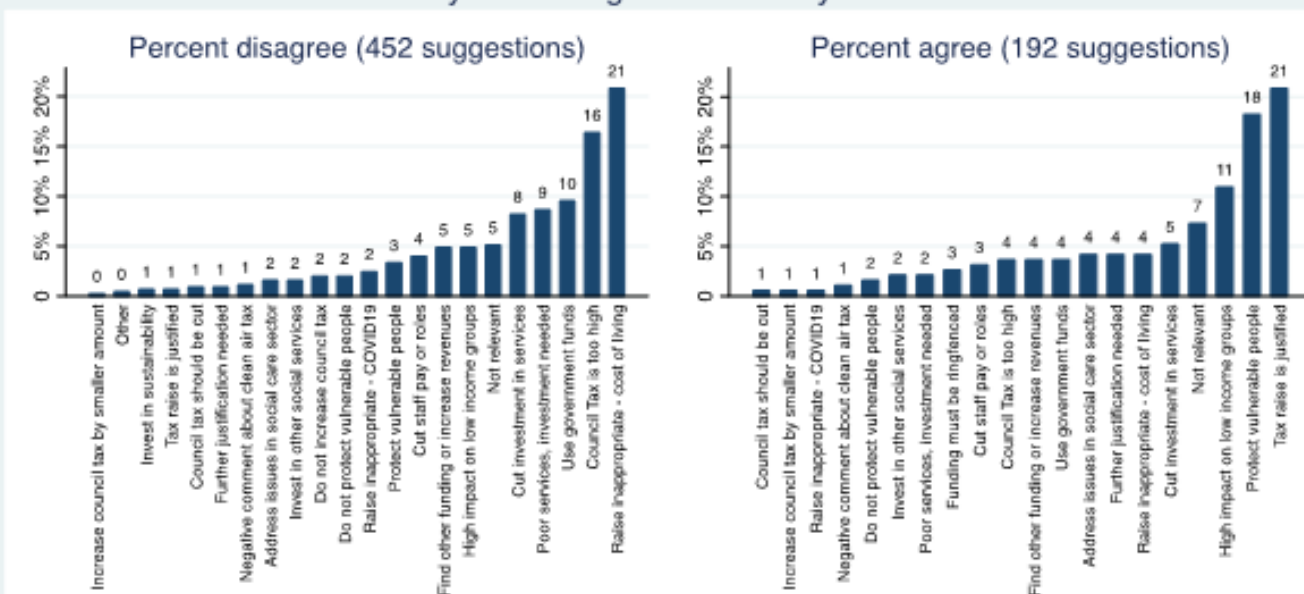
- It should be noted that 9% (60 suggestions) did agree that protecting vulnerable people was worthwhile, but not all agreed that raising council tax was the answer. 6% (44 suggestions) felt that a tax rise was justified, with some suggesting that a 1% increase is not sufficient.
- 7% (46 suggestions) complained of poor Council services and the need for greater investment in services such as waste collection and road repairs, as they did not feel they were getting value for money from their existing Council tax.
- 4% (26 suggestions) stated that they needed further information to justify the proposed increase to council tax.
- Other suggestions were provided but with lower frequency and there were also a number of responses which were not relevant.

5.6 Graph 3 displays the suggestions by whether respondents agreed or disagreed that we should protect adult social care by increasing council tax by 1%.

5.7 Overall, 30% (192 suggestions) were given by individuals who were in favour of the proposal.

Graph 3 - Responses split by whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposal to increase council tax by 1% to protect adult social care

Do you agree or disagree that we should protect adult social care by increasing council tax by 1%?



* Respondents who provided a written answer but selected 'neither agree nor disagree', 'don't know' or did not answer question 1 were removed from this analysis (87 suggestions).

5.8 Of those respondents who **agreed** with the proposal, the following suggestions (192) were made:

- 21% (40 suggestions) restated their agreement while 18% (35 suggestions) specifically mentioned that vulnerable people should be protected.
- 11% (21 suggestions) highlighted their concerns of the high impact on low-income groups, with some calling on the Council to implement differential increases to council tax or provide greater support to low-income groups
- Rather than increase council tax, 5% (10 suggestions) advised that the Council should cut investment in services such as cycle lanes or reduce inefficiency and waste more generally (without specifying).
- Alternatively, the Council should use Government funds, including the anticipated National Insurance contribution rise (4% / 7 suggestions), or find other funding or increase revenue in another way (4% / 7 suggestions).
- While agreeing with the proposal in the closed questions, 4% (8 suggestions) expressed concerns that it was inappropriate to raise council tax given the current cost of living crisis, notably the rise in energy bills and other household expenses and the anticipated rise in national insurance contributions. Furthermore, 4% (7 suggestions) stated that council tax was too high, not affordable or already increases every year.

