



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET – 11 JANUARY 2024
Subject	2024/25 BUDGET CONSULTATION FEEDBACK
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance Email: Mike.Evemy@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer Email: david.stanley@cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer Email: david.stanley@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	This report provides feedback to Cabinet from the recent consultation on the Administration's budget proposals.
Annexes	Annex A – Responses to the survey questions 1 to 4 Annex B – Alternative views on car park charges and charging periods Annex C – Suggestions for how the council could reduce spending, raise revenue and comments on Council Priorities or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery
Recommendation/s	<i>That Cabinet note the feedback received and consider it as part of the formulation of the 2024/25 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.</i>
Corporate priorities	The Council's budget sets out the financial envelope for the Cotswold District Council Corporate Plan, which details how the Council will deliver against all of its adopted aims, priorities and principles.
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	The Council used a wide range of communications channels to share the key budget messages and highlight the consultation to as many residents, businesses and community organisations as possible, encouraging them to take part.



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Cabinet considered the *2024/25 Budget Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Update*, as a basis for consultation with the community, on 2 November 2023. This report sets out feedback from the consultation for Cabinet to consider. Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the feedback at their meeting on 08 January 2024.
- 1.2. The Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023 set out the Government's financial position at a time of significant economic challenge for the UK. The Bank of England raised interest rates over the last 12 months to mitigate the high level of inflation. Growth has been slow throughout the year with prospects for 2024/25 remaining weaker than other G7 economies.
- 1.3. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on 18 December 2023 for 2024/25. The Final Local Government Finance Settlement is expected in early February 2024 following the consultation period which closes on 15 January 2024.
- 1.4. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and 2024/25 budget will be updated with the outcome of the Local Government Finance Settlement, along with any further adjustments identified since Cabinet considered the draft position in November.
- 1.5. Cabinet will consider the 2024/25 Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy on 01 February 2024. Cabinet will recommend the 2024/24 revenue and capital budgets along with the associated Capital, Treasury Management and Non-Treasury Management Investment Strategies to the Council on 21 February 2024.

2. CONSULTATION PROCESS AND FEEDBACK

- 2.1. Consultation on the draft budget proposals ran from 03 November to 08 December 2023. The Council used a wide range of communications channels to share the key budget messages and highlight the consultation to as many residents, businesses and community organisations as possible, encouraging them to take part.

Budget Consultation Outcomes

- 2.2. The Council received 542 responses to the consultation, an increase of 153 when compared to the 2023/24 Budget Consultation (389 responses were received). Feedback to the quantitative survey questions is included at **Annex A**, views on parking from question 4 is included at **Annex B**. Comments on the Council priorities or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery is included at **Annex C**.
- 2.3. The main findings from the consultation are set out below.



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Question 1 – To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach set out below?

- 2.4.** *As well as the position for 2023/24 described in our proposals, the Council expects the Government to cut the Council's funding in future years to provide more money for Children's and Adult's social care. Our approach to the Council's finances is to safeguard our services while delivering on our priorities of doing our part to tackle the climate emergency, delivering homes local people can afford to rent and supporting our economy, all whilst attempting to balance the ongoing budget. As a minimum, that will require small increases in Council Tax (see question 3) together with setting our existing and any new fees and charges to ensure other taxpayers do not subsidise them. Where the Council does decide to subsidise some fees and charges, the reasons for this will clearly set out. It will also require the remodelling of services to reduce costs through the use of new technology and other efficiency measures.*
- 2.5.** The response was positive to this question. 45.2% agreed or strongly agreed with the Council's approach. This compares with 30.1% who disagreed or strongly disagreed and 24.7% who neither agreed nor disagreed.

Question 1	Responses	% of Total
Strongly Agree	69	13.0%
Agree	171	32.2%
Neutral	131	24.7%
Disagree	87	16.4%
Strongly disagree	73	13.7%
TOTAL	531	

Question 1	Responses	% of Total
Agreed or Strongly Agreed	240	45.2%
Neutral	131	24.7%
Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed	160	30.1%
TOTAL	531	

Question 2 – Do you agree that the Council should make the proposed change to waste and recycling services?

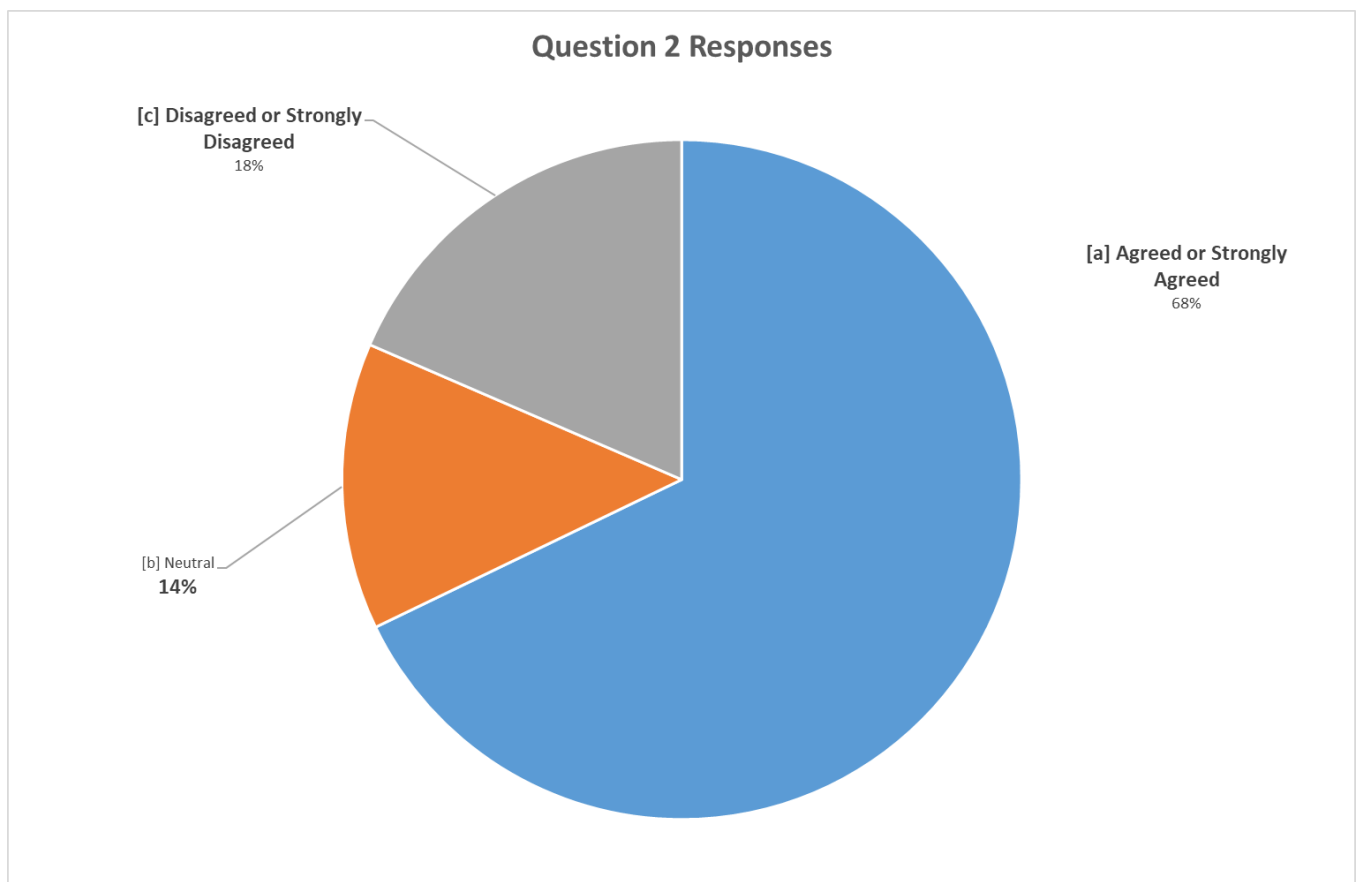
- 2.6.** *We are proposing to save £375,000 next year (£500,000 in a full year) from the cost of our waste and recycling service by changing when we collect from households by getting more from our vehicles and crews. We estimate that around 60% of households would see their collection day change with more households receiving an afternoon collection than at present. Do you agree that the Council should make this change?*



2.7. 67.9% supported the proposed changes to waste and recycling collection days. This compares with 18.5% who were not in favour of the proposal, and 13.6% who either indicated they were neutral on the proposal.

Question 2	Responses	% of Total
Strongly Agree	142	26.5%
Agree	221	41.3%
Neutral	73	13.6%
Disagree	52	9.7%
Strongly disagree	47	8.8%
TOTAL	535	

Question 2	Responses	% of Total
Agreed or Strongly Agreed	363	67.9%
Neutral	73	13.6%
Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed	99	18.5%
TOTAL	535	





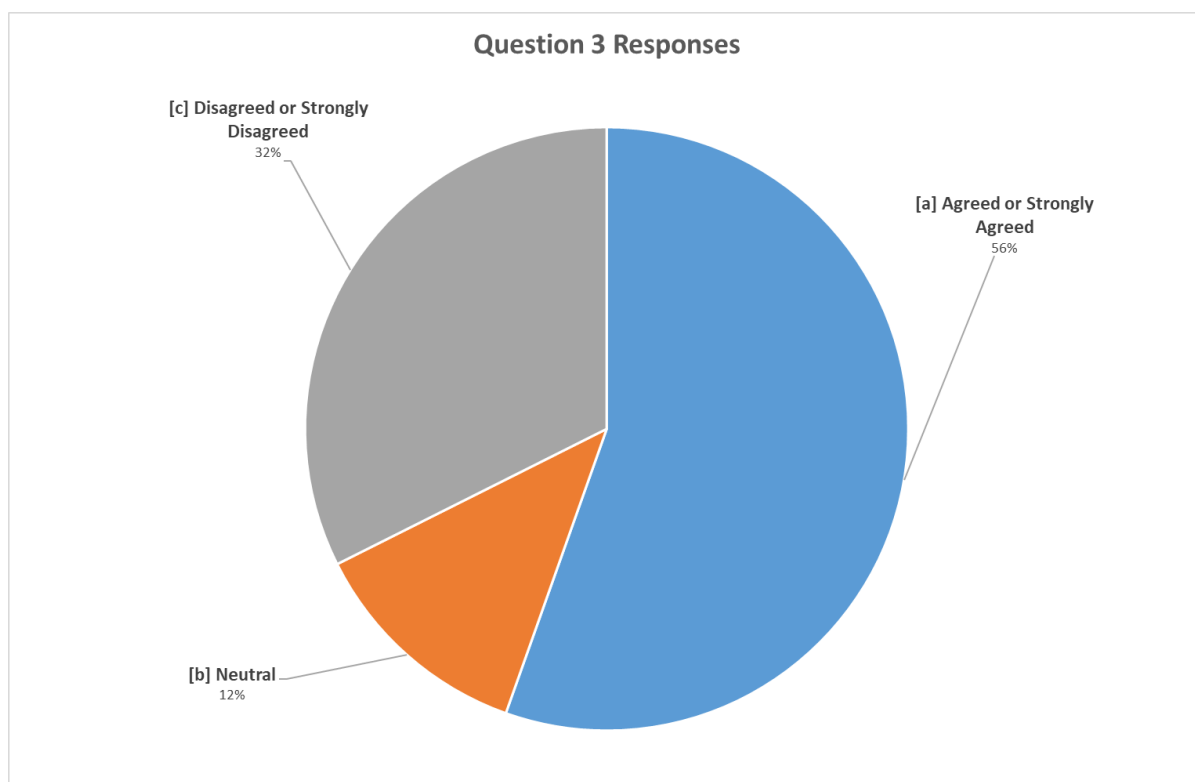
Question 3 – Do you agree with the proposed approach to increase Council tax?

