

Consultation on the 2023/2024 Budget Allocation

Results

December 2022

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Executive Summary

1,797 Buckinghamshire residents and 8 representatives of organisations completed the 2023/24 Budget Consultation online¹. The consultation ran from 12th October 2022 to the 20th November 2022.

Respondents gave their views on how spending should be prioritised and on the proposed budget allocations for 2023/24². They were also invited to comment on whether they had any other suggestions on what should be prioritised.

For residents, care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults, road maintenance and educational services such as childcare, pre-schools and school admissions were selected by the highest proportion of respondents. These views reflect results from previous budget consultations. When asked to choose services that should not be prioritised, car parking, culture and tourism, and Public Health services were selected by the highest number of respondents. When asked to suggest other priorities to consider, the most frequently mentioned themes related to roads and pavement repair and maintenance, road infrastructure and housing.

Organisations' ranked priorities were similar to residents', but they placed higher priority on services to attract and support local businesses and community safety. Similarly, the services they would least like to prioritise included culture and tourism, maintaining Rights of Way, and planning services.

There were mixed views towards the proposed allocation of Buckinghamshire Council's annual budget for 2023-2024 from both residents and organisations, with stronger agreement (34%) than disagreement (30%).

Due to the self-selecting nature of the survey, some demographic groups were over- or under-represented when compared with the Buckinghamshire population. Non-white ethnic groups, younger people, less affluent and those in employment received a lower proportion of responses when compared to the Buckinghamshire profile. Survey results have not been weighted, however, statistically significant differences between respondent will be noted throughout this report.

There was an increase in responses compared with last year's consultation (292 residents and 18 organisations) and 2020's consultation (896 residents and 9 organisations). Results are not directly comparable with previous years' consultations as the question wording was different.³

¹ In addition, there were 3 responses received by email, but these were comments only, and not complete responses. No postal responses were received.

² See appendix 1 for proposed budget allocation breakdown

³ 2020 and 2021: "Thinking about how we can balance our budget, please indicate for each of the following services, whether you think we should spend more, less or about the same." 2022: "Which services would you prioritise for Council funding?" and "Which services would you not prioritise for Council funding?"

Introduction

Each year Buckinghamshire Council provides Buckinghamshire residents and businesses with the opportunity to feedback on the proposed spending allocation for the Council. The consultation is via an online survey which may also be downloaded and printed by respondents and posted if preferred. The survey was open for responses from 12th October 2022 to 20th November 2022. These results will be considered by the Council when shaping and approving the final Budget for 2023/24.

Methodology

Approach

This consultation ran from 12th October 2022 to 20th November 2022, consisting of a formal survey to understand the overall opinions and views of residents and representatives of organisations.

The formal survey⁴ asked for residents' and organisations' opinions on how spending should and should not be prioritised, as well as their strength of agreement, or disagreement, with the Council's proposed budget allocation. Respondents were also asked to put forward any other suggestions or comments. These questions enabled respondents to let us know their opinions and views in their own words. Respondents raised a range of different issues, so to better understand the key themes, answers to these questions were categorised into the most common themes that respondents raised. Questions were included on how easy the respondents found aspects of the Council's budget to understand, including how the Council is funded, how it spends its money, what statutory spend is and the financial challenges the Council faces.

In addition to the questions relating to the Council's budget, respondents were asked to complete a range of 'classification' questions⁵ in the survey, including providing their age, ethnicity, gender, disability, their employment status and whether they had children aged under 18 in the household. The purpose of these questions is to enable comparisons in views between different demographic groups. They were also asked how they found out about the Consultation⁶. These questions were designed to help inform the Communications campaign throughout the consultation period and learning for future consultations.

The consultation was open to all stakeholders, through an online survey which was promoted through a range of channels⁷. It was also available in hard copy on request from libraries or it could be downloaded from the online survey site and printed and posted. Residents were encouraged to visit the libraries to receive support to complete the survey online or in hard copy if requested. The survey was open to anyone wishing to complete it.

Differences in opinion by group

Respondents were asked to complete a range of 'classification' questions in the survey so that the views of different groups of people or organisations could be understood allowing identification of statistical differences between different groups. The results of significance testing are noted throughout this report.

These demographic questions are also useful to understand respondent groups who are over- or under-represented compared with the Buckinghamshire population. This could be used to help target communications to increase response rates from under-represented groups.

⁴ See Appendix 2 for Questionnaire

⁵ See Appendix 4 for details

⁶ See Appendix 5 for details

⁷ Refer to later section on Promotion of the Consultation

Organisations were also asked to provide the name of their organisation and their job title.

Other considerations

The survey was open to anyone to respond including all residents and people representing organisations in Buckinghamshire. Participation was self-selecting. This was not a random sample of respondents, and the sample was not stratified to reflect the proportions of the people responding according to the make-up of the Buckinghamshire population.

Weighting, a process used to adjust the results of a study to bring them more in line with what is known about a population, was not applied to the results of this survey. Respondents to this type of self-selecting survey (non-probability sample) will naturally not be fully representative of the population, e.g. those interested in the subject matter are more likely to complete the survey. One assumption for weighting is that the people who did complete the survey are representative of the people that did not complete the survey, so for this reason weighting was not considered appropriate. Please see the respondents profile section for more information on how the profile of respondents compares to that of the Buckinghamshire population.

Due to rounding, some of the numbers in the graphs in this report may not sum to the numbers in the text.

Promotion of the Consultation

The consultation has been promoted via:

- Dedicated webpage and survey on Your Voice Bucks
- Promotional news items on Buckinghamshire Council website
- Press releases to local media
- Press interview with BBC Radio Oxford
- Social media promotional campaign across all main channels
 - Targeted (paid for) social media promotion to Aylesbury and Wycombe, and by age
- E-newsletter to Town and Parish Councils
- Flyers in libraries, Council Access Plus (CAP+) points and family centres
- Internal communications to all staff and Members
- Leader of the Council resident newsletter
- Email to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector via VCSE Partnership Board and Community Impact Bucks
- Community Boards
- Youth Voice Executive Committee
- School's bulletin

Questionnaire Findings

Services to prioritise and not prioritise for Council funding

Respondents were asked which services they would prioritise for Council funding, up to 5 services could be selected, in no particular order. Care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults, road maintenance and educational services were the highest priority areas.⁸

Respondents were then asked which services they would not prioritise for Council funding, up to 5 services could be selected, in no particular order. Car parking (39%), culture and tourism (39%) and Public Health services (38%) were selected by the highest proportion of respondents.⁹

Q1. Which services would you prioritise for Council funding?

Q2. Which services would you not prioritise for Council funding?