- 4% (8 suggestions) commented that the Council needed to address wider issues in the social care sector, particularly in terms of recruitment and retention of carers.
- 4% (8 suggestions) stated that they needed further information to justify the proposed increase to council tax.
- Graph 3 displays additional answers that drew fewer responses and there were also a number of responses which were not relevant.

5.9 Of those respondents who **disagreed** with the proposal, the following main suggestions (452) were made:

- 21% (94 suggestions) commented that it was inappropriate to increase Council tax given the current cost of living crisis, notably the rise in energy bills and other household expenses and the anticipated rise in National Insurance contributions.
- 5% (22 suggestions) highlighted their concerns of the high impact on low-income groups, with some calling on the Council to implement differential increases to council tax or provide greater support to low-income groups
- 16% (74 suggestions) stated that council tax was too high, not affordable or already increases every year.
- 10% (43 suggestions) called for the Council to use Government funds, including the anticipated National Insurance increase.
- 8% (37 suggestions) stated the Council should cut investment in services such as cycle lanes or reduce inefficiency and wasteful spending more generally (without specifying). 4% (18 suggestions) stated that the Council should cut staff roles or pay.
- 5% (22 suggestions) stated that the Council should find other funding or increase revenues by other means.
- 9% (39 suggestions) complained of poor Council services and the need for greater investment in services such as waste collection and road repairs as they did not feel they were getting value for money from their existing Council tax.
- Graph 3 also displays additional answers that drew fewer responses and there were also a number of responses which were not relevant.

5.10 Question 2a - When we asked Manchester people what matters most to them, we listened, and we 've used their priorities to help set our budget.

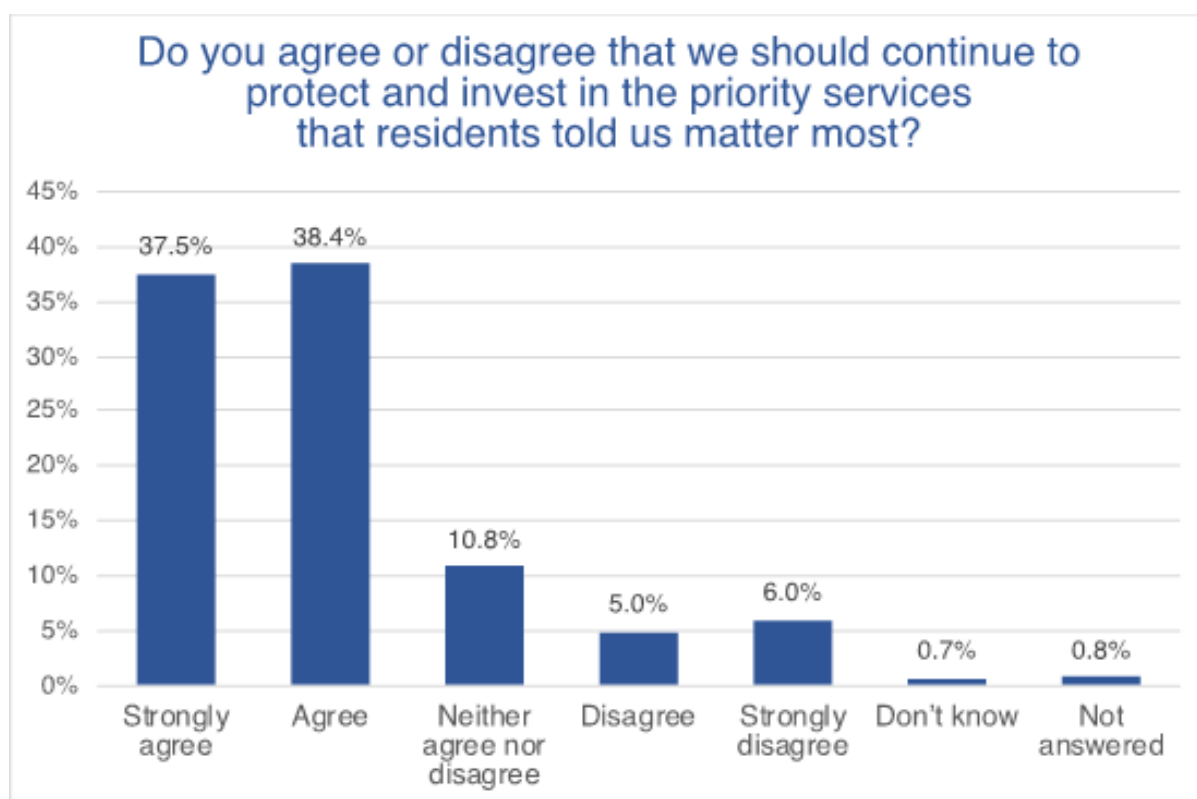
Do you agree or disagree that we should continue to protect and invest in the priority services that residents told us matter most?