2.8. *To support our priorities and help us to close our expected funding gap from the Government, we plan to increase Council Tax by 10p a week (£5 a year) for a Band D property (£3.33 for Band A up to £10 for Band G). Do you agree with this approach?*

2.9. The response to this question was supportive. 55.4% agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed Council Tax increase. 32.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed whilst 12.2% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Question 3	Responses	% of Total
Strongly Agree	121	22.7%
Agree	175	32.8%
Neutral	65	12.2%
Disagree	76	14.2%
Strongly disagree	97	18.2%
TOTAL	534	

Question 3	Responses	% of Total
Agreed or Strongly Agreed	296	55.4%
Neutral	65	12.2%
Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed	173	32.4%
TOTAL	534	



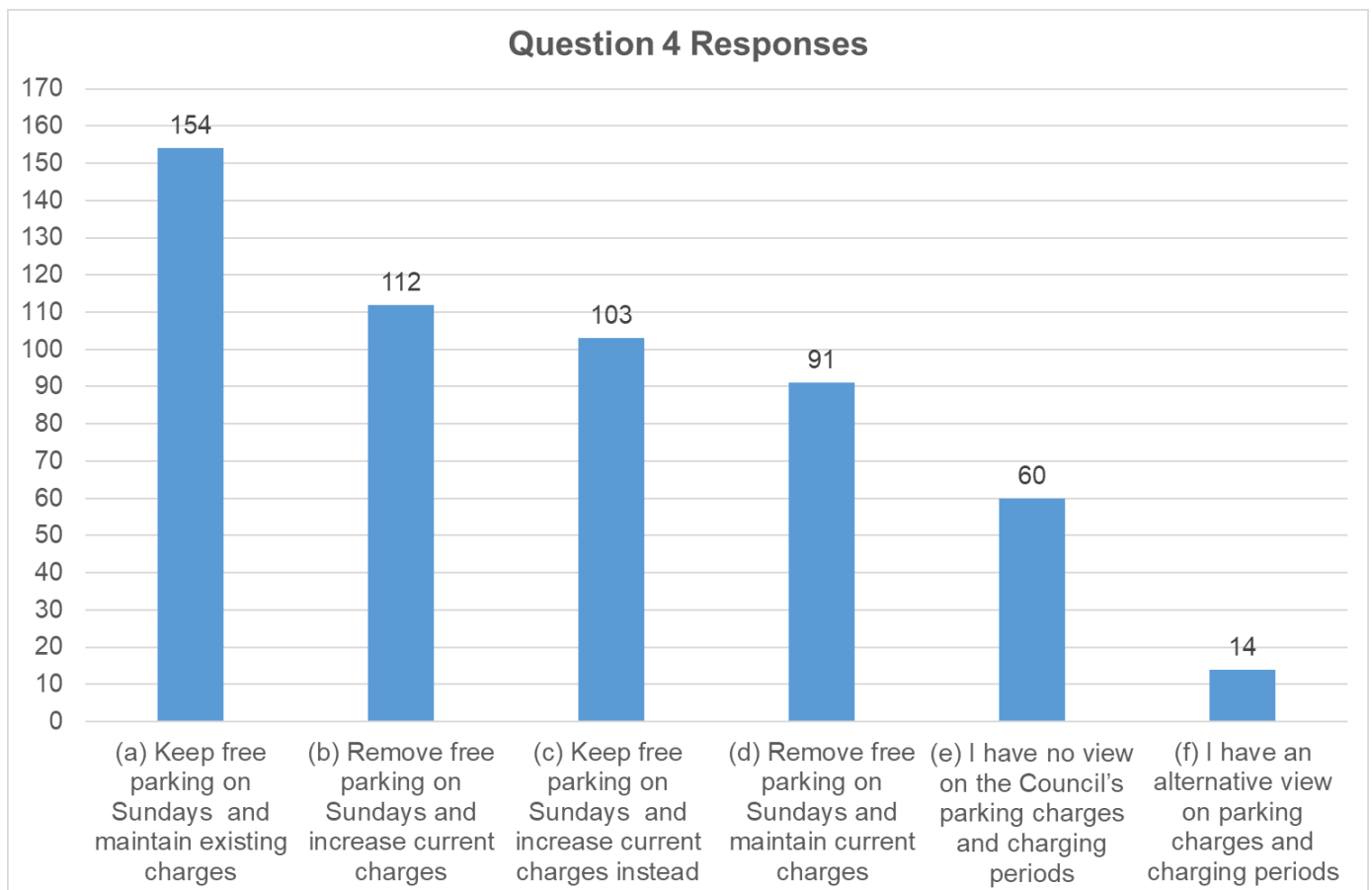


Question 4 – Tell us your view about potential changes to parking charges by selecting one of the statements below

In our budget consultation last year we asked residents about changes to charges and charging periods in our car parks but decided to leave them unchanged to help residents, visitors and businesses during the cost of living crisis. The financial pressures on the Council mean we believe we cannot afford for them to remain the same three years in a row. In the two years since we last increased our parking fees consumer prices have risen by 17%. We are therefore proposing to increase our parking charges by 15% in April 2024 which we estimate would raise an additional £375,000 a year. We have also identified that we could raise £100,000 by extending charging on Sundays to all our car parks (currently we charge only in Bourton-on-the-Water and Stow-on-the-Wold).

Could you tell us your view about potential changes to parking charges by selecting one of these statements:

2.10. 38.0% supported the removal of free parking on Sundays. This compares with 48.1% who indicated that the Council should keep free parking on Sundays, and 13.9% who either indicated they had no view or provided an alternative view on parking.





- 2.11. An element of the question also asked for views on the current charges and whether they should be increased or remain the same. 45.9% of respondents wanted no change to the current car park charges (Answers a + d) with 40.3% of respondents supporting an increase in charges (Answers b + c) change.

Question 4	Responses	% of Total
(a) Keep free parking on Sundays and maintain existing charges	154	28.8%
(b) Remove free parking on Sundays and increase current charges	112	21.0%
(c) Keep free parking on Sundays and increase current charges instead	103	19.3%
(d) Remove free parking on Sundays and maintain current charges	91	17.0%
(e) I have no view on the Council's parking charges and charging periods	60	11.2%
(f) I have an alternative view on parking charges and charging periods	14	2.6%
TOTAL	534	

Question 4	Responses	% of Total
[b + d] Remove free parking on Sundays	203	38.0%
[a + c] Keep free parking on Sundays	257	48.1%
[e + f] No view or an alternative view given	74	13.9%
TOTAL	534	

Question 4	Responses	% of Total
[b +c] Increase current charges	215	40.3%
[a + d] Keep current charges the same	245	45.9%
[e + f] No view or an alternative view given	74	13.9%
TOTAL	534	

- 2.12. There were 124 comments made on alternative views for car park charges and charging periods and these are shown in **Annex B**.

Question 5

Are there any other comments you would like to make on the Council's priorities or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery? Respondents were provided with a text box to make comments.

- 2.13. There were 225 comments made against question 5 and these are shown in **Annex C**.



3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1.** There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any changes to the 2024/25 budget arising from consideration of the consultation feedback will be included in the report to Cabinet on 01 February 2024.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1.** There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.** A detailed risk assessment will form part of the Cabinet report in February 2024 regarding the 2024/25 budget proposals, and the revenue and capital budgets.

6. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1.** There are no direct climate or ecological implications arising from this report. The budget proposals are related to the Council priorities which include the climate and ecological emergency declarations.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 7.1.** This report provides the Cabinet with the opportunity to consider amendments to the budget proposals for 2024/25 or longer term in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Any changes to the 2024/25 budget arising from consideration of the consultation feedback will be included in the report to Cabinet on 01 February 2024.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

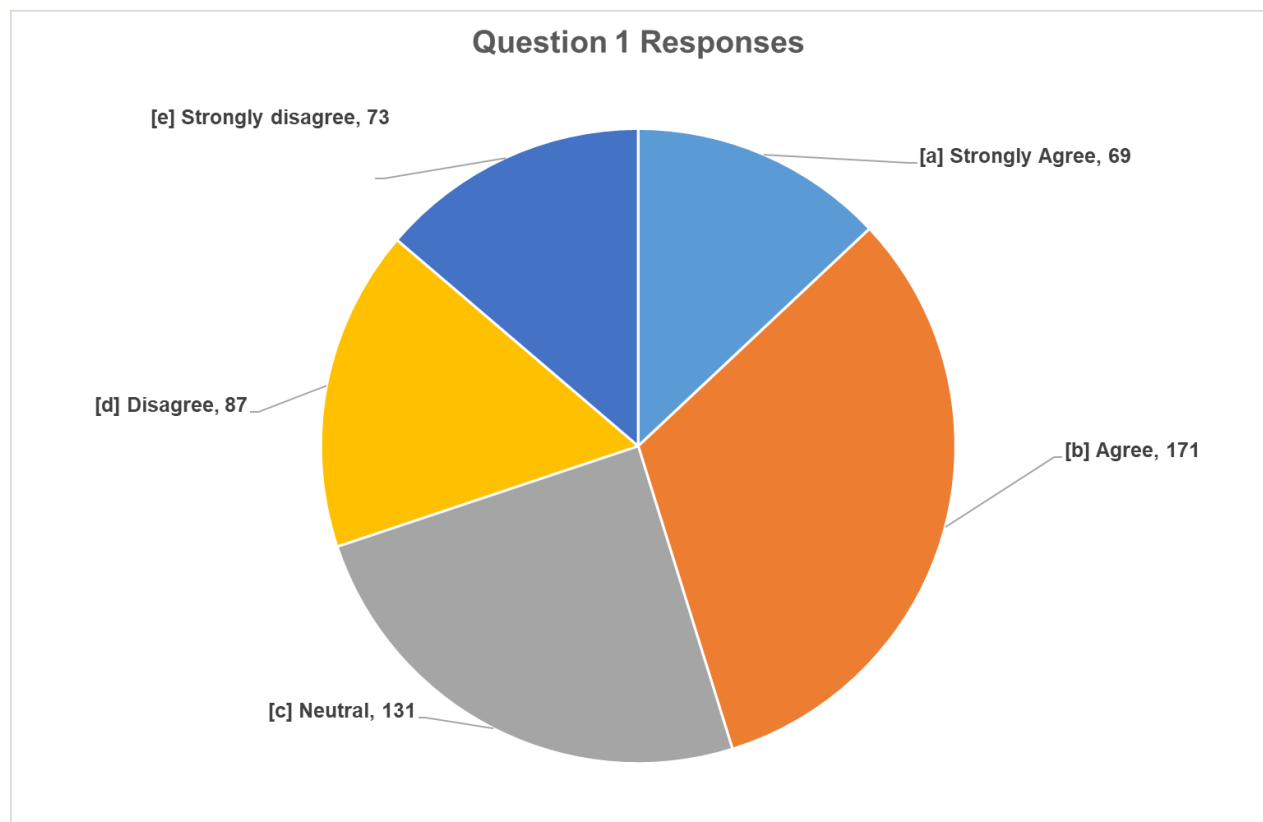
- 8.1.** None



ANNEX A

Question 1 – To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach set out below?