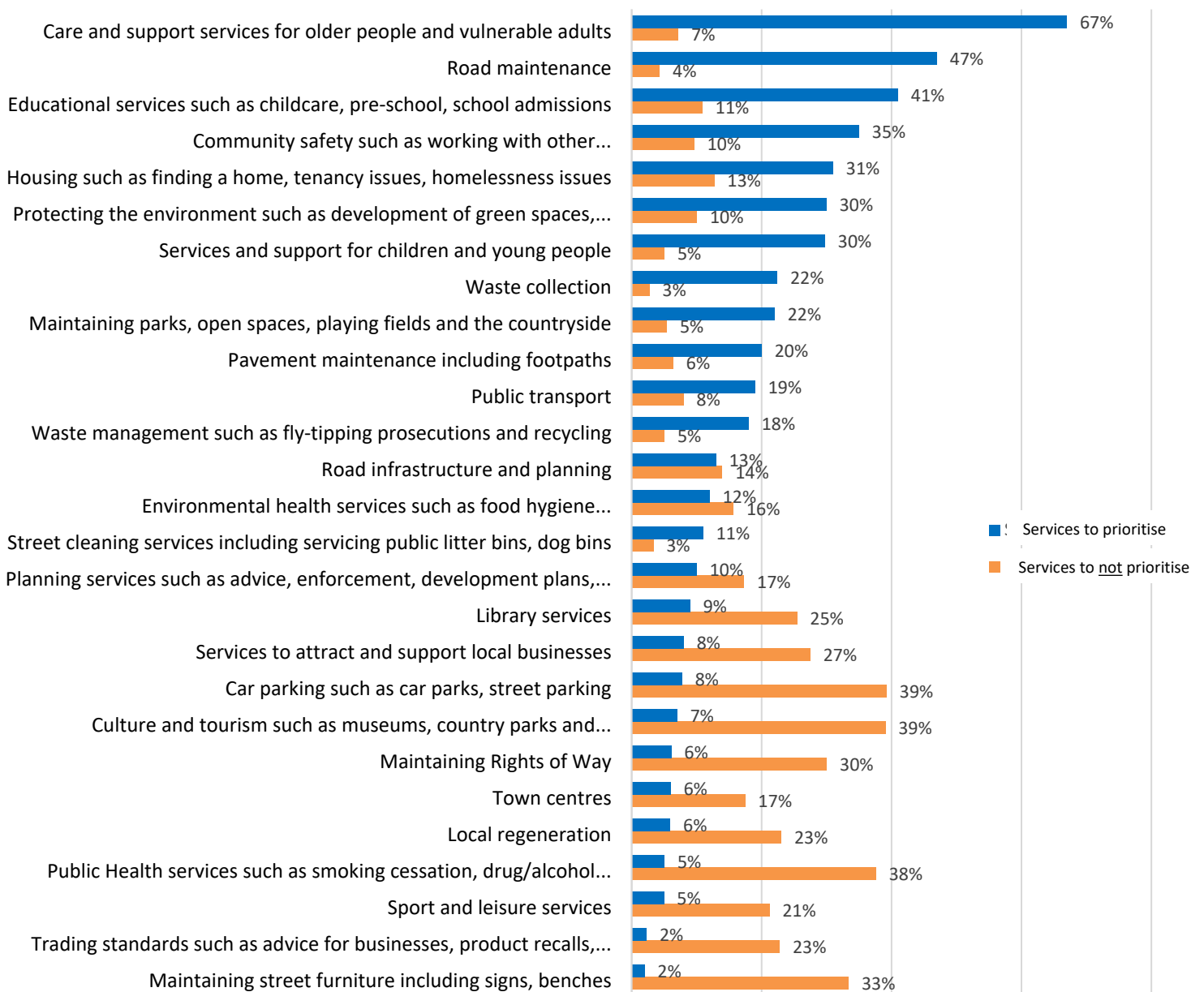


Figure 1

⁸ Base: All valid respondents 1,781 residents, 8 representatives from organisations.

⁹ Base: All valid respondents (1,641). Note that not all respondents made all five selections.

Differences in opinion for different groups of residents were then analysed to understand whether they were statistically significant (at a 95% confidence level¹⁰):

Care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults was more likely to be considered a priority by respondents aged 65 and over (77% compared with 61% of those under 65), those with a disability (74% vs. 68% of those without), female (72% vs. 63% male) and economically inactive (77% vs. 62%)

Protecting the environment was selected as a top 5 priority by a higher proportion of under 65s (34% than 65 and over (24%). 41% of respondents under 45 selected this as a top 5 priority.

Community safety was more likely to be selected as a top 5 priority by the most deprived ACORN categories (44% vs. 33% most affluent), non-white ethnic groups (53% vs. 34% white ethnic groups) and economically active respondents (40% vs. 30% economically inactive).

Waste collection was a higher priority for those in the South of the county (25%) than those in the North (20%). In particular, Wexham and the Ivers (35%), Beeches (32%) and Denham and Gerrards Cross (28%).

Likewise, waste management was a high priority for the South (22% vs. 15% North) as was street cleaning (13% South vs. 9% North).

Road infrastructure and planning was a higher priority for respondents from the North of the county (20%) than those in the South (9%). In particular, residents in the Aylesbury (26%), Wendover (23%), and Wing and Ivinghoe (23%) Community Board areas were more likely to select this as a top priority.

Services and support for children and young people were a higher priority for respondents with children in the household (41% vs. 28% without), those under 45 (38% vs. 28% aged 45 and above) and females (35% vs. 23% of males).

Similarly educational services was more likely to be in the top 5 to prioritise for those with children in the household (58% vs. 39% without) and under 45s (49% vs. 41% aged 45 and over)

Housing tended to be a higher priority for those respondents who considered themselves to have a disability (36%) compared with 31% without a disability.

Respondents from the more affluent ACORN categories (13%) were more likely to select planning services as a top 5 priority than those in the two most deprived categories (7%).

Higher priority was placed by younger people (under 45) on local regeneration (9% vs. 5%), town centres (10% vs. 5%), and culture and tourism (12% vs. 7%) than by those aged 45 and above.

Services to attract and support local businesses was more likely to be selected by economically active respondents (10%) than economically inactive respondents (5%).

¹⁰ 95% confidence level – The chances are that 95 times in 100, the “true” value will fall within the specified range.

Budget Allocation

34% of respondents agreed with the Council's proposed annual budget allocation for 2023-24¹¹, but there were relatively high levels of disagreement (30%). There was a significant proportion of respondents (36%) who neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposed allocation.¹²

(Q3) To what extent do you agree or disagree with how we are proposing to allocate Buckinghamshire Council's budget for 2023 to 2024?

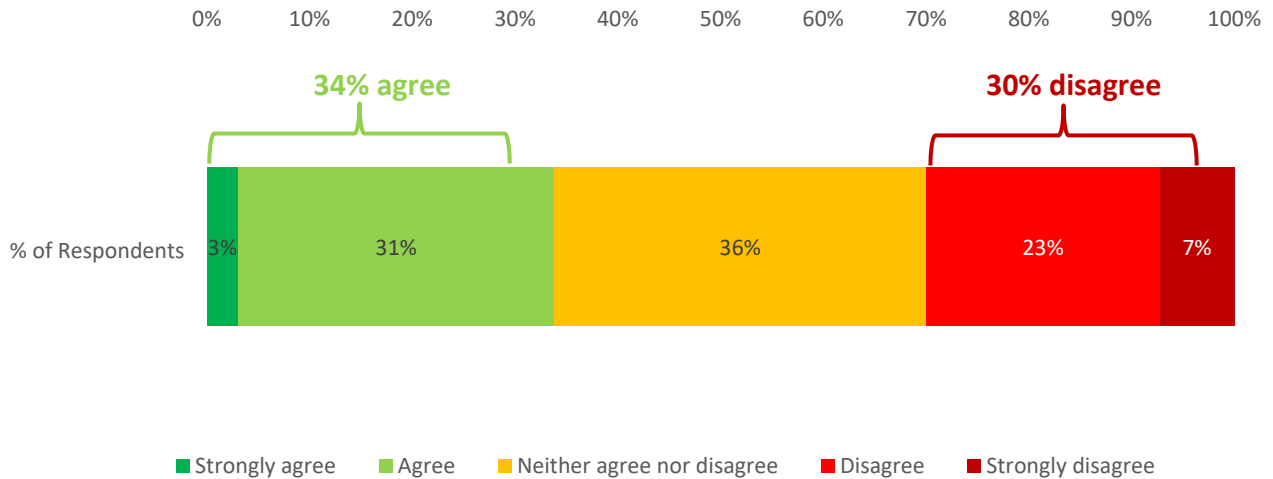


Figure 2

Differences in opinion for different groups of residents were then analysed to understand whether they were statistically significant (at a 95% confidence level¹³):

Agreement with the Council's proposals are higher amongst:

- Older people aged 65+ (39% agree compared with 31% under 65)
- Economically inactive (39% agree compared with 31% economically active)
- Affluent ACORN groups, who are more likely to agree with the proposal (37%) compared to the most deprived groups (25%)
- Respondents without a disability (35%) compared with disabled groups (29%)

Disagreement with the Council's proposals are higher amongst:

- Respondents with children in the household (43% vs. those without 26)
- Economically inactive (36% disagree compared with 22% economically active)
- Non-white ethnic groups (41%) compared with 27% of white ethnic groups

¹¹ See Appendix 1 for proposed Budget Allocation

¹² Base: All valid respondents 1,797 residents, 8 representatives from organisations

¹³ 95% confidence level – The chances are that 95 times in 100, the "true" value will fall within the specified range.