5.11 In Question 2a residents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that services that matter most to them should be protected and invested in. In asking this question the consultation reminded residents that the following services were the ones that past consultations indicated mattered most:

- Care and support for vulnerable people
- Action on family poverty and giving young people the best start in life
- Tackling homelessness and creating better housing
- Supporting people into jobs and training
- Keeping our roads in good shape and supporting walking and cycling
- Keeping our neighbourhoods clean, including tackling fly-tipping and litter
- Maintaining parks, leisure and libraries to keep people active and happy
- Becoming a zero-carbon city and improving air quality
- Addressing inequalities to improve life chances and celebrate diversity.

5.12 The vast majority of respondents (75%) agreed or strongly agreed with the suggestion to protect and invest in services. 11% are undecided or didn't know and a further 11% disagreed or strongly disagree.

Graph 4 – Levels of agreement and disagreement with the need to protect services that matter most to residents



5.13 Question 2b. - Please tick the priorities that are important to you

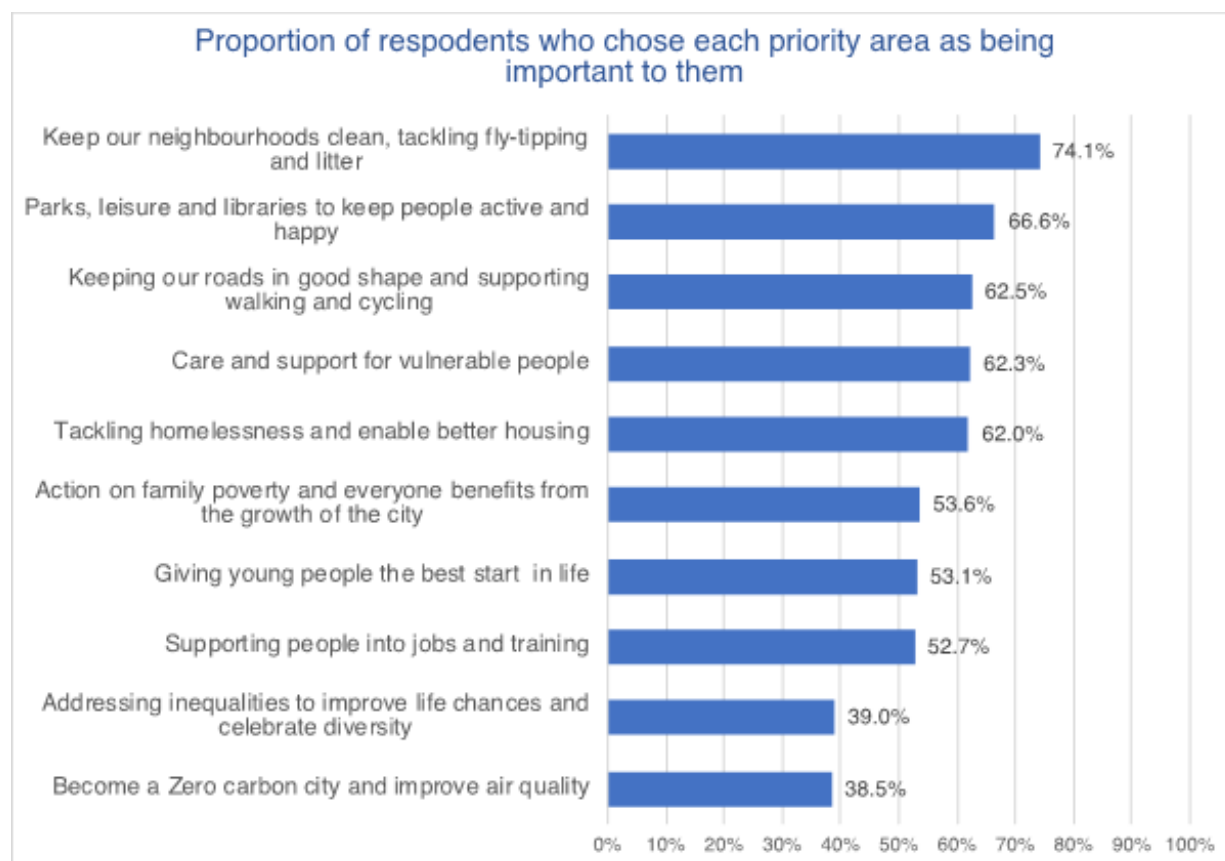
5.14 In questions 2b, residents were also asked to indicate which priority areas are important to them. Overall, among the issues that were selected by a higher number of respondents were:

- Keeping our neighbourhoods clean, tackling fly-tipping and litter (74%)
- Parks, leisure and libraries to keep people active and happy (67%)
- Keeping our roads in good shape and supporting walking and cycling (63%)
- Care and support for vulnerable people (62%)
- Tackling homelessness and enabling better housing (62%)

5.15 At the opposite end of the ranking, the issues seen as least important were:

- Addressing inequalities to improve life chances and celebrate diversity (39%)
- Becoming a Zero carbon city and improving air quality (39%)

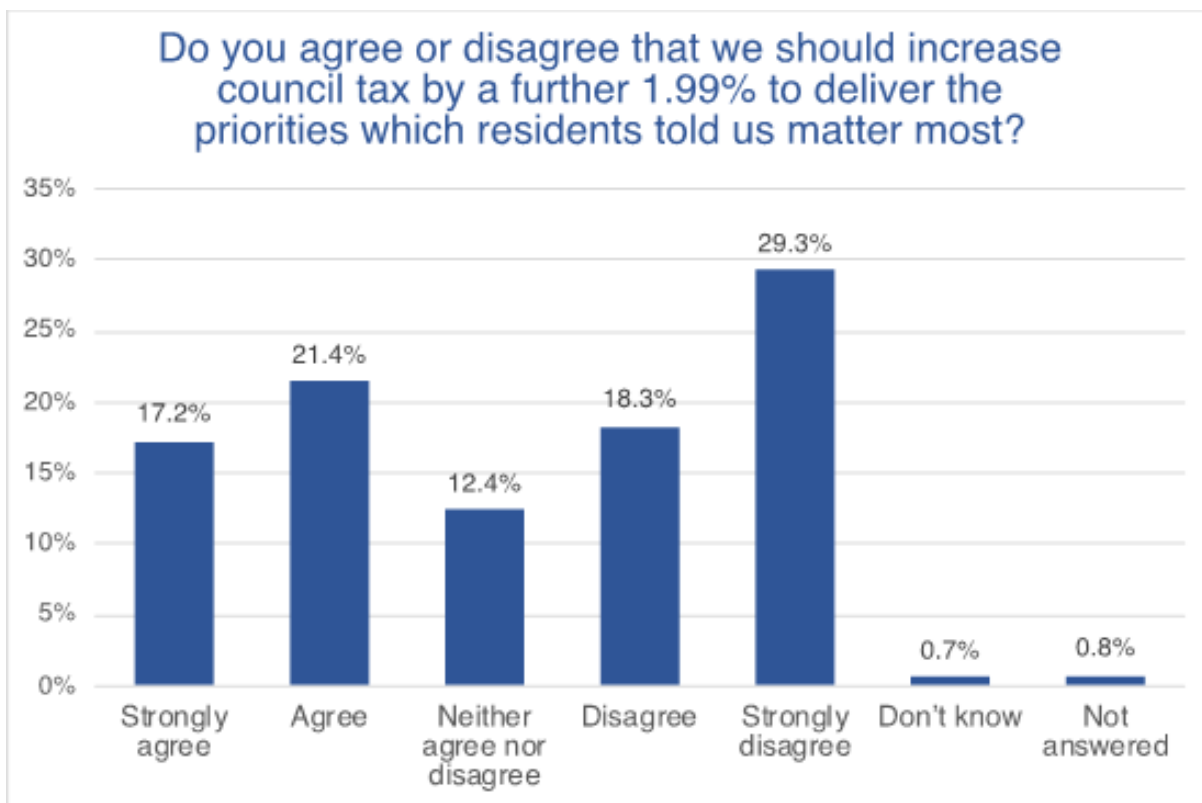
Graph 5 – Importance of suggested priority areas



5.16 Question 2c - Do you agree or disagree that we should increase council tax by a further 1.99% to enable us to deliver the priorities that residents told us matter most?