As well as the position for 2023/24 described in our proposals, the Council expects the Government to cut the Council's funding in future years to provide more money for Children's and Adult's social care. Our approach to the Council's finances is to safeguard our services while delivering on our priorities of doing our part to tackle the climate emergency, delivering homes local people can afford to rent and supporting our economy, all whilst attempting to balance the ongoing budget. As a minimum, that will require small increases in Council Tax (see question 3) together with setting our existing and any new fees and charges to ensure other taxpayers do not subsidise them. Where the Council does decide to subsidise some fees and charges, the reasons for this will clearly set out. It will also require the remodelling of services to reduce costs through the use of new technology and other efficiency measures.

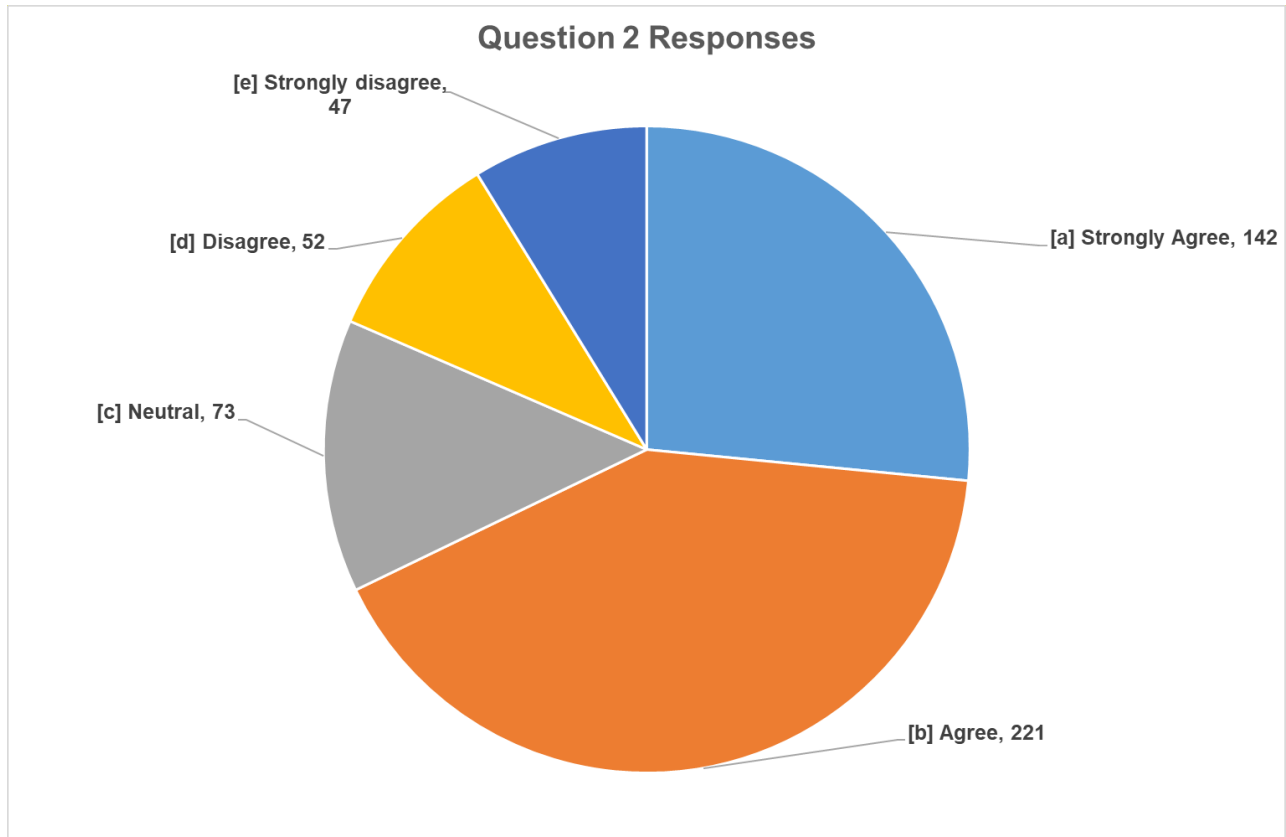


Question 2 – Do you agree that the Council should make the proposed change to waste and recycling services?

We are proposing to save £375,000 next year (£500,000 in a full year) from the cost of our waste and recycling service by changing when we collect from households by getting more from our vehicles and crews. We estimate that around 60% of households would see their collection day change with more households receiving an afternoon collection than at present. Do you agree that the Council should make this change?



ANNEX A

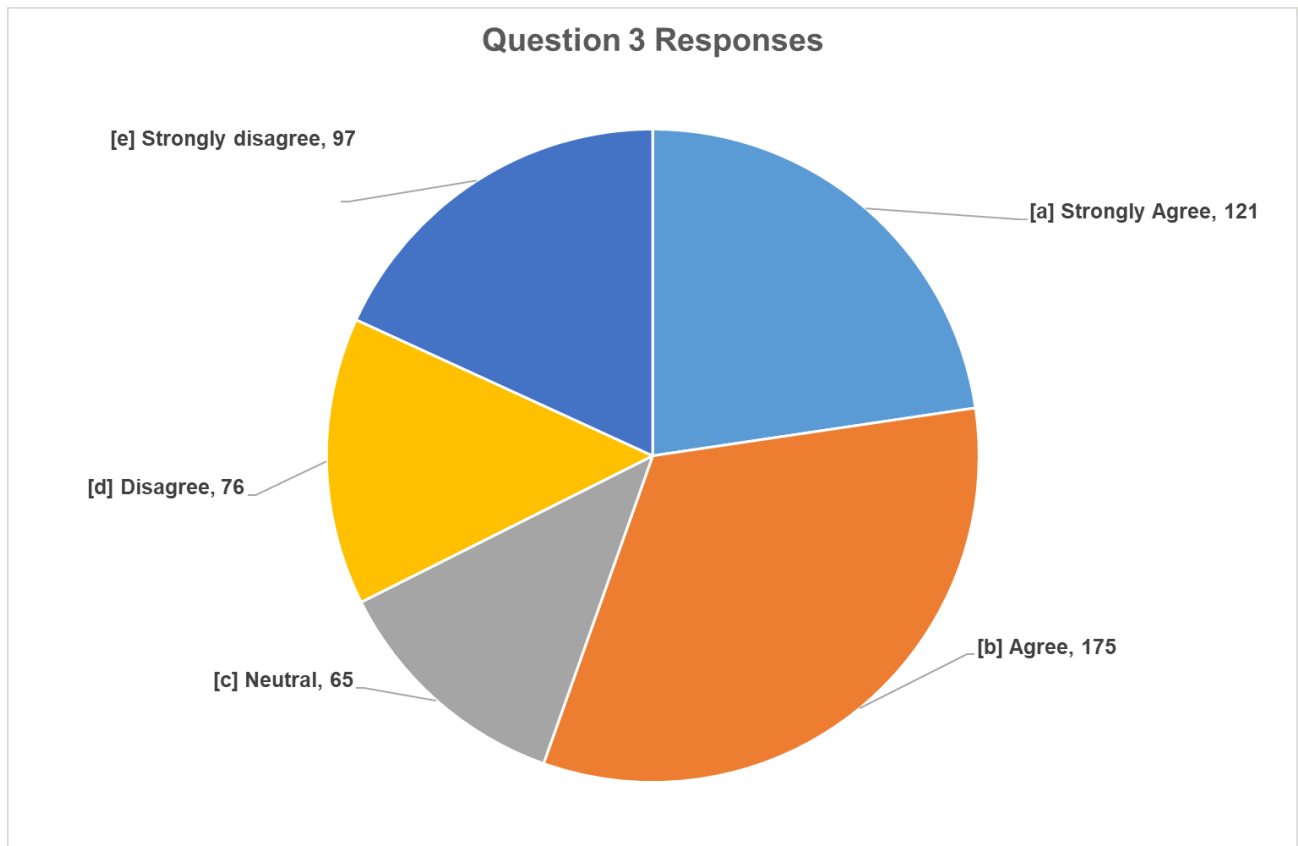


Question 3 – Do you agree with the proposed approach to increase Council tax?

To support our priorities and help us to close our expected funding gap from the Government, we plan to increase Council Tax by 10p a week (£5 a year) for a Band D property (£3.33 for Band A up to £10 for Band G). Do you agree with this approach?