How easy to understand was the budget information?

Respondents were asked how easy they found it to understand:

- How the Council is funded
- How the Council spends its money
- What statutory spend is
- The financial challenges the Council faces

83% of respondents found it very or somewhat easy to understand *how the Council is funded*, and 81% found it easy or somewhat easy to understand *how the Council spends its money*. Ease of understanding was slightly lower for *what statutory spend is* (65%) and *the financial challenges the Council faces* (71%).¹⁴

(Q4) How easy to understand was the following information?

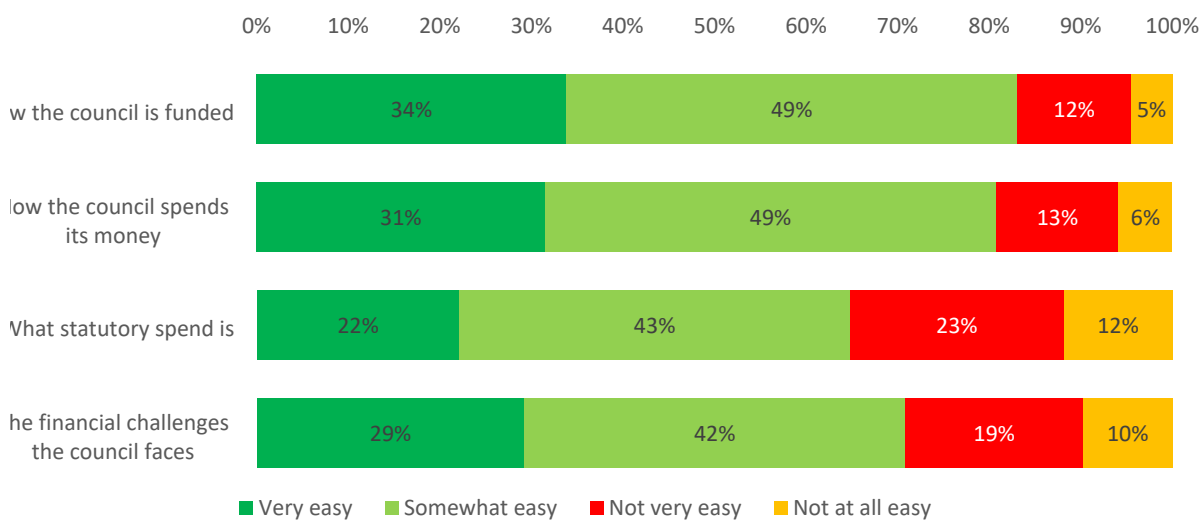


Figure 3

Economically inactive respondents were more likely to find it easy to understand how the Council is funded (86%) compared with economically active respondents (81%). This was also the case for the two most affluent ACORN categories (85%) compared with the two least affluent categories (74%).

The two most affluent ACORN categories (83%) were more likely to find it easy to understand how the council spends its money compared with the two least affluent categories (73%).

There were no statistically significant differences between groups for the question regarding what statutory spend is.

Economically active respondents were more likely to find it easy to understand the financial challenges the Council faces (74%) compared with economically inactive respondents (68%).

General comments on the 2023/24 proposed budget allocation

Respondents were asked whether they had any other comments about the 2023 to 2024 budget.

Out of the 1,805 respondents to the consultation, 671 made specific comments. Each comment was categorised to understand common themes. Please note a respondent may have mentioned more than one

¹⁴ Base: All valid respondents: How the council is funded (1,731), How the council spends its money (1,737), What statutory spend is (1,622), The financial challenges the council faces (1,686)

theme – for example a respondent who commented on roads, education and waste and recycling would appear in all three categories.

Q. If you have any other comments about the proposed budget allocation for 2023 to 2024, please tell us them here

Respondents were asked : If they had any comments about the proposed budget allocation for 2023 to 2024? These respondents were free to write their own comments

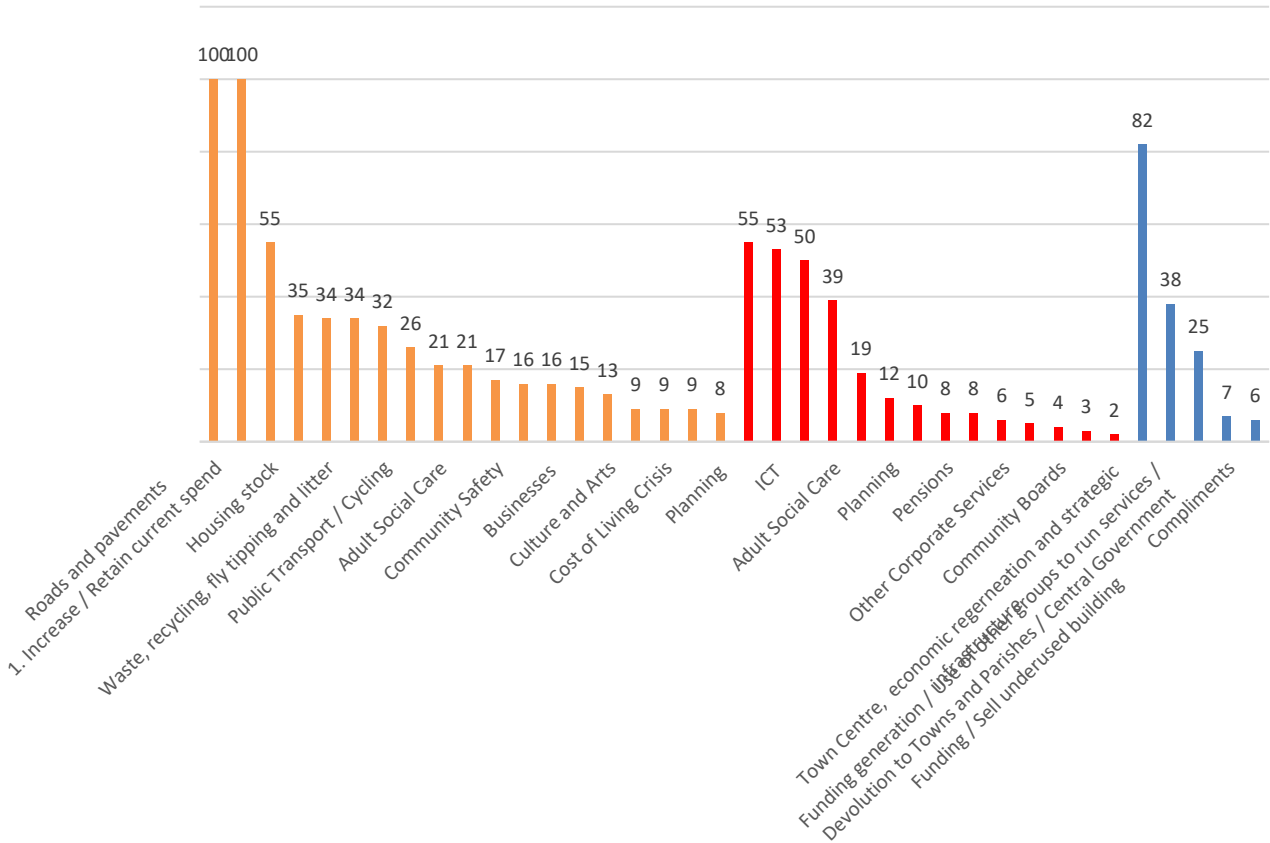


Figure 4

Respondents were asked if they had any other comments about the proposed budget allocations for 2023 to 2024. Comments were grouped into themes and displayed in three sections on the graph above: areas where respondents felt more funding was required or where the budget was deemed to be appropriately allocated; areas where less budget should be allocated; and where respondents raised other queries, for example about how the data was displayed or where funding is received from.