- 5.17 In question 2c residents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that we should increase council tax by a further 1.99% to enable us to deliver the priorities that residents told us matter most. Out of the 1,680 responses generated by the consultation 48% disagreed or strongly disagreed that the council tax should be increased by a further 1.99% to continue to invest in services. This compares to 39% who agreed or strongly agreed with this suggestion. 13% are undecided or said they didn't know.

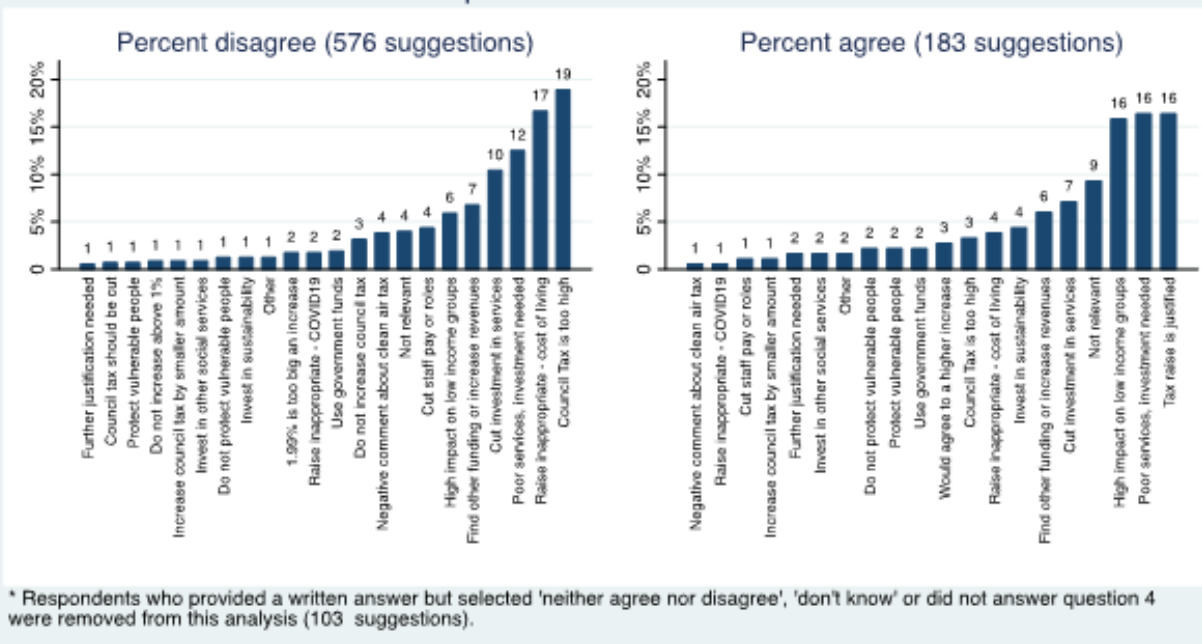
Graph 6 – Levels of agreement and disagreement with the need to protect services that matter most to residents



- 5.18 Overall, 23% (183) of suggestions were given by individuals who were in favour of the proposal.

Graph 7 – Responses split by whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the proposal to increase Council tax by a further 1.99% to continue to invest in services

Do you agree or disagree that we should increase council tax by a further 1.99% to enable us to deliver the priorities which residents told us matter most?



5.19 Of those respondents who **agreed** with the proposal, the following suggestions (183) were made:

- 16% (30 suggestions) restated their agreement. It is noticeable that 3% (5 suggestions) would agree to an even higher increase to council tax.
- However, 16% (29 suggestions) highlighted their concerns of the high impact on low-income groups, with some calling on the Council to implement differential increases to council tax or provide greater support to low-income groups.
- 16% (30 suggestions) complained of poor Council services and the need for greater investment in services such as waste collection and road repairs, as they did not feel they were getting value for money from their existing council tax.
- 7% (13 suggestions) advised that the Council should cut investment in services such as cycle lanes or reduce inefficiency and waste more generally (without specifying). Alternatively, the Council should find other funding or increase revenue in another way (6% / 11 suggestions).
- 4% (8 suggestions) wanted the Council to do more to invest in sustainability, such as green spaces or sustainable transport options.