ANNEX A



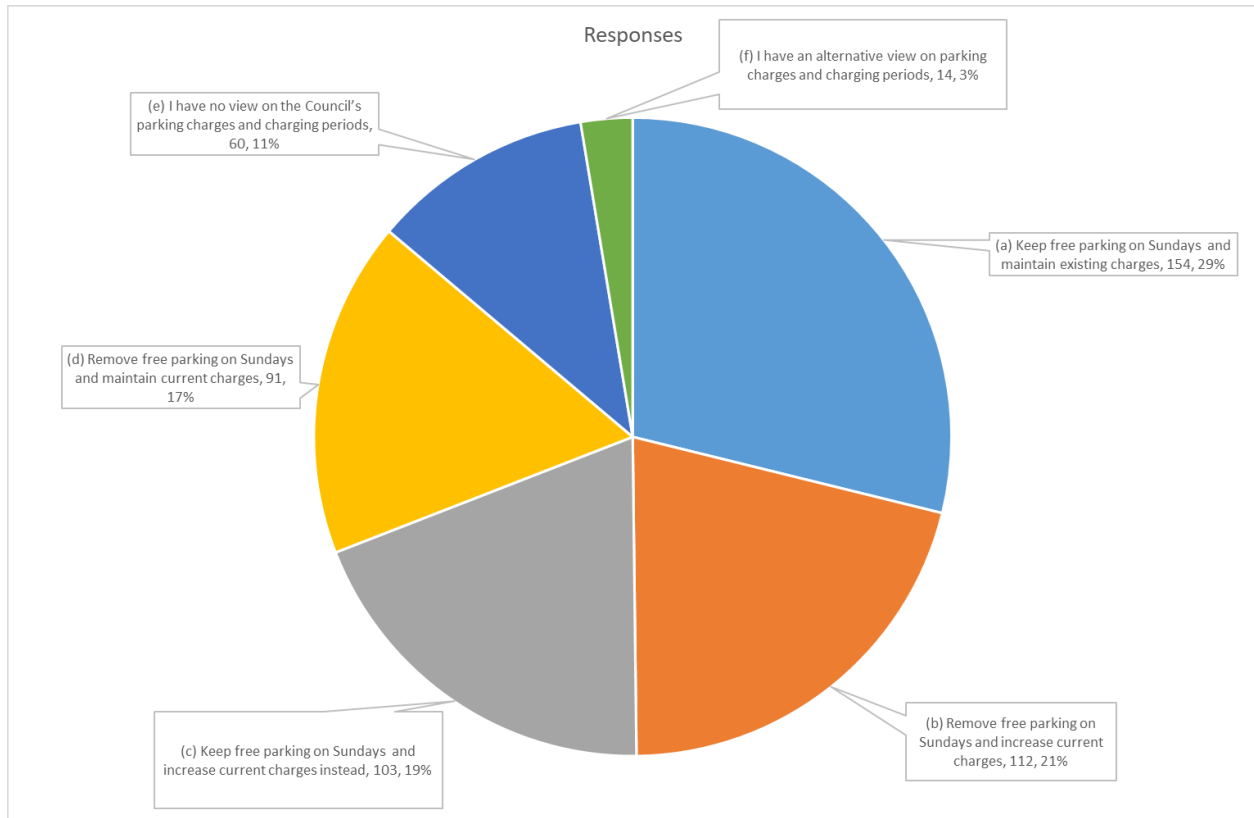
Question 4 – Tell us your view about potential changes to parking charges by selecting one of the statements below

In our budget consultation last year we asked residents about changes to charges and charging periods in our car parks but decided to leave them unchanged to help residents, visitors and businesses during the cost of living crisis. The financial pressures on the Council mean we believe we cannot afford for them to remain the same three years in a row. In the two years since we last increased our parking fees consumer prices have risen by 17%. We are therefore proposing to increase our parking charges by 15% in April 2024 which we estimate would raise an additional £375,000 a year. We have also identified that we could raise £100,000 by extending charging on Sundays to all our car parks (currently we charge only in Bourton-on-the-Water and Stow-on-the-Wold).

Could you tell us your view about potential changes to parking charges by selecting one of these statements:



ANNEX A



ANNEX B

This Annex shows the verbatim statements as written without any alteration or correction other than redactions to remove officer job titles or planning application references

Q4. Alternative views on parking charges and charging periods

Coach parking must be provided in Bourton by CDC to avoid major road safety and traffic flow issues in 2024.

Let the towns look after parking and managing

Parking is already expensive and the new machines painfully slow. If it gets any worse, people will stop coming in to the centre of town.

You have to keep free parking allocation to keep people coming to town/village centres which are already struggling. Further and higher charging is an easy option but short sighted in my view.

Free parking for all

the charges shouldn't be too high to encourage visitors to the town

The town of Cirencester is already like a ghost town. Raising parking charges will do business in the town no good at all.

Cash is legal tender, we should all be allowed to use it. I never go into town now, as refuse to be told i have to be cashless. Terrible for old folk, they cant cope with phone payments etc. We should have machines that take all payments.

I believe that an increase in charges is inevitable given the financial position of Local Government. My view would be that overnight parking should be chargeable, and Sunday parking could be kept in place or charged at a reduced rate. I also think tourist areas should see differing fees given that they are in areas with high footfall such as Bourton-on-the Water and Stow. There also needs to be a greater use of technology such as ANPR cameras and barriers to ensure that fees are being charged more accurately, rather than for example, paying for 2 hours and only using an 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Put up charges bur Reinstate free parking after 3.00 O'clock Mon to Sat and free parking on Sun

Start charging for anything longer than 1 hour on lay-bys along Cirencester to Cheltenham bypass - £100 per stay for lorries beyond one hour - that will help fund clearing up their mess

I am not happy at the withdrawal of the payment by cash option at parking machines.

If charges are to be made on a Sunday, they should only apply to a few central car parks.

Charge more for coach parking across the whole of the Cotswolds

You seriously need to bring back at least one cash meter, the town is losing so much revenue as so many people don't know how the card system works...I personally wouldn't use a card to pay for something as minimal as parking. I'd do what the majority of other's do, either travel to a town with cash meters or go to one of the towns with free parking.

there. should be a one hour. free parking ie for residents to shop and long term over one hour should be charged in all car parks

Permanently free parking to encourage shopping in local shops. The loss of revenue should be recovered from business rates.

Charging for parking does not help the high street. People will simply buy online.

Stop vanity projects and concentrate on delivering basic services to all. Garde Waste collection charges are way to high compared with surrounding areas and will encourage fly tipping, not very green policy if you need to drive long distances to Fosse Crossvf

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Q4. Alternative views on parking charges and charging periods

Locals parking badge for residents in tourist places like Bourton on the water. The extra money raised in the village by tourist should pay for households who pay council tax get a badge. Each household can apply for a free badge. To encourage locals to shop locally I'll year around

I think parking should be free - Cirencester Town is dying, increase the fee will drive people away from the town and thus reduce income, if Witney can do it why not Cirencester?

More free parking to increase footfall in town centres town centre is now dead need more customers not empty car parks

My view on keeping Sundays free of charge would help families and customers using the car parks to be able to enjoy a day out without the extra cost of parking.

Charge for Sunday parking but free for first hour. Keep cash and card payments as this will encourage more people to use the car parks, and why not pay on exit so you pay for what you actually use.

A rural bus scheme would help reduce car use and mobilise our ageing populace

Increase charges but Reintroduce 30min charge or more 20 min free bays and Let parish select 10 free parking days a year for events.

There should be free 1-2 hour parking to encourage more visitors / shoppers into our towns

Putting up car parking charges will result in towns becoming even more empty resulting in fewer businesses paying business rates. Why would I pay extra to park when I can go to an out of town shopping area and park for free.

Free after 3 was better for local people than free on Sunday which is largely restaurant goers. It would be good to give local people a number of free parking hours a year. This would soften the Blue ofcrased charges and make people think about whether they need to drive.

Taxing shoppers is a deterrent to footfall driving shoppers out of the town and to out of town centres or Witney.

Increase parking in line with inflation %. But, introduce a max 50p first 1/2hr. Keep after 6pm free. Introduce a reduced flat rate all day £3 Sunday charge.

Further increases on car parks will mean fewer people using them and going and parking elsewhere. We already pay for council services and this is making us pay again. No increases.

Parking should only be used to cover the cost of providing the parking itself and not as a revenue stream or redistribution mechanism

Introducing Sunday charging and increasing charges at other times will reduce footfall to the towns, ultimately resulting in those businesses paying less tax (or none at all), employing fewer people (and paying less tax) and damaging the reputation of the Cotswolds.

Could technology, cameras perhaps, increase revenues and compliance?

Increase car park charges for visitors whilst freezing residents parking fees

Increasing parking charges discourages visits to town centres and use of local businesses. Town centres would attract more visitors (and use of local businesses) if parking charges were reduced.

Charge the same on Sunday as for overnight parking. Other days increase 10%, but from 11am to 2pm double the staytime. This would encourage lunchtime shopping and dining, but not increase stay times across the board..

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Q4. Alternative views on parking charges and charging periods

a few 15 mins parking bays in each area for locals residents might help

It is ready far too expensive for regular visits to town. You are frightening away the visitors already. If you charge for parking on Sundays the town will die

Keep rates the same but Introduce 24hr charging in certain car parks. For example, Cirencester Market Place. Extend maximum parking durations in car parks - if someone is willing to pay why limit their stay? If parking fees must increase 30mins free should be enabled in all car parks.

Free on Sundays and free after 3PM

Do a Witney, help businesses by having free parking but time limited. Its our land

Any increase in charges will further reduce the footfall in local businesses - keep charges unchanged.

You have already killed towns and villages with parking charges. So you have ghost town with businesses going bankrupt and everyone drives to the trading estates, with free parking!

The car parks are always full since Covid, so raising charges will assist supply

Charge in all car parks across the Cotswolds evenly - some car parks are still fee free support working taxpayer and working families

Witney provides free parking and is booming. This should be looked at - it might encourage shoppers in who otherwise might not come to Cirencester and spend more money, growing the economy.

1st hour should be free to encourage shoppers, then a lower hourly charge, Sundays should be free

Decrease car parking charges to encourage greater use by visitors to the town and therefore increase businesses and the viability of the town. You are killing the town and therefore your income. The

A more rigorous checking of parking and targeting those who don't pay, run over their time etc could bring in additional money.

Keep free Sundays and increase weekday charges

Remove Sunday parking, but increase charges by 7% rather than 15%

If you fill all the shops cut rates for local people to run shops make the centre of Cirencester a car free zone take away them stupid so called paths that people keep falling over then fill the area with market stalls three times a week the parking along by the black horse for disabled think of ten or more market stalls and lots more shops you will take the money in and keep parking charges the same

Reduced prices more free parking to increase town centre use

Don't charge on a Sunday, it will just push cars onto the surrounding streets. What about a discount scheme for residents for Mon to Sat parking. It works in Scarborough district. They also don't charge anyone from 30 Sept to 31 March and the car parks were busy and the various towns packed even on a wet No day.

So little parking is available that short term parking costs (2-3 hours) should be minimised but those needing long term in car parks should pay more. Priority should be given to shoppers to help rejuvenate the town commerce.

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Q4. Alternative views on parking charges and charging periods

Our town seems to be thriving again increasing parking charges will damage the viability of the town.

You want to encourage people to the Cotswolds, not push them to use side roads, housing estates and obstruct residents from parking! Witney still offers free parking, thus encouraging us to visit the town for shopping!!

Freeze parking charges as now. Reintroduce "free after three" to support local businesses. Pay for these changes by increasing the capacity of car parks (removing pedestrian walkways), and making general cost savings in council activities.

Parking is already expensive and will deter even more people coming into town if it is increased further. I already think twice about coming into town and paying for parking.

new meters installed that measure the time that we are in car park and pay only for time used on exit from parks

Parking up to 1Hr should be free to encourage local people to support their high streets. Car park fees outside this time should be increased with inflation including Sundays.

I'd agree with the increase in charges but local shopping need encouraging as much as possible due to the shift to online shopping. Increasing charges will not help with this.