Selection of *verbatim* comments from the open comments question:

Road repair and maintenance

There were 105 comments which referenced roads, 100 of which were suggesting that more funds should be allocated to road and pavement maintenance with 5 comments suggesting that too much of the budget was allocated to this. The key concerns were regarding insufficient or poor repair of roads and pavements.

“Many roads, both major and minor are still in a poor state of repair.”

“Consider better quality road maintenance at higher cost to ensure improvements endure.”

Environment - climate change concern

There were 100 comments relating to allocation of funding for the environment. Respondents were concerned the budget allocation in this area was too low. Comments related to improving and protecting the local environment, concerns about climate change, green energy, electric charging points, tree planting and

'future proofing' to protect our environment. Comments also related to improved public transport, housing insulation, sustainable transport and active transport, including cycling and cycle path provision, to assist with climate change.

"I think more should be spent on the environment as this is our future as well."

"More money spent on combating climate change, renewable energy, and alternatives to the car (including cheaper, more frequent, more locations for public transport, off road cycle routes)"

"Increase Environment Greatly - make a proper contribution to Climate Change"

Housing

There were 55 comments relating to allocation of funding for housing and housing stock. Respondents were mainly concerned that the budget allocation in this area was too low. Comments included those relating to young people finding it difficult to afford housing, better support for the homeless and improving social housing.

"More money spent building truly affordable housing for those trying to get on the housing ladder"

"More money should be spent on suitable accommodation and proper support for rough sleepers."

"The Council has a lot of empty properties which could be put to better use."

Education and Special Education Needs (SEN) provision

There were 35 comments relating to Education and SEN provision, respondents requested more budget be allocated to these.

"I think a stronger emphasis needs to be put on Children's social care as they are the future generation in whom our society will be built upon."

Waste

There were 34 comments relating to waste, fly tipping and litter and 15 respondents requesting a greater allocation of the budget for street cleaning. Respondents commented on the poor performance of the waste service they currently receive, particularly in the south of the county, costs associated with recycling centres and fly tipping.

"More money needs to go into street cleaning and fly tipping."

"Move services in house, such as waste collection, as that will save money in the long term"

Vulnerable People

There were 34 comments relating to allocation of funding for vulnerable people, covering both children and adults. Respondents commented that vulnerable people should continue to be a high priority for the Council.

"It is clear to all that adults and young person's social care needs need a higher priority for funding as they are the most vulnerable in our society."

General comments on budget allocation:

Reduce budget allocation for HR, ICT, Finance, Legal and Democratic Services, Corporate Services and Business Operations

There were 55 comments relating to HR, 53 relating ICT spend and 50 relating to Finance / Legal and Democratic Services / Corporate Service / Business Operations. 25 respondents mentioned one or more of these service areas in their response. Respondents suggested budget reduction in these areas and to improve efficiencies to produce cost savings.

"The principal areas for reconsideration appear to be those which are funding the Council's own administration and contracts with the private sector: more than £13m on ICT, business operations £11m, corporate services etc."

"Seems an awful lot for democratic services, corporate services and especially human resources."

Reduce budget allocation for Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care currently receives the highest proportion of the budget. Overall respondents were suggesting a reduction to the budget allocation for Adult Social Care. There were 39 comments relating to reducing the budget allocated to Adult Social Care. Whilst respondents understood the importance of the service, they also felt it could be delivered on a reduced budget by making service improvements. Conversely, 21 respondents felt the budgets were appropriately allocated or additional budget allocation is required.

"I think whilst clearly very important we do need to reduce the amount spent on Adult Social Care which seems disproportionate"

"Social care spend may in part be necessitated by the failure of other more basic caring structures. It would be important to identify these and try to repair them."

"I feel that the Council's money should be spent where it benefits most residents. Less on social care which is over half the budget."

"When viewing the proposed budget a large percentage goes into adult care but what this fails to recognise is that the need for adult care will become greater if the children needs aren't helped earlier enough."

"Far too much on adult social care. Need a new model to fund this rather than taxation."

Presentation of the budget information:

There were 82 comments relating to the clarity of the information and the ability of the respondent to make an informed decision about the budget based on the information provided. Respondents were concerned that statutory and non-statutory services were not clearly shown.

"Difficult to determine what is being spent within each category. More detail would help us understand why there are similar levels of spend for Education, ICT, Legal and Business Ops. The similar levels of spend don't feel logical."

"Not possible to comment without detailed breakdown of current expenditure and where the pressures are."

"The devil is in the detail for these spend categories, so it is hard to make informed comment. The Adult & Children social care buckets aren't broken down and there's probably areas within that I would want to prioritise (and deprioritise)."

Verbatim comments on Council Funding:

There were 38 comments relating to how the Council is funded. These included comments on devolving responsibilities further to Town and Parish Councils, obtaining funding from national government for services, requesting funds from building contractors to make good road damage and looking at the possibilities of some services having an income stream or being self-funding.

"We feel there should be additional direct funding from central Government for the care of vulnerable children and adults, in the same way as schools are funded."

“With all the developments -house building/HS2 and EW rail going on surely they could be requested to make a contribution towards the roads and transportation costings as a lot of the potholes around where I live are directly linked to the traffic associated with these projects”

“I think there should be some money spent to come up with ways to generate more income other than taxes. Too many jobs are outsourced which definitely costs more in the long run”

Appendix 1 – Proposed budget allocation for 2023/24

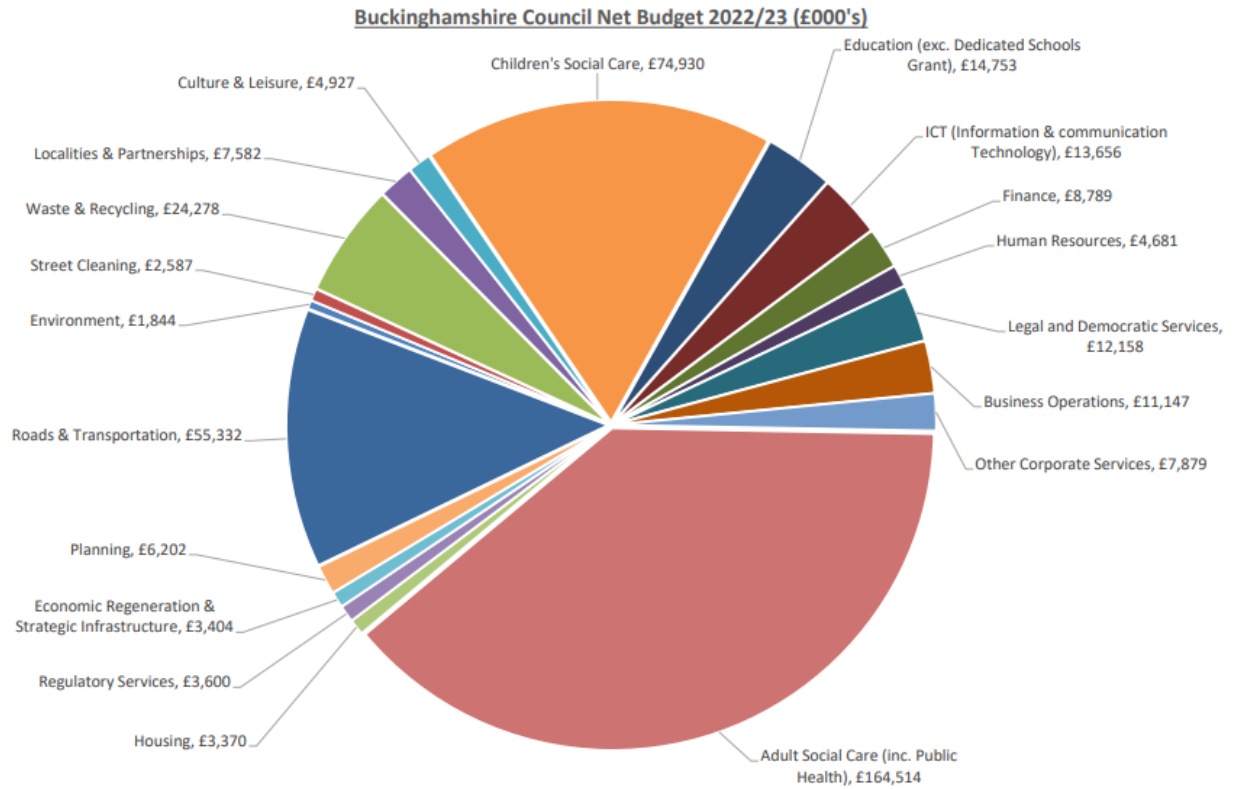


Figure 5

Appendix 2 – Questionnaire



Money Matters: Have your say on Buckinghamshire Council's spending priorities for 2023/24