- While agreeing with the proposal in the closed questions, 4% (7 suggestions) expressed concerns that it was inappropriate to raise council tax given the current cost of living crisis, notably the rise in energy bills and other household expenses and the anticipated rise in national insurance contributions.
- Graph 7 displays additional answers that drew fewer responses and there were also a number of responses which were not relevant.

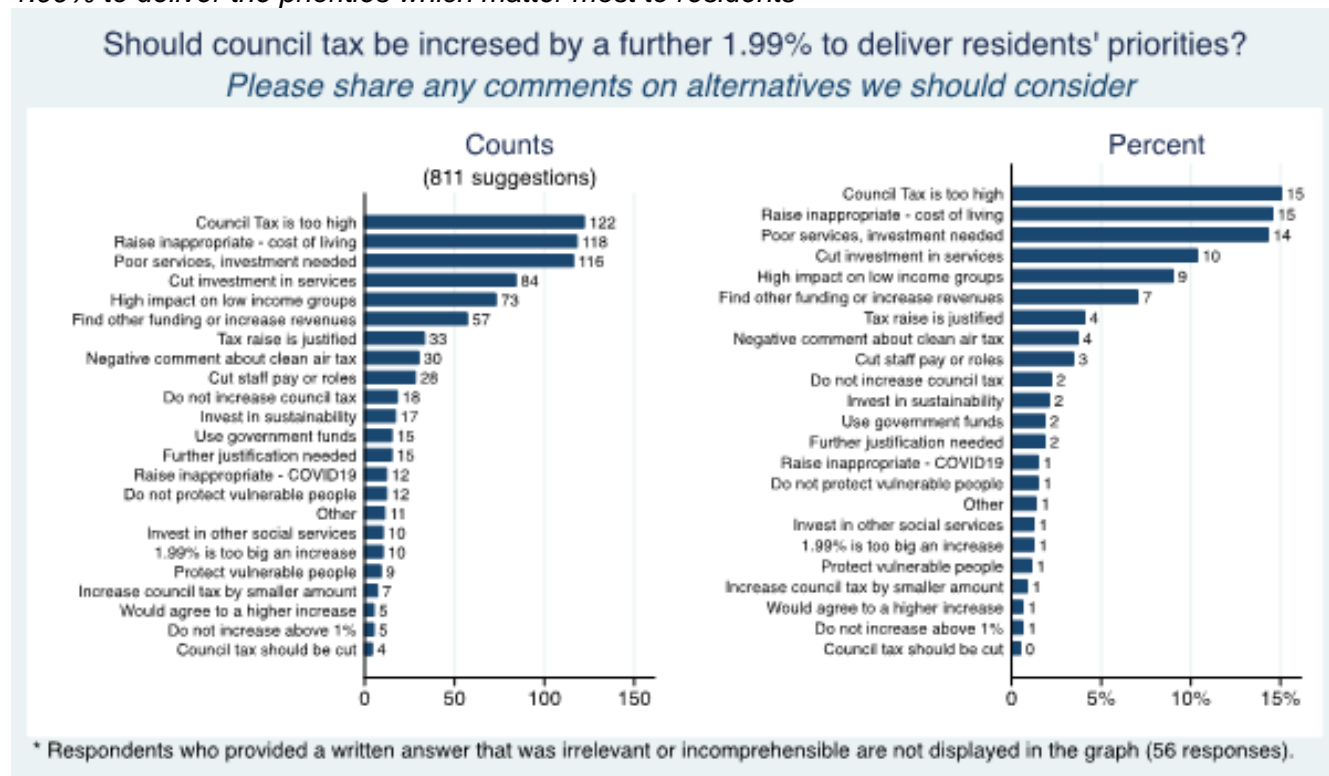
5.20 Of those respondents who **disagreed** with the proposal, the following suggestions (576) were made:

- 19% (109 suggestions) commented that council tax was too high, not affordable or already increases every year.
- Closely related to this, was the perception by 17% (96 suggestions) that it was inappropriate to increase council tax given the current cost of living crisis, notably the rise in energy bills and other household expenses and the anticipated rise in national insurance contributions.
- 4% (22 suggestions) also made a negative comment about the Clean Air Zone charges.
- 5% (34 suggestions) highlighted their concerns of the high impact on low-income groups, with some calling on the Council to implement differential increases to council tax or provide greater support to low-income groups
- 10% (60 suggestions) stated the Council should cut investment in services such as cycle lanes or reduce inefficiency and wasteful spending more generally (without specifying).
- 4% (25 suggestions) stated that the Council should cut staff roles or pay.
- 7% (39 suggestions) stated that the Council should find other funding or increase revenues by other means
- 12% (72 suggestions) complained of poor Council services and the need for greater investment in services such as waste collection and road repairs.
- Graph 7 displays additional answers that drew fewer responses and there were also a number of responses which were not relevant.