As there are more visitors to Cirencester, especially in the summer, would it be possible to have some car parks which are cheaper for residents

I've always felt it was very cheap to park in our car parks and if you know the money is going towards ensuring our council can support its residents and deliver services, then it seems like a no brainer to raise money this way!

keep the charges the same and save money by not spending on pandering cyclists with priority schemes

we should protect the local economy from parking increases, if you drive people out of the TC to shop in retail parks businesses will close reducing your other revenue streams so it would be a short sighted step

The council should be encouraging people to use the shops in Central Cirencester as the town centre has taken a huge hit recently especially with Tesco closing and other shops as well. You have done away with the popular free after 3pm please do not treat people like cash cows raising the car parking fees and taking away free Sunday parking. Take a leaf out of West Oxfordshire DC with their free parking at Witney

Witney gives free parking...period! Town is thriving while most towns are becoming ghost town. I no longer shop in Ciren. Forcing people to pay by card is outrageous. Give people who pay their taxes (& your wages)the choice.

I think you are a bunch of robbing *****

The free parking after 3pm meant that local shops were used. Now residents are pushed out to large shopping centres that offer free parking. It's had a huge impact on families and businesses alike and I'd love to see where the money made in those three hours if charging has been spent. You're trying to help families and businesses but have done the opposite.

Although you say you kept car parking the same, you actually removed the successful free after 3. This has seen a reduced footfall into the town centre, playing your part toward killing off a vibrant town centre. If you continue to over charge, then there won't be much of a town centre left to visit meaning you will not increase your income anyway.

ANNEX B

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Q4. Alternative views on parking charges and charging periods
Free on Sundays and bring back free after three to support local businesses!
I will simply go elsewhere and spend my money with other businesses, driving customers away helps no one
Rarely park in Cirencester
High parking fees put people off visiting Cirencester. Keep them low.
You should leave parking charges and free Sundays as they are. You shouldn't be charging residents the amount you're short. Everyone has difficult decisions to make.
Double the charges in the Rissington Road car park in Bourton-on-the-water
I believe free parking on Sundays should be kept, Free after Three should be reintroduced and parking charges frozen or cut.
Unless I can find free parking I rarely stop in my town. I buy on line instead. Look at the number of empty shops and ask why? High rates/taxes and inconvenience.
free parking at all times
We need to encourage visitors not discourage!
Increase the business rates of the supermarkets and out of town outlets to cover the difference. Increasing the parking charges will kill the shops in the town centre which is already moribund.
An introduction of free or very low/token parking will encourage many more visitors and retail customers, the council should then be collecting additional tax from businesses, proportional to the increased revenue brought in by the scheme
Councils should sell off all car parks, use the income to rebate council tax and business rates and let commercial operators set their own pricing.
Parking is already expensive and the town needs to be accessible to all households.
all town parking should be free
There needs to be an Increase in business Rates on Out of Town Retail and the increased Rate Income used to subsidise In Town Parking Income , Likewise CIL Payments should be applied from Bathurst and Residential and Commercial New Developments within CDC with no exemptiond
Please re-introduce the free parking after 3pm
Free on Sunday and return of free after 3pm
Parking charges deter visitors and shopping. Be careful.
Increase out of town hyper market business rates to offset parking costs to support small shops in town.
All residential areas of Bourton-on-the-Water should have double yellow lines to dissuade tourists from parking for free here which reduces council parking revenues
Increase the parking charges on all days but not for registered businesses and residents.
Council tax here in the Cotswolds are already higher than most councils I feel it's unfair to expect residents who haven't no means of increasing their income to fund rising costs in fact I would support reduced council for pensioners
Each car park should have at least one coin machine for the elderly, tourists, and the technology disabled

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Q4. Alternative views on parking charges and charging periods
Make use of the car park on the Whiteway near the rugby club for normal public use (not season tickets)
Keep free parking for locals and charge people from outside area
Pay cuts/ freezes at the exec level to fund the service cost gap
Parking should be free as it would encourage more people into Cirencester. It's free in Witney!
witney thrives as a shopping destination because of plenty of free parking
Offer more spaces per car park for 30 or 60 mins free, for people to pick up, drop off and do single errands. It will help keep the town retail units commercially viable and you will collect more in rates. Offer small number of spaces for 3+ hrs at much higher premium. Rich people will pay for the convenience.
I can't get a blue badge as my husband has Alzheimers classed as hidden disability so parking charges anytime are major cost for me.
charge blue badge users a flat fee for use of car parks; car parking has already gone up a lot; i would remove free parking rather than increase fees everywher. people will shop in out of town centres more and more as parking is free.
20 minutes free parking would be handy to encourage local business usage - but I would not expect all day free parking
Allow coaches to Park in Rissington road car park at £20 a coach x 4000 coaches per anum will give an easy £80,000 for council coffers, easy money and good to support local business and clear the roads for local residents,
Parking in towns should be free of charge to support business and to encourage more spending on the high streets. Parking charges elsewhere should be charged at an appropriate and reasonable cost, also supporting businesses that rely upon visitors to the region and the local community to boost the economy.
Car parking fees should be reduced in price to ensure that the town centres survive. I currently live in CDC area and currently shop in Cirencester due to the parking fees being less than Cheltenham, if Cirencester car parks have an increase I charges I will go to the retail parks in Cheltenham
Increase free parking options for the first hour or 2 to encourage residents and tourists to depend money in local businesses thus increasing local business income keeping our towns and villages vibrant.
To encourage sustainable transport, parking charges should increase.
Raise council tax by more. Keep parking charges as they are and reintroduce cash payment options
Should be free every where
Parking charges stay the same, charge local businesses/clongonmariants to advertise their businesses
I think free parking on Sunday should be kept, raise prices by 15% (if absolutely necessary) but restore "free after three" for price-sensitive customers and to increase footfall in the town.
Parking charges is prominent way to improve the budget and should be utilized gracefully.

ANNEX B

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Q4. Alternative views on parking charges and charging periods

Increased charges weekday and weekend but have free after 3pm

As an independent trader in Cirencester I am reluctant to see any increase in parking charges as it discourages locals from supporting their local high street and drives them to shop in out-of-town superstores.

Should be left as they are, I don't shop in Cirencester as the cost of parking is awful.

It would be a mistake to charge for parking on Sundays as this would warrant more traffic wardens working unsociable hours - which would reduce the income.

Increase charges but look at other areas like evening and overnight parking through technology use.

I try not to park in CDC car parks as it costs more than parking in seaside towns like Newquay Poole etc

I think the free parking in the Council's car parks on Sundays should be kept and should be extended to the other days of the week.

ANNEX C

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Q5. Are there any other comments you would like to make on the Council's priorities, its finances or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery?
Yes be ruthless in cutting paid councillors and extra for each meeting they chair or vice chair.
We no longer go into town to shop due to excessive car parking charges. This harms local businesses and forces us to use the supermarkets and Amazon deliveries rather than local suppliers who are put out of business and give much needed competition to huge companies that make billions of profits but pay no tax.
Support for social housing is desperately needed
I think everyone realises that money is tight, but the council continues to spend money on things not needed. The updated road signs were not a good use of funds. Also, I know that the civil servants that work at trinity road are furious that more money was spent on councillors office refurb a few years after they were already done.
Freeze salaries. Stop spending money on vanity projects (new street signs).
Freeze elected members remuneration for the next 2 years
Change residual waste collections to three weekly - look at Wales
Make Cirencester great again
Please stop spending money on the 'Green' agenda and 'woke' issues. As a point of policy, reduce all non-front line staffing by a third and manage people properly as though they were in the private sector. Stop telling me how wonderfully you are doing - I can judge for myself. Start planning to amalgamate district and county councils - we do not need both. Abolish town councils - Moreton Town council is completely useless and yet the district council continues to support it. Realise that there is a whole bunch of folk who are fed up with CDC prioritising everything to Cirencester to the detriment of everywhere else. Become non political - politicians are worse than estate agents and local politicians are the worst.
Maybe not collect the green garden waste bin over the winter period eg. November to February
I would rather pay more council tax and leave the parking charges unchanged as it is important to keep town centres vibrant and support small businesses (I do not own or have any connection to a small business).
Sell the Trinity Road office's with so many of your staff still working from home 3.5 years after the pandemic.
Bin collection workers, waste a lot of councils money, bags go missing, bins get chucked about, so people have to keep getting new. Rubbish left on floor, some none collections. We pay for a service, we should receive a decent service.
There needs to be key consideration given to the service delivery models that the Council uses. The recent publication of the Publica Review may make residents wonder whether these changes will deliver value for money. The savings outlined in the Budget papers for Cabinet show savings from 'Future Publica', and yet the proposals agreed at 2 November Cabinet indicate that these savings are put into question if the majority of services are removed. These implications have not been spelled out fully as yet. Whilst fees and charges can be hiked and will need to be done, there has to be tightening up of the priorities to ensure that key services are provided for. I would also say the excellent work of Counter Fraud teams needs to be supported to ensure money is not lost from the Council. The other proposal I would like to see is another Climate Bond initiative or even a Community Recovery Bond which would help provide long term capital to the Council to help regenerate areas and invest in communities.

ANNEX C

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Q5. Are there any other comments you would like to make on the Council's priorities, its finances or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery?
Build council houses (where there is public transport).
I only agree with the changes to the waste service if the service is going to work. It is no longer uncommon for rounds to be left incomplete now and I would worry that afternoon collecting would only make this worse. Parking charges for the small amount of shops in town should not increase it is already expensive for what there is to offer.
Cut the watched wage bill for top council officers, it's obscene
You waste my money by your inefficiencies
Get rid of the stupid booking slots for the fosse way tip / the town council tip in Cheltenham does not do this anymore.
I can't understand why it was so necessary to redecorate/refit the council offices
Practise 'good housekeeping' throughout offices to cut costs.
In light of the current proposed increases to costs for residents, it would be remiss of the councillors to receive any increase in pay that is in excess of what stated inflation is
As a resident I'm very concerned about how this council is managing our money - you must learn to manage budgets adequately, rather than continually waste money on vanity projects please (road signs, office furniture, consultancy fees etc)
Please prioritise the environment to protect our future
I think the priority areas for spend are: environment and health/mental health community support services
Still on parking...why not get a pay as you leave system, so you only actually pay for the amount of time you have stayed....payable obviously by cash or card .
is cleaning roads a necessary expenditure?
I don't understand the logic of saying that consumer price increases of 17% justify CDC raising its parking charges by 15% - that would only exacerbate the problem.
Stop funding EV charging projects , Council Comics with Joe Harris on the cover . Fire the climate change manager , reduce the number of councillors and stop pet Lib Dem political projects
Council is wrong to prioritise 'climate emergency' over other factors
Support for pensioners who do are not eligible for pension credit but who struggle financially. High council tax valuation compared with neighbours who have carried out extensions etc in recent years
I have written many t8mes about holiday homes using black wheelie bins. You tell us that they are a business and shouldn't use but do nothing about it. They are businesses and don't pay council tax but use bins. Top holiday homes produce a lot of rubbish. Either remove their bins and they use a commercial firm. Or charge them for a bin licence like our garden waste. I'm charged £57 for green bin. I agree why should people without a garden have to pay for my garden rubbish bin collection. So why should I pay for holiday homes to have their rubbish collected. Especially when lots of these houses are owned by foreign investors or businesses. As much as you have promised to change this to make it right nothing gets done. So local people who are not as well off pay for wealthy holiday home owners
Have council overheads been cut rather than ask residents to pay more. Any private business would not have this luxury. Waste collection and ability to park are surely basics functions to any council. Festivals are not nor are new street signs.