Open date: 12 October 2022

Close date: 20 November 2022

We want to know which services you think we should be prioritising in our budget for next year, and what you think about our outline plans for how we're suggesting next year's budget should be spent.

We are working hard on spending plans for next year. With a really challenging economic climate, with rising energy costs, interest rates and inflation, it's more essential than ever that you tell us how you want your money to be spent.

The costs involved in providing our services have risen sharply due to higher inflation. This makes setting the budget and balancing the books extremely challenging this year.

You have an important role to play in the budget-setting process as we need to determine how you want your council tax spent. In considering your response, take time to reflect on the wider needs of the whole of Buckinghamshire in addition to the specific priorities for yourself, your family, your immediate community, your business or your organisation.

How the council is funded

The money we receive from council tax covers 82% of the cost of providing all Buckinghamshire Council's services – from paying for care packages for adults who need it, to providing emergency accommodation for homeless people and vulnerable children, as well as the essential services everyone relies on like bin collections, road repairs and keeping streets and open spaces clean and safe.

The other 18% of the council's budget is funded by money from business rates, the New Homes Bonus and other grants.

It's also important to note that the funding for the running of our schools is not set or controlled by the council. This goes directly to schools from government as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

How your money is spent

All councils have a legal duty to limit their spending to the income they receive each year. So, our budget must balance.

The vast majority of our budget each year needs to be spent on the services we are required by law to provide, such as social care for adults and children. This is known as statutory spend.

The current spending breakdown for the year 2022/23 is:

- Adult Social Care (including Public Health) - £164,514,000
- Children's Social Care - £74,930,000
- Roads & Transportation - £55,332,000
- Waste & Recycling - £24,278,000
- Education (excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant) - £14,753,000
- ICT (Information Communication Technology) - £13,656,000
- Legal and Democratic Services - £12,158,000
- Business Operations - £11,147,000
- Finance - £8,789,000
- Other corporate services - £7,879,000
- Localities & Partnerships - £7,582,000
- Planning - £6,202,000
- Culture & Leisure - £4,927,000
- Human Resources - £4,681,000
- Regulatory Services - £3,600,000
- Economic Regeneration & Strategic Infrastructure - £3,404,000
- Housing - £3,370,000
- Street Cleaning - £2,587,000
- Environment - £1,844,000

This adds up to a total spend of £425,633,000 for 2022/23.

We are proposing to allocate the 2023/24 budget in a similar way.

How to have your say

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- Complete the online survey at buckinghamshire.gov.uk/money-matters-consultation
- Complete, and return, the printed version of the survey below. You can:
 - Email it to consultations@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
 - Post it to **Money Matters Consultation**, Business Intelligence Team, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UA
 - Take it to one of our Council Access Points

You can pick up a paper copy of the survey in one of our Council Access Points, including libraries.

If you have any questions about this activity, please email us at consultations@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Please tell us your views by midnight on Sunday 20 November 2022.

What happens next

We will consider all the feedback we receive and use the findings to help us develop the draft budget further.

A detailed draft budget will be published in early 2023 for further feedback and scrutiny. It will then be finalised and agreed in February 2023.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

Money Matters Consultation - Print survey

1. Which services would you prioritise for council funding?

You can select up to 5 services, in no particular order.

Please tick (✓) one option per column

	1	2	3	4	5
Care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car parking such as car parks, street parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community safety such as working with other organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour, violence and hate crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culture and tourism such as museums, country parks and archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational services such as childcare, pre-school, school admissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental health services such as food hygiene inspections and air quality monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing such as finding a home, tenancy issues, homelessness issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local regeneration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining parks, open spaces, playing fields and the countryside	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining Rights of Way	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining street furniture including signs, benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pavement maintenance including footpaths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning services such as advice, enforcement, development plans, planning applications, building control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Protecting the environment such as development of green spaces, renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Health services such as smoking cessation, drug/alcohol services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road infrastructure and planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services and support for children and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services to attract and support local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport and leisure services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street cleaning services including servicing public litter bins, dog bins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town centres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trading standards such as advice for businesses, product recalls, fraud / scams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste management such as fly-tipping prosecutions and recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Which services would you not prioritise for council funding?

You can select up to 5 services, in no particular order.

Please tick (✓) one option per column

	1	2	3	4	5
Care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car parking such as car parks, street parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Community safety such as working with other organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour, violence and hate crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culture and tourism such as museums, country parks and archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational services such as childcare, pre-school, school admissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental health services such as food hygiene inspections and air quality monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing such as finding a home, tenancy issues, homelessness issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local regeneration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining parks, open spaces, playing fields and the countryside	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining Rights of Way	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining street furniture including signs, benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pavement maintenance including footpaths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning services such as advice, enforcement, development plans, planning applications, building control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting the environment such as development of green spaces, renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Health services such as smoking cessation, drug/alcohol services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road infrastructure and planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Services and support for children and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services to attract and support local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport and leisure services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street cleaning services including servicing public litter bins, dog bins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town centres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trading standards such as advice for businesses, product recalls, fraud / scams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste management such as fly-tipping prosecutions and recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed budget allocation for 2023 to 2024

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with how we propose to allocate Buckinghamshire Council’s budget for 2023 to 2024?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don’t know

4. How easy to understand was the following information?

Please tick (✓) one option for each statement

	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Not very easy	Not at all easy	I don’t know
How the council is funded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How the council spends its money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Not very easy	Not at all easy	I don't know
What statutory spend is	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The financial challenges the council faces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. If you have any other comments about the proposed budget allocation for 2023 to 2024, please tell us them here:

About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal information.

6. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I live in Buckinghamshire
- I work in Buckinghamshire
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

7. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Local media (newspaper, radio or TV)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Nextdoor
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Buckinghamshire Council newsletter
- From Buckinghamshire Council staff
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Poster
- Word of mouth
- Local Community Board
- Local Councillor
- Local Parish / Town Council or Town Committee
- Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisation
- Other (please give details below):

8. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (**Go to question 10**)
- On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

9. Please provide the following details:

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

End of survey for organisations

About you

10. What is your postcode?

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

11. What is your age?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

12. Are you:

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

13. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long-term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long-term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long-term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

14. How would you describe your ethnicity?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below

- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

15. Are there any children aged under 18 in your household?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different households.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

16. What is your employment status?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different employment statuses.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Self-employed full-time or part-time
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Carer
- Student

- Looking after the family or home
- Long-term illness or condition that prevents you from working
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please give details below):

17.If you would like to receive email updates about the progress of Buckinghamshire Council's budget for 2023 to 2024, please provide your email address:

By providing us with your email address, you are consenting to us contacting you about the progress of Buckinghamshire Council's budget for 2023 to 2024 only.