5.21 **Questions 3 - Please share any comments on alternatives or the impacts of the 1.99% increase you think we should consider.**

5.22 Out of the 1,680 responses generated by the consultation 653 respondents provided an answer to the open ended question asking for comments about the suggestion to increase council tax by a further 1.99%. Based on these answers 867 suggestions were extracted. These are shown in Graph 8.

Graph 8 - Coded responses expressing views pertaining to the proposed increases by a further 1.99% to deliver the priorities which matter most to residents



5.23 Graph 8 shows that:

- The most prominent suggestion across all open-ended responses was the perception that council tax was too high, not affordable or already increases every year (15% respondents / 122 suggestions).
- Closely followed was the perception that it would be inappropriate to increase council tax by a further 1.99% given the current cost of living crisis (15% respondents, 118 suggestions), with particular concerns about the rising cost of energy bills and other household expenses and the anticipated rise of National Insurance contributions.
- 4% (30 suggestions) also made a negative comment about the Clean Air Zone charges.

- 9% of respondents / 73 suggestions expressed concern of the high impact on low-income groups, with some also calling for a differential increase on council tax or more support for such groups.
- Instead of raising council tax, 10% (84 suggestions) argued that the Council should cut investment in areas such as cycle lanes or should generally reduce inefficiency and wasteful spending (without specifying).
- Alternatively, 7% (57 suggestions) stated that the Council should find other funding or increase revenues another way.
- 14% (116 suggestions) complained of poor Council services and the need for greater investment in services such as waste collection and road repairs as they did not feel they were getting value for money from their existing council tax.
- 4% (33 suggestions) felt that the council tax rise was justified.
- Other suggestions were provided but with lower frequency and there were also a number of responses which were not relevant.

6.0 Demographic and equality data

- 6.1 The demographic characteristics of the respondents to the survey were compared to those of the resident population in Manchester.
- 6.2 A range of residents across the city of Manchester participated in the consultation. The outcome of the analysis shows that the consultation was underrepresented in all areas, but mostly in the North and South areas of the city.
- 6.3 Overall North Manchester was underrepresented, with 30% of responses from Manchester residents living in wards in North Manchester compared to 37% of the city's population living there. Central was overrepresented with 27% of respondents living in Central (making up 21% of the city's population) and South was proportionate to the population (43% of respondents lived in South, compared to 42% of the city's population living there). The wards with the most responses were in the Chorlton Park, Chorlton and Whalley Range area and fewer from Woodhouse Park and Fallowfield.

Locality	Budget Responses	MCR comparator %
North	30%	37%
Central	27%	21%
South	43%	42%
Manchester Residents	68%	-
No response	10%	-

Outside of Mcr/Postcode not recognised	22%	-
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- 6.4 Respondents aged 40-49, 50-64 and 65-74 years were overrepresented. Compared to previous budget consultations, there was a slight increase in responses from respondents aged 65-74 years. Those aged 16-25 years and under the age of 16 were significantly underrepresented.

Age Group	Budget Responses	MCR Comparator
Under 16	0%	20%
16 - 25 years	3%	20%
26 - 39 years	23%	26%
40 - 49 years	19%	11%
50 - 64 years	27%	13%
65 - 74 years	14%	5%
75 + years	4%	4%

- 6.5 The consultation had an overrepresentation of White respondents at 76% compared to the city's population of 67%. 63% of White respondents identified as English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British (see Appendix 1 for full demographic analysis).
- 6.6 All other groups were underrepresented and contributed less than half of the responses. Following White respondents, the most responses from the underrepresented groups identified as African (38, 2 %) and Pakistani (37, 2%).