ANNEX C

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You are a profligate council and have no clue as to what effect each change has on peoples perception of competency. Reduce your salaries, get rid of non-essential jobs. As for bin collections you cannot even guarantee the current collection schedule!

No public money should be spent on private property like for example, Resdale Hall.

If garden waste charge are increased more people will put garden waste in normal waste bins and have free collections and the landfill taxes will increase

I believe that more funding should be allocated to the Planning Department which is allowing the Cotswolds to becoming over developed with suburban style properties. We need more experienced Planning staff and greater CIL being charged to developers.

This has to be the worse questionnaire I have ever seen. Who do they expect to complete it with any real insight, and what value to they expect the results to have. Seriously, they should have asked someone with a clue to put this together if they want the actual opion of the community. I asked Chat GPT to have a look and analyse it. This is what it came up with ... so CDC, maybe take a look and redraft this.

_____ This questionnaire appears to have several issues that can make it ineffectual:

- Lack of Clarity and Conciseness:** The introductory text in each section is somewhat lengthy and may confuse respondents. It's important to keep the language clear, concise, and easy to understand.
- No Explanation of Terms:** The questionnaire introduces terms such as "Band D property," but it doesn't explain what they mean. This could lead to confusion for respondents who are not familiar with these terms.
- Too Many Optional Questions:** Labeling questions as "optional" may reduce response rates as respondents might skip some questions, potentially missing out on critical information.
- Leading Questions:** The questions in this survey may be considered leading because they include justifications for certain actions, which can influence respondents' answers.
- Limited Response Options:** While the questionnaire uses a Likert scale for some questions, it doesn't provide an option for respondents to indicate if they are undecided or don't have enough information to answer. This omission could bias the results.
- Lack of Neutral or Middle Ground:** In some questions, there's no "Neutral" or "Don't Know" option. A neutral option is essential for respondents who do not hold strong opinions on the topic.
- Limited Context:** The questions are presented without extensive background information, which can make it challenging for respondents to provide informed and meaningful answers.
- Lack of Probing Questions:** Probing questions that aim to understand the reasoning behind respondents' choices are missing. These can provide more in-depth insights.
- Complex Sentences:** The sentences are somewhat lengthy and contain multiple clauses, which can lead to cognitive load and reduce comprehension.
- Open-Ended Questions:** While the questionnaire includes one open-ended question, it's placed at the end and may not encourage respondents to provide additional comments.

To improve the questionnaire's effectiveness, consider the following changes: Simplify the introductory text and provide clear definitions of any terms or concepts used. Eliminate the "optional" labels for questions to encourage respondents to answer all questions. Avoid leading language and present questions in a more neutral and balanced manner. Add a "Neutral" or "Don't Know" option to response choices where appropriate. Provide more context for each question to help respondents understand the implications of their choices. Include probing questions to understand the reasoning behind respondents' answers. Shorten and simplify sentences for improved readability. Consider reordering questions to create a logical flow. Encourage feedback

ANNEX C

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Q5. Are there any other comments you would like to make on the Council's priorities, its finances or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery?

and comments after each question, rather than having a single open-ended question at the end. These changes can help make the questionnaire more effective in collecting valuable and unbiased data.

I Disagree with the small increase at question 3 as the amount is negligible to households (£5 per year). Although few individuals enjoy paying Council Tax, surely a larger increase is warranted, given how difficult the ongoing funding of Public Services will be, as described in your proposals.

Use AI to reduce costs.

Please consider the support for disabled people. The cost of living increases have impacted disabled people hugely

Money has been wasted on new street signs in Cirencester, some streets still have the old ones. Redundancy payments made to staff who were unable to do their jobs properly, why were they not given warnings. According to the Standard 22 brand new gritters have been purchased this year! At what cost?

Keep customer service phone lines open all day. Use media channels to direct people to correct services/ authorities.

Having one container for all recycling reduces collection costs, improves recycling rates and is more efficient. This was shown in the last recycling consultation options paper. Why is this not being considered? Why are there no questions about garden waste charges? Combined with service reductions the cost has more than doubled in the past four years and further increases are unjustified, unreasonable and unsustainable (as you will lose more customers and increase the operating loss of the service.

If the situation is so bad financially, why did you waste money changing road signs unnecessarily in the past few years? Where else have you wasted money on fripperies?

Qualify spending an extortionate sum on decorating Joe Harris office

Council should merge with county council to save costs and simplify things

Like all Council Tax payers you should only spend the money you have and prioritise where you spend that accordingly. There should definitely be no Council Tax rises above the CPI rate as an absolute maximum.

You can't keep raising taxes.

There is no 'climate emergency'. It's not the council (or central government's) responsibility to 'deliver' things - just maintain the ground rules by which we all play and then get out of the way.

The council has to continue to plan for the climate emergency, so try to introduce measures to cut motor vehicle use. The current council tax banding is out of date and unfair; larger properties should pay much higher rates.

like many people i'm worried over the way the current council are spending our money. too much is wasted on expensive consultants, and then car park fees and council tax is increased to balance the books. what happened to all the money spent on the waterloo car park plans?

ANNEX C

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Cost savings via slimmed down management would seem the obvious approach rather than further raids on already stretched residents and their families
The climate emergency and delivering affordable homes should be less of a priority and health and social care should be a priority with services for those suffering with ill mental health, long term health conditions or disability and to provide more support to carers
Focus on core delivery of key services - cut the optional such as 'climate emergency' spend - this should be led and funded at a national level not by local councils.
I note that the cost of the extra local Plan work is factored in for 24/25, but by April 25 only £95,000 remains in the reserve for extra work, beyond normal capacity. As significant work is likely still be needed by then, I would question the 25/26 budget. Is it the case that none of the proposed increase in planning fees (25% for minor applications, and 35% for major applications etc, from April 24, then CPI afterwards) has not been factored into the budget for 24/25 and afterwards. I say this as the net budget remains static for planning in general. I know that the government is not ring-fencing additional money to Planning. but I would have expected the base Planning Budget to be increased, raising the possibility of some more staff, or at least ensuring part of the increased budget was used to ensure the funding of the remainder of the Local Plan work, and also the work of Development Plan, and those who advise, and ensuring a robust Local Plan, being taken through tje Examination and modification stage, which is highly likely to stretch 2+ years beyond April 25. Please consider this matter, and include income and expenditure, for planning, as knowing about the fee changes, the net figure means little to me, regarding assumptions on allocation of the % fee income, and how the 'modelling, works, and the apparent future money needed to complete the Local Plan.
Because of the failure of the CEO not able too balance his budget I believe a 5% reduction in salary should be effective from April 2023. We as the "customer " of the council are expected to cut our corns to suit our income, therefore I would expect the council do the same and investigate other ways of reducing costs besides continuing to raise charges on everything. There is a point when many "normal " people cannot or will not pay additional charges. We are constantly paying for services that are not delivered due to poor decision making by CDC
It doesn't matter whether waste is collected morning or afternoon but it shouldn't be fewer collections than we have now. You should be transparent in terms of priorities & must put on hold any 'nice to do' or 'vanity' projects. Any services for the most vulnerable in our society should be prioritised & kept as far as possible. Look for efficiencies & how you charge & pay suppliers eg. fixing pot holes which I understand is open to abuse. They can come out again to fix a hole right next to one they've just done & get paid twice.
You need to take a long hard look at the Publica fat cats who have creamed off large salaries for the past six years. Many of the directors and business managers are unsuitable and should not be in post. When was the last time you saw some of them in the building. £100K salaries for people who WFH and clearly don't deliver is not what residents want.
I'd like the Council to take practical steps to tackle climate change and continue to provide much needed support for people at risk of homelessness.
Any net zero policy spend should not be included ahead of basic services.

ANNEX C

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Q5. Are there any other comments you would like to make on the Council's priorities, its finances or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery?
Cotswold council tax is one of the highest in the country families are already struggling you really don't want to make that worse by increasing council tax
£5 pa increase is way too low double it and spend wisely.
It's crucial for the council to actively support the growth and stability of local businesses, as they are the backbone of the community and a source of local employment. One tangible way to do this would be to offer more assistance on business rates.
We need good services so it's essential we pay for them.
Eliminate wasteful spending. Minimise environmental action to smart regulation which is within the tolerance of local government. Cut headcount of staff, especially in social areas.
Stop wasting money on things which don't need doing, like the money you wasted on new road signs, for example....
Please protect the library it's so important to the community.
We're in a cost of living crisis and the council wants to squeeze people harder. We're having to tighten our belts. Perhaps the council should do the same rather than continuing to squeeze local residents further. I have little confidence in the efficiency of many aspects of the services provided. Why is none of this really addressed!! It's just always about getting more money.
Stop sending that expensive colour magazine round to every household,saves in printing and distribution costs
We need to focus more on how millions of visitors each year pay more for the infrastructure they use.
There really isn't enough detail on the council's priorities for me to say that I agree with question 1. I am really interested to see how the council will use the increased income from the Steadings to boost the town's economy.
Look at the non-statutory services and reduce those. Why have you changed the Council's logo and how much has it cost? Surely it has taken valuable staff time that could have been better used on delivering services. Replacing street name plates.... why?? Waste of money.
Coaches off the road in Bourton on the water, open Rissington road car park to them and make Bourton safe and keep businesses open
I know its incredibly hard to meet budgets...but every family is struggling to juggle budgets and by increasing council tax and car parking people wont afford basics on life....or come into town to shop thus affecting communities more
Look at reducing your costs by reducing spending on vanity projects and trying to make savings as apposed to your current way of spending more and then having to increases council tax, parking and waste collection to recover your poor decisions.
Why not have a simple list of your proposals so we can see - too confusing trying to work through the page you have provided a link to !!!
We must ATTRACT people to our town not scare them away. Rubbish collection is a farce. they are finished by mid day. Leaving things to please themselves
The argument of raising prices in line with inflation doesn't work when most people's wages don't. Inflation is reducing our wages, and yet we make it work; so should the council.