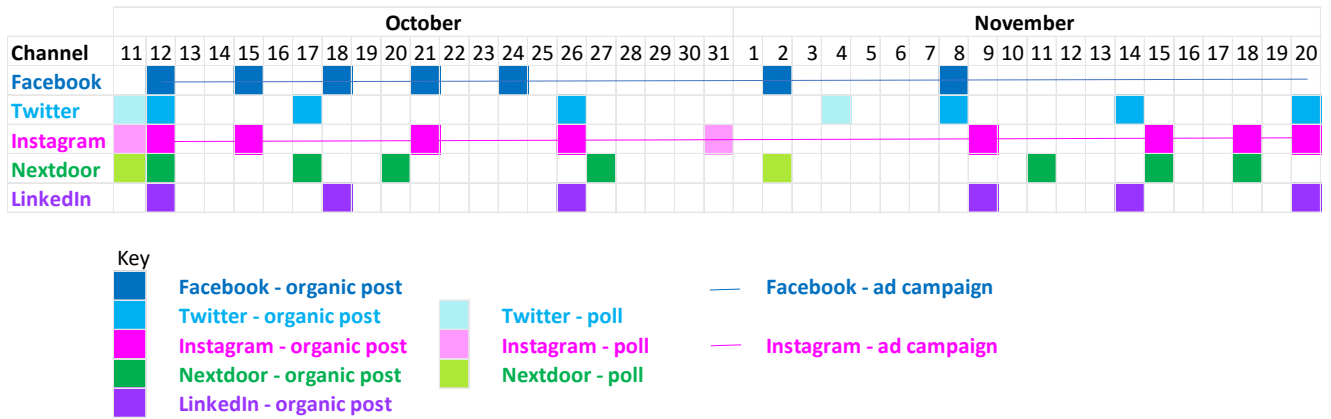
End of consultation survey

Thank you for completing the survey.

Please return your completed survey by **Sunday 20 November 2022**. You can:

- Email it to consultations@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Post it to **Money Matters Consultation**, Business Intelligence Team, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UA
- Take it to one of our Council Access Points

Appendix 3 - Marketing Plan for Social Media Channels



The responses to the poll are shown below:

Twitter

← Tweet

Buckinghamshire Council @BucksCouncil

Where do you think the most budget should go?

Stay tuned to have your say on Money Matters 🗳️🗨️

Community Safety	41%
Housing	27%
Parks/Open Spaces	22%
Waste Management	10%

78 votes · Final results

11:00 · 11 Oct 22 · Twitter Web App

Buckinghamshire Council @BucksCouncil

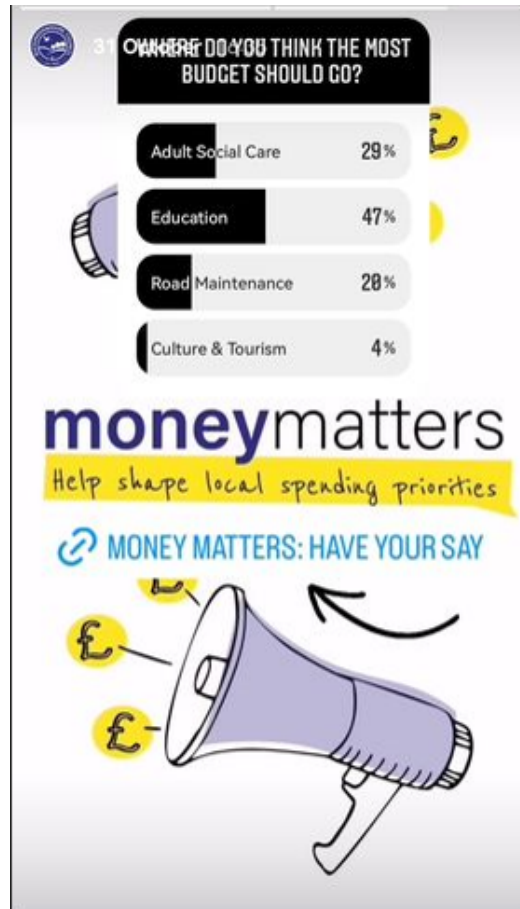
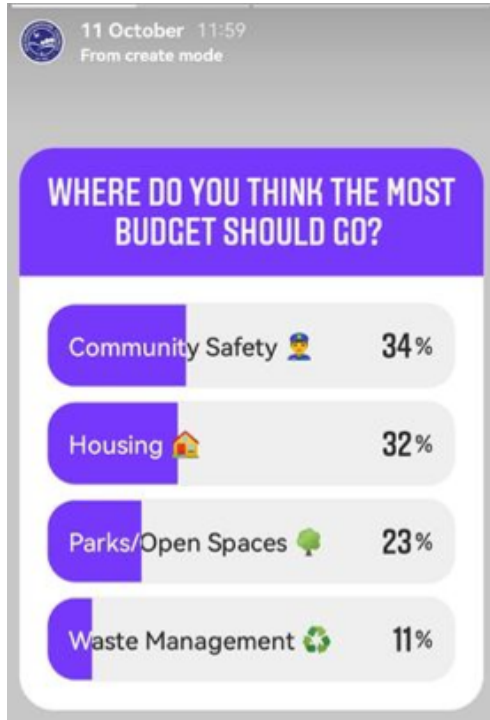
Where do you think the most budget should go?

Adult Social Care	33.3%
Education	39.8%
Road Maintenance	24.1%
Culture & Tourism	2.7%

841 votes · Final results

4:09 pm · 4 Nov 2022 · Twitter Web App

Instagram



Nextdoor



Appendix 4 – Respondent Profile

Respondents were asked about the capacity in which they were answering the consultation and were able to select all that applied to them. 98%¹⁵ said that they live in Buckinghamshire and 29% work in Buckinghamshire. 9% of respondents represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire, 8% represent a community or voluntary group, 5% work for Buckinghamshire Council. Other capacities made up less than 5% of respondents.

(Q) Which of the following describe you? (Select all that apply)