Ethnicity groups	Budget Responses	MCR Comparator
Asian/Asian British	4%	17%
Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British	3%	9%
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group	2%	5%
White	76%	67%
Other Ethnic Group	1%	3%

- 6.7 Whilst the response rates overall for the consultation don't perfectly reflect the overall diversity of the city (i.e. response rates aren't exactly in the same proportions as the proportion of residents in our communities), it is encouraging that across the 1,680 responses to the consultation all major groups in the city were reached. The demographic profile tables above demonstrate how the responses to this consultation break down.
- 6.8 As well as checking the responses for their reach across our communities, the responses to the three main questions in the survey (the 1% Social Care rise, the 1.99% Council Tax rise, and the views on our current priorities) were reviewed to understand if the views of residents differ depending on their demographic and

personal situation. Where people live; whether that is an area of high deprivation; what their age, gender, ethnicity & sexual orientation is; and if they are disabled and/or have caring responsibilities; were all looked at and compared to how they responded to the three main questions in the consultation.

- 6.9 In terms of the question “*Do you agree or disagree that we should continue to protect and invest in the priority services which residents told us matter most?*” overall 75% of all respondents agreed with this question, 11% were unsure and 11% disagreed. When this was reviewed for the groups listed above, it showed that whilst there is some slight deviation in views depending on age, ethnicity and those with caring responsibility, overall, there is a general consistency in our residents' views.
- 6.10 When considering the questions on ‘*council tax rises*’ there are however some more pronounced deviations in the views from our residents. This mainly relates to age, ethnicity, and deprivation; where young people, those from the most deprived areas, and those who are from ethnic minority groups were less likely to agree with the proposed council tax increases of 1% and 1.99% respectively. More information can be found in Appendix 2.
- 6.11 Whilst this analysis of the results helps the Council to understand the differing views on the proposals being consulted on, it can’t be assumed that this translates into a direct impact from the proposals. Therefore, it can be said with confidence that the Council knows that our communities feel differently about these proposals, but this analysis is only one part of an overall picture of perception and impact and should feed a wider programme of inclusive growth work.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the results of the consultation provided in the report.

8.0 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 Demographic analysis

Ethnicity	Budget Responses %	MCR Comparator %
Asian / Asian British		
Bangladeshi	0%	1%
Chinese	0%	3%
Indian	1%	2%

Kashmiri	0%	0%
Pakistani	2%	9%
Other Asian	1%	2%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British		
African	2%	5%
Caribbean	1%	2%
Somali	0%	0%
Other Black	0%	1%
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups		
White and Black Caribbean	0%	2%
White and Black African	1%	1%
White and Asian	1%	1%
Other Mixed	1%	1%
White		
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	63%	59%
Irish	2%	2%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0%	0%
Other White	11%	5%
Other Ethnic Group		
Any other Ethnic Group	1%	3%

8.2 Appendix 2 Demographic response analysis

8.3 On average 51% of respondents agreed with the proposal to **‘protect adult social care by increasing council tax by 1%?’**, however:

- If you review this by age, younger people are less likely to agree (i.e. 30% of 16-25s agree) compared to older people (i.e. 60% of 50-64s rising to 78% of those age over 75).
- A similar trend is evident when we look at deprivation (as defined by the ONS Index of Multiple Deprivation) where those in the most deprived areas are less likely to agree (i.e. 46% agree) than those from the least deprived areas (i.e. Over c.70% agree)

- Ethnicity is another area where the responses to this question vary. Whilst we have data for all the sub-ethnic classification groups, we need to combine these ensure the sample size isn't too small to be meaningful. Therefore, if for comparison we combine into White British (as the majority respondent group) and Non-White British (combining all other groups), then we see that 61% of White British agreed to this question, compared to only 34% of Non-White British.
- There are also some differences when we compare the views of those respondents that have and don't have Caring Responsibilities. Those with caring responsibilities were more likely to agree (57%) compare to those with no responsibilities (44%).

8.4 On average 39% of respondents agreed with the proposal to **'that we should increase council tax by further 1.99% to enable us to deliver the priorities which residents told us matter most?'**, however the responses to this question generally mirror those above:

- Younger people are less likely to support this (25% of 16-25s and 30% of 26-39s) compared to older people (43% of 50-64s, 54% of 65-74s and 72% of over 75s).
- The pattern is less linear when it comes to Deprivation, however in general those in the most deprived areas are less likely to agree (c.38% agree) compared to those in the least deprived areas (between 47-57%).
- When we look at broad differences between White British and Non-White British, we see that agreement with this proposal is 48% and 27% respectively.
- And a similar pattern exists when considering those with and without Caring Responsibilities, those with responsibilities were more like to agree (46%) compared to those without (30%).

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