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Stop spending money on unnecessary wants. We don't need clean and green officers. We just want a good basic service for all.
Do a staff review and make redundant al those looking inwards and spend the money on the outward looking services. Like teachers, rubbish collection
It sounds like council tax should go up more than you have suggested to fund services.
Cut councillor allowances and reduce number of councillors
Concentrate on KEY services and stop expending our money on unnecessary 'green' initiatives.
I'd like to se all climate 'emergency' spend removed from your plans and those funds used to maintain and improve other services.
You could have saved thousands by not holding virtue signalling global climate meetings for a start.
reduce benefits and get people to work full time
Support working tax payers and families more and those that actually pay for the services, reduce benefits and move people into full-time work, do not provide funding for illegal immigrants, freeze salaries for CDC employees and remove their benefits such as free parking
The state of the roads is a disgrace, and I am pretty sure the amount of compensation given out and the patchy nature of the resurfacing means that it is a false economy.
Why don't you increase the council tax by more than £5? Really 10p a week is nothing for band D. Or a larger increase for those in Band G?
No drop in frequency of waste collection
I agree that the council needs to regain control of its finances and make some difficult decisions. However, it must retain core services and look really hard at some of the significant recent expenditure on 'discretionary projects'. This is where the most serious cuts should be made including, for example, expenditure on consultants or additional insulation, at the council's expense, of properties. Neither should the council expect residents, who are facing their own financial challenges, to fund 'vanity' or 'discretionary' council projects.
Stop spending on consultations that lead to nothing. Put green policies on hold until the cost of living crisis is over
I would suggest that the changes are lowered to bring in more people to the town centres not increasing them and forcing people out
Challenge the overhead and depth of management
Cut jobs that provide little value but add bureaucracy
Get more local people on the council that have grown up in the town they will have so much more knowledge and know what the people of the town needs remembering they pay your wages talking of wages go through your pay grades and jobs and make some cuts their so people of the town know it's not just them your fleecing and the biggest grip of all time in this and every town is the bloke with a white spray can that drives around all day putting a white circle around a pot hole get rid of that and that will save a massive amount of money or give him a shovel and some tarmac and get him or her to fill as many holes as they can see this has to be the biggest grip of all people I would say 95%
Stop vanity projects and self promotion videos to save money

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There is a need to get more businesses into Town. Perhaps the council should look at how other councils are doing things. Again good example is Scarborough District Council, as a lot of their tourist destinations were busy, with no empty shops. You appear to be determined to destroy the town centre. Also encourage more dog friendly establishments. Stop wasting money on non essentials like new street signs, nothing wrong with replacing broken ones with plain simple versions. Also when the next elections happen please have the decency to canvass people properly to give them the opportunity to question candidates - not everyone in the area are retired and home during the day.

I object to net zero initiatives from the council - net zero plans should be government and country wide. Piecemeal local measures are tokens and, in the great picture, pointless.

It would be useful to know about the council's plans to increase income if any

Repair potholes. Tidy grass verges.

Please tell us what you plan to do to deliver affordable housing

I pay a huge amount in tetbury and there are NO SPORTS FACILITIES AT ALL PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL. Many people feel that Tetbury is always overlooked in favour of Cirencester and we just pay for the King's security. Is this true?

new parking meters and charges have killed cirencester upside is no more looking for parking spaces as the caar parks are always empty

I would like to understand where the split of the money is going from the council, how much is spent on social services for example. I do not agree with later bin collections in the afternoons especially in hot summer months, we do not want bins all over the streets for a good portion of the day and also not good for the bin crews.

Charge car users more and put money into sustainable transport - buses, cycling and walking

Dog waste and littering are not being followed up once reported to CDC

Stop prioritising Cirencester

Garden waste collection should not be increased, as those of us with small gardens have no means of composting. However, no collectionss need to be made between December and March when grass starts to grow!

I Have disagreed with the increase in Band D by £5.00 because I think it should be more. £10 pa is still less than £1.00 a month

There is no "climate emergency", so all council expenditure being made for that purpose should be terminated immediately. Councillor allowances should be reduced by 15%, the cabinet system replaced by the committee system, the post of business development manager abolished, and more scrutiny made of Publica and Ubico's financial performance. The council should make no grants to charities or voluntary groups. Senior management roles should be shared with other councils. The resultant savings should be invested in lower council tax.

Parking fees in Cirencester are expensive as they are, so they should not change. This would support businesses in town and support a vibrant local community, which is able to enjoy our lovely town. If parking fees are continually increased, we would be forced to buy goods online and, sadly, prevent us from regularly enjoying our beautiful market place and town centre.

No I priority should be roads, resurfacing not filing potholes that need constant repair and addressing flooding

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Leave climate to govt policy and concentrate on local service to the paying public
You should be reducing spending. Why did Tetbury Council spend £10k on iPads? What other immediate savings could be made? The LAs thing business needs is parking costs on Sunday or increases generally. Why can't you think outside the box and remember businesses pay exorbitant rates and you doggedly pursue them through the courts even though they've seen their margins slashed due to high cost of goods energy and minimum wage costs? When are you going to support the local economy instead of going on and on about climate change? STOP SPENDING OUR MONEY
Make green spaces girl friendly
Stop subsidising low income families with free meals. Spend more on anti social behaviour.
No mention of councillors pay and expenses! Are refuse collections to remain as frequent as they currently are? I don't mind a later collection but they need to as frequent as they currently are. You are not giving a full picture on which to make informed decisions!!
a new tax band is needed to cover very large property and mansions at an higher rate
I'd like to thank the refuse collectors in my area they do a great job. They even run between houses collecting the bins. They are always very polite and helpful.
I believe that in an area where tourists visit all year round, the cuts to the information service are shortsighted.
Pay to sort out Coach Park in Bourton on the Water !!!
Waste collection days should not be extended any more than they are - 2 weeks is already a push. Food waste must stay at weekly for all of our general health. A 15% increase in parking is a massive stretch. I am sure there is a more manageable level eg 5-10%. We need to continue to encourage people to visit our town. The issue is more lack of parking. More parking will generate more income, then prices will not need to rise. As tax payers we already pay tax to the government, so I don't agree that they should reduce funding to Councils.
Wasted money on new street signs. New changed within the council over the last few years of office changed within political groups and refurbishing offices. All the effort, hours and expense previously involved with moving into a Publica now all going out the window...:waste of public money!!!!!!
It's good that you are being open and transparent about the challenges. All public services are woefully underfunded in this country. We also suffer by virtue of our rurality and I'm not sure people always appreciate how difficult/challenging/expensive it is to service such a vast geographical area as the Cotswolds. Well done especially for increasing the charges on garden waste - I always objected to having to subsidise people having their grass cuttings taken away in a lorry! What's wrong with a good old fashioned compost heap!?
spend less on paving unnecessary areas, use the money saved to lower business rates for shops in town
Vastly increasing the cost of green waste bin collection and halving the number of collections had proved very challenging when you have large hedges to cut.
stop using expensive consultants to deliver meaningless concepts on the town which will be unviable, unpopular and unnecessary

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Given the spending since the last local election I have no confidence in CDC spending plans. Councillors should resign.
When you are struggling with your budget, you should be prioritising the services you have to provide and that doesn't include trying to lead the way to Net Zero.
If green bin charge kept increasing, the council will lose revenue if some householders change from having 2 bins to just one. The charge needs to stay reasonable.
Like too many I'm never quite sure which tier of local govt does what but in Moreton the following are imperatives: better/more mental health support for young people, more leisure facilities for young people to reduce high incidence of shop-lifting, property damage, etc. Road maintenance is disgrace in comparison with Chippenham and Oxfordshire. Many cars, including my own, have had severe damage done to wheels, steering and tyres because of potholes. Claims are rejected and those holes which have been mended have only been bodged and will soon need work. Uneven paving stones throughout the town provide many trip hazards for the elderly. It would be good to engage with local residents more effectively. I sit on the Moreton Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group (the second, the first resigned en masse ground down by delays and bureaucracy). Less than 10% of residents replied to a survey delivered to every household intended to inform and harness reaction. The apathy is woeful but when the Town Council pledged some money to deliver a communications plan several of us, with professional expertise in this field, had drawn up, it was kicked into the long grass by the TC and no funds have materialised.
do not cut any climate emergency work or services
Stop sending the posted newsletter - I expect most go in the bin
It would be good to get the roads sorted and provide more public conveniences ideally with a reduced charge
Cuts should be made to other services / efficiency improvements made to reduce costs. Increasing car parking charges will drive people out of the town centre and to free car parking outside of Cirencester at "out of town" shopping areas in other towns. This will force businesses to close in the town centre and lose additional revenue for the council, thus drive more people away.
Stop charging so high for green bins
Stop wasting money on Joe's glass office, needless advisors and a flag for every occasion except the ones that matter
Please stop the vanity projects. I would love to know how much money is spent on PR. Every week there is a new video involving a Cllr. Clare Bloomer recently had a video around menopause. Important subject, but actually is this just promoting her personal business that she runs? Conflict of interest? With yet more CDC money used to promote a Lib Dem or Cllr personal interest? It's too easy to blame central government for cutting funding, when your overspending during a time of reduced income has left the Council on the verge of bankruptcy in a few years
There should be no further planning approvals until the Planning Enforcement department is adequately resourced to ensure developers are held to account and fulfil their obligations.
Spend less - please - on consultation fees and needless paperwork

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Each non-direct job should be assessed and ceased unless it is vital to the efficiency of service delivery. However removing jobs that then add to the workload of direct staff is false economy and should be avoided. The detailed activities under each service delivery heading should be assessed anything not essential to quality service should be ceased. Where services are outsourced consideration to bringing them back in house should be undertaken. Shared services such as Ubico could be considered to maintain critical mass and keep overheads low.

More efficiencies needed, lots of scope

Cut the heating in your council offices.

Get rid of the over complex recycling and have wheelie bin for all recycling

Rubbish collectors should work a full 8 hours per day not the current 4 or 5 hours.

Council needs to look at more intelligent use of existing capital not punish its communities with more costs just because they live here.

The council needs to get more efficient in all its operations and services...there is too much waste in the public sector

Think about cutting long term unemployment benefits to subsidise the living conditions of all people including extra childcare/ socialising opportunities for those young/ impressionable in lockdown or to fill in potholes

Please prioritise schools, education and young people above everything else, even if it means other services deteriorating significantly.

You should just maintain necessary services. People can't afford grand climate emergency spending. It isn't a priority when you have families losing homes and relying on food banks. Hunger is a priority. Children within these families and their welfare are a priority. Keep to the basics and do them properly.

On many occasions I have heard people saying they do not come into Cirencester any more to park. The reason being there is no option of using coins for parking. Not everyone has a suitable phone or credit card. Therefore foot fall and use of Cirencester facilities are not being used. Please put coin machines back into car parks at least one on each site. Thank you.

The Council green waste service has been depleted by the massive increase in the licence fee. If the fee had been kept as reasonable as other local Councils did (WODC) the take up would have been larger bringing in more revenue. This Summer has seen more green waste being dumped on roadside verges in our area.

Fund Tourist Offices, tourism is the life blood of the Cotswolds. Look at ways of improving internal efficiency I stead of wasting money hand over fist.

The garden waste recycling charge is already a challenge to pay for many, including myself. For people unable to access the council's recycling centres, the recycling of garden waste is a significant problem.

Think before you spend!

Have to live in the real world and increase income as necessary

The state of local roads are perilous. Prioritise unless you want litigation where deaths occur

I think there should be a 6 month option charge for the garden waste service as most people do not use the yearly service between End of October to beginning of April. And also there should be no increase in the charge next financial year.