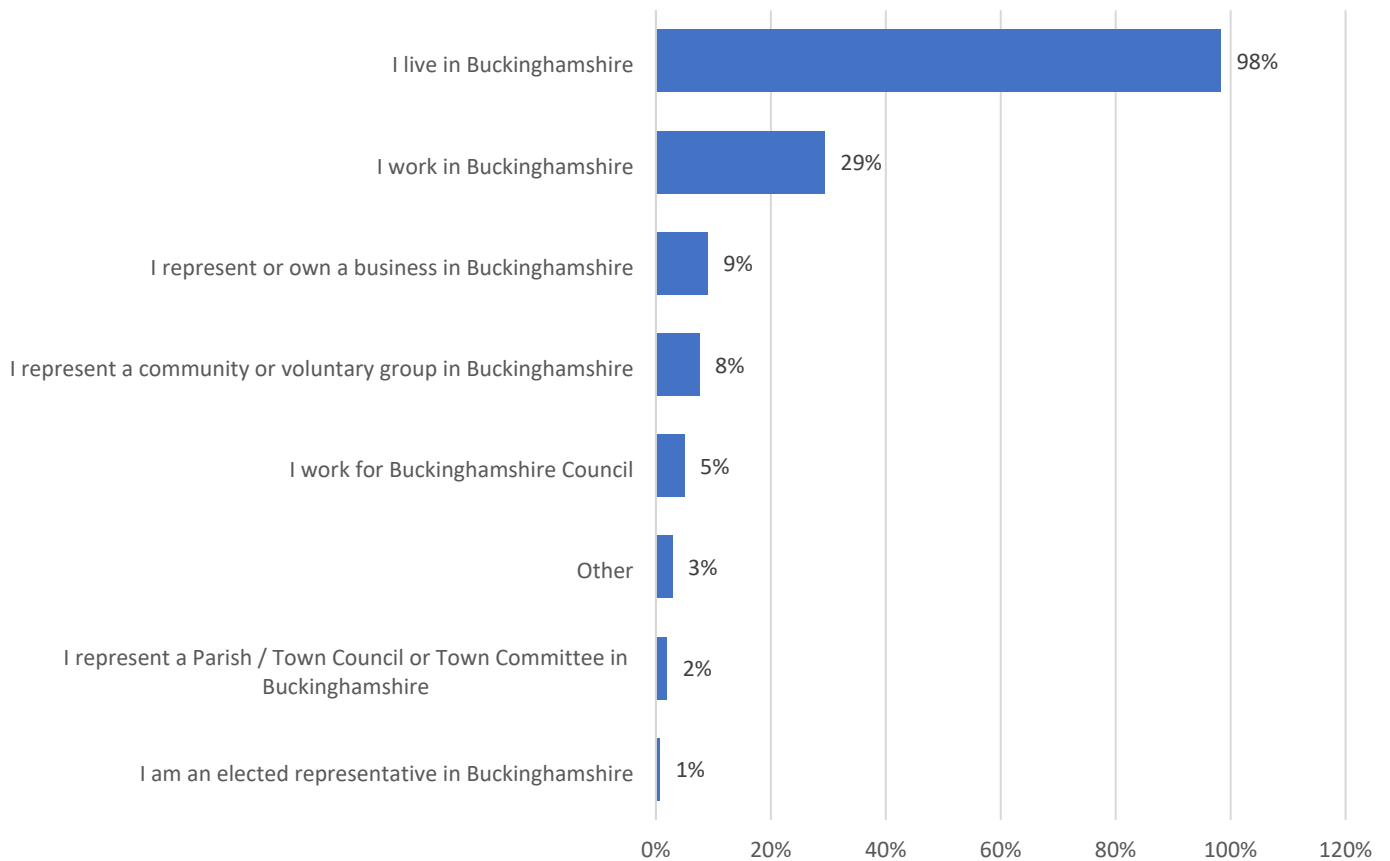


Figure 6

The question “Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation” was answered by all respondents. Over 99% (1,797) of respondents were answering as an individual and less than 1% (8) on behalf of an organisation.

¹⁵ Base: 1,803 respondents to this question

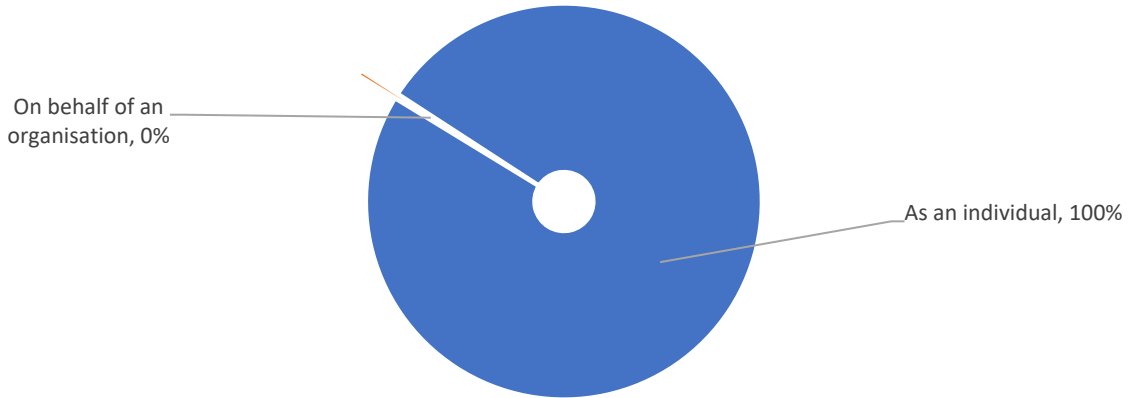


Figure 7

Residents' Demographic Profile

The profile of those respondents who were answering as an individual (residents)¹⁶ was compared to the Buckinghamshire profile to understand whether the survey sample contains an over or under representation of certain demographic groups.

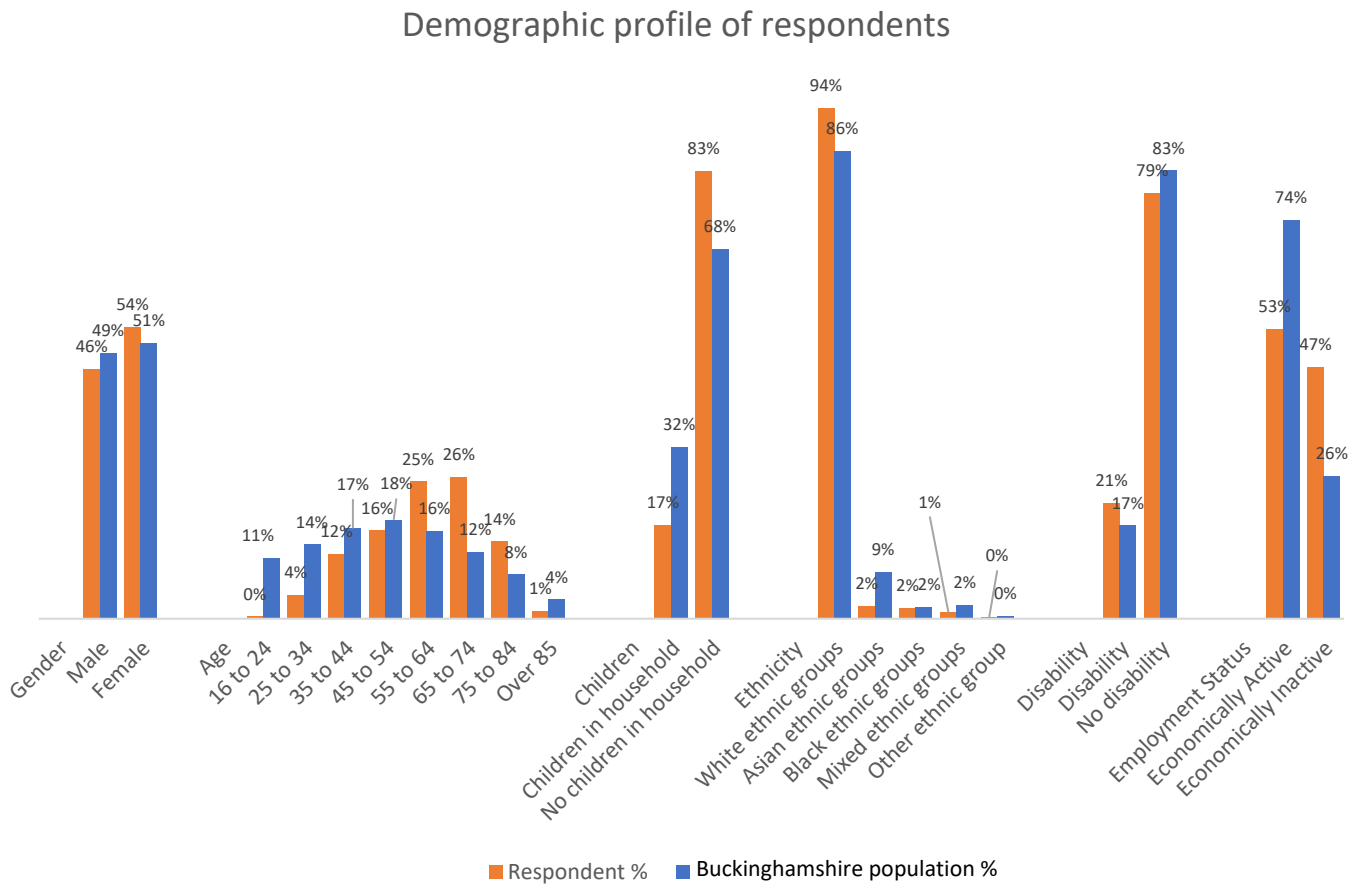


Figure 8

The following demographic groups were overrepresented / underrepresented¹⁷ in the survey (see Figure 1):

¹⁶ Bases: Gender (1,685), Age (1,720), Children aged 0-17 (1,701), Ethnicity (1,627), Disability (1,669), Present Job Category (1,701), ACORN (postcode) (1,219)

- Non-white ethnic groups were under-represented compared with the Buckinghamshire population profile (6% v's 14%)
- Younger people – the proportion of respondents under 35 was a fifth of the proportion in the Buckinghamshire population (5% v's 25%)
- Older age groups – Age 55-84 were over-represented (66% v's 37%).
- A higher proportion of economically inactive residents responded compared to the Buckinghamshire profile (47% v's 26%)

Acorn¹⁸ Profile

Residents from the most affluent ACORN groups (Affluent Achievers) were more likely to respond to the consultation (62% vs. 46%).