ANNEX C

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Q5. Are there any other comments you would like to make on the Council's priorities, its finances or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery?
cut councilers expences
No more jollies!
There are no comments here about road maintenance at all. I feel it is really letting down one of the most beautiful areas in the world. There are also no comments about supporting the NHS in the district either.
The condition of the basic infrastructure does not reflect an AONB. We have spend enough on Police and adult social care. We need to see better value out of road maintenance contracts and even consider stopping outsourcing altogether. The present deliveries with regard to the basics are pathetic and never really seem to satisfy the ordinary council tax payer. Bins aren't being emptied, roads are a disgrace and there is rubbish everywhere. Stop virtue signalling and focus on the basics.
Cotswold district is home to a disproportionate number of second homes and very high net worth owners, these high value homes should have an additional levy placed upon them in order to proportionately contribute to the local tax system
Services should be pared back to the bare essentials only.
The Council needs to be careful about trying to stretch workers too far. Mental health issues are on the increase and this is impacted by long hours and trying to squeeze as much as possible from workers, whilst also trying to reduce resources. Staffing should be aligned - same pay levels and benefits for doing the same job (as per job evaluation schemes).
too many pensioners have to pay high council taxes, many would like to down size but don't want an appartment. Where are the bungalows and small houses being built for this generation?
Chasing Green Transport Proposals linking Kemble to Cirencester is not something CDC should apply our resources to. Costly mistakes have been made e.g. the paving of the Pedestrianised area of Cirencester, studies on Multi Storey Car Parking(c 8 times more expensive than surface car parks. We need to improve employment encourage industry to provide alternative meaningful employment and bolster and attract Retailers occupation of the CBD. Frontagers and occupiers can be encouraged to maintain landscaped areas to lessen demand on Council workers or subcontractors. CDC should not finance Solar Panel or Heat Pump Studies. These should stand or fall depending on financial viability and not be subsidised by the Public Purse. Improving the collection of costs for Damage to Highways and Footpaths from unusual Traffic utilising Highways to facilitate Development Work should be properly collected and the funds used expeditiously to repair roads reducing claims on CDC for trips and damage to vehicles, More cost effective choices of Council vehicles. Less utilisation of Consultants to bolster Staff shortages and adoption of more efficient work practices and ethos
Reintroduced the weekly green bin collection, even if the price increases. Fortnightly makes no sense for a gardener.
The Council need to look at ways to become more efficient and productive. There is too much bureaucracy and inefficiency
There is a lack of rural buses, mini buses could be used to support residents

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As a social worker for a neighbouring LA, I know that huge savings can be made in children's services if an investment is made towards prevention and family support (children's centres, family support workers etc) children in care cost a lot of money. Savings can also be made by increasing bus charges and providing free bus pass for those on a low income and good monthly bus pass for those who use bus service regularly. Monitoring roads for speeding more regularly would provide an income generated from fines, these need to be means tested. Develop better cycling routes in rural areas to reduce car use to meet environmental targets. Reduce general waste collections further, but keep recycling collection the same, don't charge for garden waste as this service is most likely used by those in higher council tax bands anyway, so they're already paying for this service. Increase and normalise respite care for elderly so that relatives are able to continue to care for their relative in their own home, which will reduce admission to subsidised care homes. Increase wages to reduce high cost locum/ agency council staff.

Spend less on discretionary budget activities such as climate crisis measures.

Climate is not your priority. Infrastructure is, cut back on your workforce and concentrate on delivering basics. Enough has been spent on adult and child social care. Fed up with paying more for nothing.

In order to improve help in providing affordable housing & support for struggling families I would suggest increasing Council Tax by double the proposed increase; £10/yr Band D, £20/yr Band G

Think cost of living should take precedence over climate change plans which should be greatly reduced

Make the WRITTEN budget proposal pack easier to find. The link from the meeting page you link to for the public pack doesn't seem to download anything! Raises question WHAT ARE YOU HIDING by making it so difficult to find and read the papers? Surely the packs should be a quick link from the main budget page...

I'm new to the town and believe as a high council tax payer residents should have perhaps 2 hours a day free parking vouchers to shop and meet ... this system worked well in Bakewell when I lived there

Jobs like Engagement officer and Environmental officer (recently created posts) are not required they just double up what is being done at local council level

If the council proposes to increase charges for Green waste collections as "it should be paid for by those who use it" perhaps this should be extended to all aspects? Otherwise it is simply an unfair charge. Many don't use other council services so why do those who don't be expected to pay for them?

Do the basics that you are required by law to do and nothing else. Get rid of Greening consultants and advisors and all other vanity projects. My income is not increasing so why should yours, why should I be poorer for your vanity projects.

Fix the potholes!

Why can people on attendance allowance in some areas get reduced council tax but not in the Cotswolds survey this should not be a postcode lottery

There should be less focus on the "climate emergency". The UK is 1% of global emissions, any action we take will not even be measurable.

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Potholes, roads are a ***** disgrace. Pay freezes for all but the lowest paid. Look for further ways to cut wastage. Remove job and finish style contracts for council employees and redeploy them.
Parking charges are a way of generating income from out of area residents, especially in the summer. The downside is that you may find residents with cars choosing alternative places to shop. It may therefore not raise as much money as hoped
I think these are necessary increases to maintain social care & green policies
If you need to increase council Tax I strongly feel higher band residents should be asked to pay proportionally more than those in lower bands.
Bike routes!!!!!! Make it safe and enjoyable to not use a car at all
Disgrace that charges are made to remove large domestic items. No wonder there is fly tipping.
The priority should be and must be minimising the cost of all services, reducing unnecessary services and keeping Council Tax at the lowest level.
Coach parking has to be created by CDC to allow businesses to continue, coaches are the only visitors in Winter and without them businesses will board up in October and return in April, you cannot continue to ignore this.
Get the pot holes mended properly. I have seen several example where works are carried out to one pot hole but it leaves untouched another, slightly smaller, within feet of the original. This means that the original fix is not so good and work will only have to return later to repair the second or third nearby pot hole(s). Our cars are getting damaged at a huge cost to ratepayers and councils wriggle out of paying compensation. Take a tip from what is done in other countries. They will cut out an entire area and fix it properly. The quality of the fix is better and will last longer.
Wage freeze for all employees earning £35000 & above
I hope you are not planning yet a other hike in the fees charged by councillors.
Why on earth are you proposing a 24% pay uplift to all staff by changing their pension scheme to a more expensive one when your residents are facing tax rises to fund it?
I think the charges are larger enough. I would come into Cirencester much less often if they increase. I think twice before coming into town at the moment
A target to reduce headcount by 10% would ultimately have no effect on services once it had bedded in
Needs to focus on improving its planning services including enforcement
More cycle parking and preferably covered
Cut councillors 'allowances' especially Joe Harris taking 30,000 of tax payer money
Less coloured glossy brochures.
An increase of £5 per household PA for a Band D property is a ridiculously small increase. I wouldn't think it unreasonable to increase by more than that
Is it possible to raise Council Tax more for those in the uppermost bands?
Better rewinding, wildlife corridors and planting, including supporting improvement to Abbey Grounds lake. £10 pa increase in council tax for band D should be increased.
Skew the increase in council tax more towards higher value properties paying a larger percentage increase than lower value properties.
Please give priority to the recruitment of Planning & Enforcement Officers.

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It is not clear to me what benefits a very well-paid climate manager delivers. Furthermore, the cost of some campaigns is not transparent. For example, how much did Mr. Motivator cost?
Why don't you raise money through speed cameras? Previously not popular, but surely now...
Faced with substantial cuts in the Government grant to the Council, then it may be necessary to increase Council Tax by more than inflation.
The Council should consider staying afloat financially, if it requires focusing on long terms goals than immediate needs.
Don't agree with green bin increases
Cut overheads. Cut unproductive staff. Work harder
I definitely think that costs could be cut on waste and recycling services. I barely fill one 50l kitchen bin a week so think that reducing the number of non-recyclable collections would not only save money but encourage people to recycle more. Ditto the food waste bins which could be reduced to every 2 weeks rather than every week.
Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council is not willing to unreasonably shoulder the burden of the financial difficulties of the higher authorities by increasing the precept on behalf of the residents.
First question poorly worded and therefore cannot answer.
Stop wasting money on new road signs that don't need replacing. Stop wasting money on pointless service, and photos etc. Organise the offices and staff alot better. Stop wasting money on subcontracting debts. Turn lights off in offices. Stop wasting money on silly expenses.
Would like to see the council stick to it's climate and ecological commitments
I don't think this survey tells us very much. I had expected a breakdown on spending. I think the council should concentrate on the services it is meant to provide and not get drawn into extra. No more talking shops about issues that our outside the councils remit.
Cut out the net zero nonsense! P S I have PV cells on my roof, care about the environment but do not think the world is burning up.
Prioritise budgets to increase the use of facilities in towns. encourage tourism to bring in additional funds

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I think the budget challenges for the Council are great. However, there are a number of points which I think are worth mentioning when the Council is considering how it may wish to proceed in bridging the financial challenges that it faces. It needs to have a tight control on the money it spends on behalf of residents, and every decision needs to feed back into the goal of driving down the Council's financial gap. The recent decision to bring services back in-house presents a very clear risk for financial implications. The implications are not clearly spelt out, unless of course, you go to West Oxfordshire District Council where you will find the financial implications for the same report which have been omitted for Cotswold District Council. It clearly states that there is a risk of recurring costs (increase in pension liabilities), one-off costs from the transition (redundancies, extra staff to manage the transition). The Cotswold report does not show this. Whilst the original review was to look at a select number of services, this wider review is clearly now a big financial risk which will only add pressure to the budget gap. This will need to be clearly set out and addressed as part of the Budget. The other area I would say that needs to be improved is looking at how technology can be used to manage day to day services and increase revenue. Charging for car parks stops at 6, why is that? If the Council wishes to double down on an increase in charges, why not extend the hours of revenue? The technology is available to install and use to make it possible. There would be a cost but a long term gain. This is why I think overnight parking should be examined. Car parks in the bigger towns like Cirencester do get use in the evening and overnight, so this could be a game changer. I would also like to see how the Council looks at refuse and moves to a two bin approach (one general and one recycling). The bags are hopeless as they keep breaking and are often left strewn over narrow pavements which are a common feature in the Cotswolds. The system of refuse in Tewkesbury is so much easier. The Council also needs to think of innovate way of funding services. Long term bonds which are open to all and other financial raising methods need to be explored. It is clear that central government won't be increasing budgets anytime soon so the Councils will need to become more creative.

There is no mention of actually undertaking road sweeping which is a statutory function CDC should be doing as this would help prevent flooding by ensuring drainage is clear

I think the Council should drop the "climate emergency" agenda, which has no basis in real science or fact. The money saved by not pursuing such an agenda, could save the council and those living in the Cotswolds much money. However, perhaps, it being an agenda from higher, corporate interests, the UK government would further cut funds to the Council? The "climate emergency" agenda is not in the best interests of the earth or the people, but is rather a control mechanism, sapping our prosperity. Drop it and focus on helping the people who need it, and patching up the potholes in the roads.