Acorn Categories of respondents

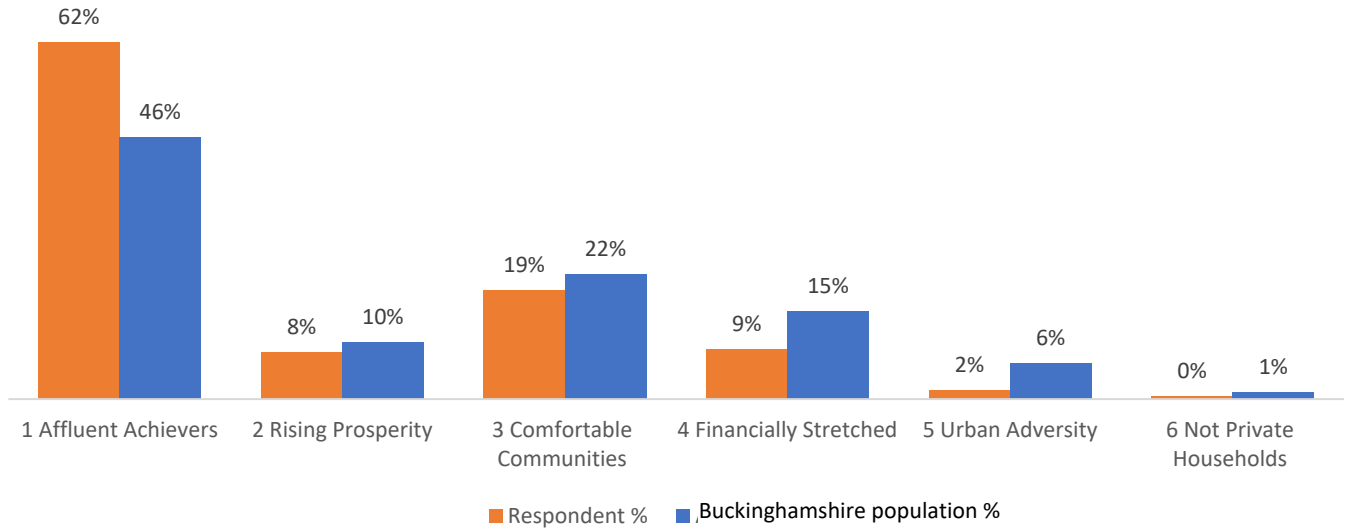


Figure 9

Location

Community Boards that were over-represented* included Amersham (8% vs. 5%), Wendover (8% vs. 5%) and Haddenham & Waddesdon (8% vs. 6%). High Wycombe (6% vs. 13%), Aylesbury (11% vs. 14%) and Beeches (3% vs. 5%) were under-represented*.

Community Boards

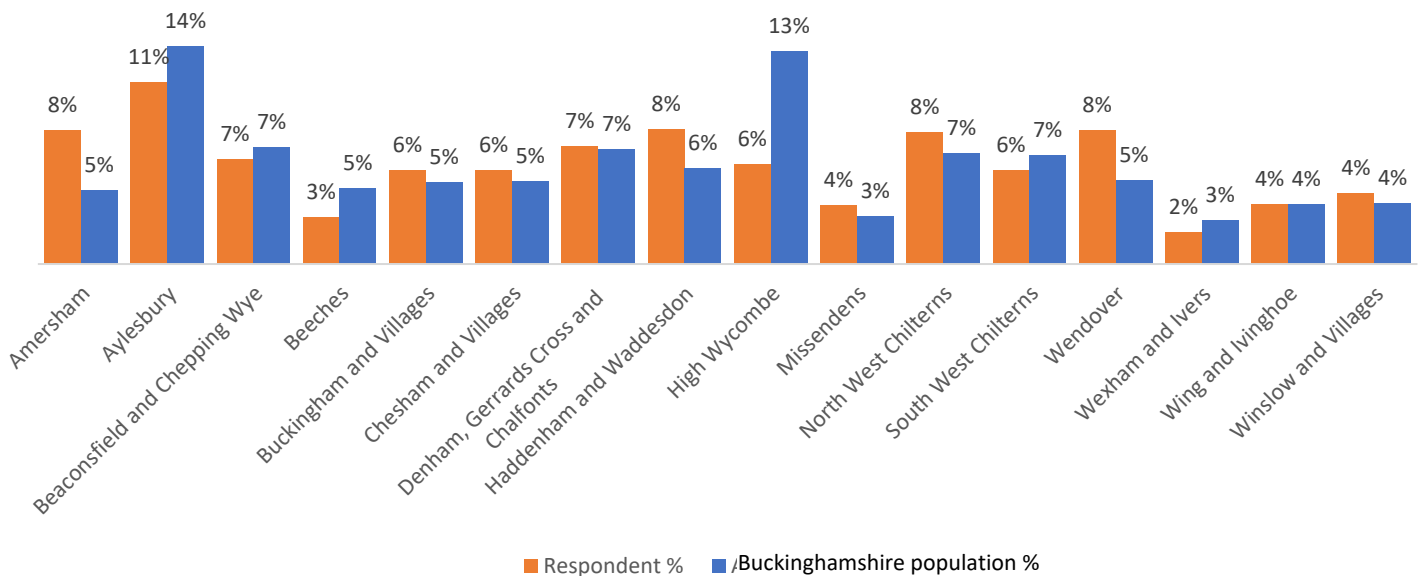
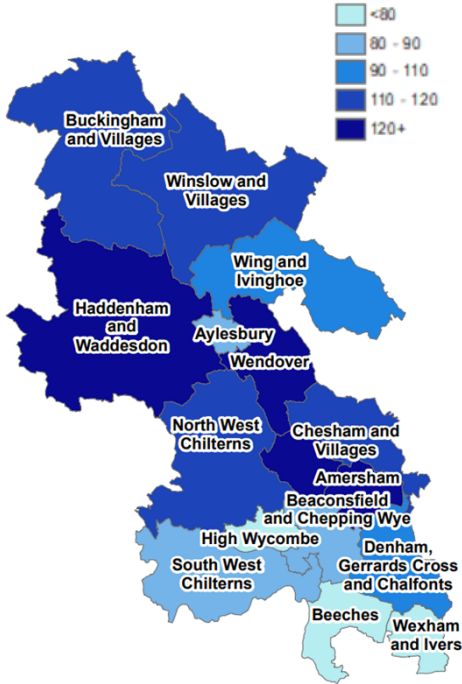


Figure 11

¹⁸ See <https://acorn.caci.co.uk/> for more information on ACORN

43% of respondents were located in the north of the county¹⁹, which is an over-representation* of the 38% of Buckinghamshire residents who live in this area.

Index: Respondent % vs. Bucks population %



Organisations

There were 8 responses from representatives of organisations. All 8 stated that they represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire. 6 respondents gave the name of their organisation.

N.B. Due to the low number of responses from organisations, caution should be used when interpreting results from this respondent group

¹⁹ Within the following Community Board areas: Aylesbury, Buckingham, and Villages, Haddenham and Waddesdon, Wendover, Wing and Ivinghoe and Winslow and Villages.

Appendix 5 - Communication of the Consultation

How respondents found out about the Consultation

Respondents were asked how they found out about the consultation. The highest proportion (60%) of respondents said that they found out via the Bucks Council Newsletter, followed by Social Media (17%) and Other (8%).

Q. How did you find out about this Consultation?

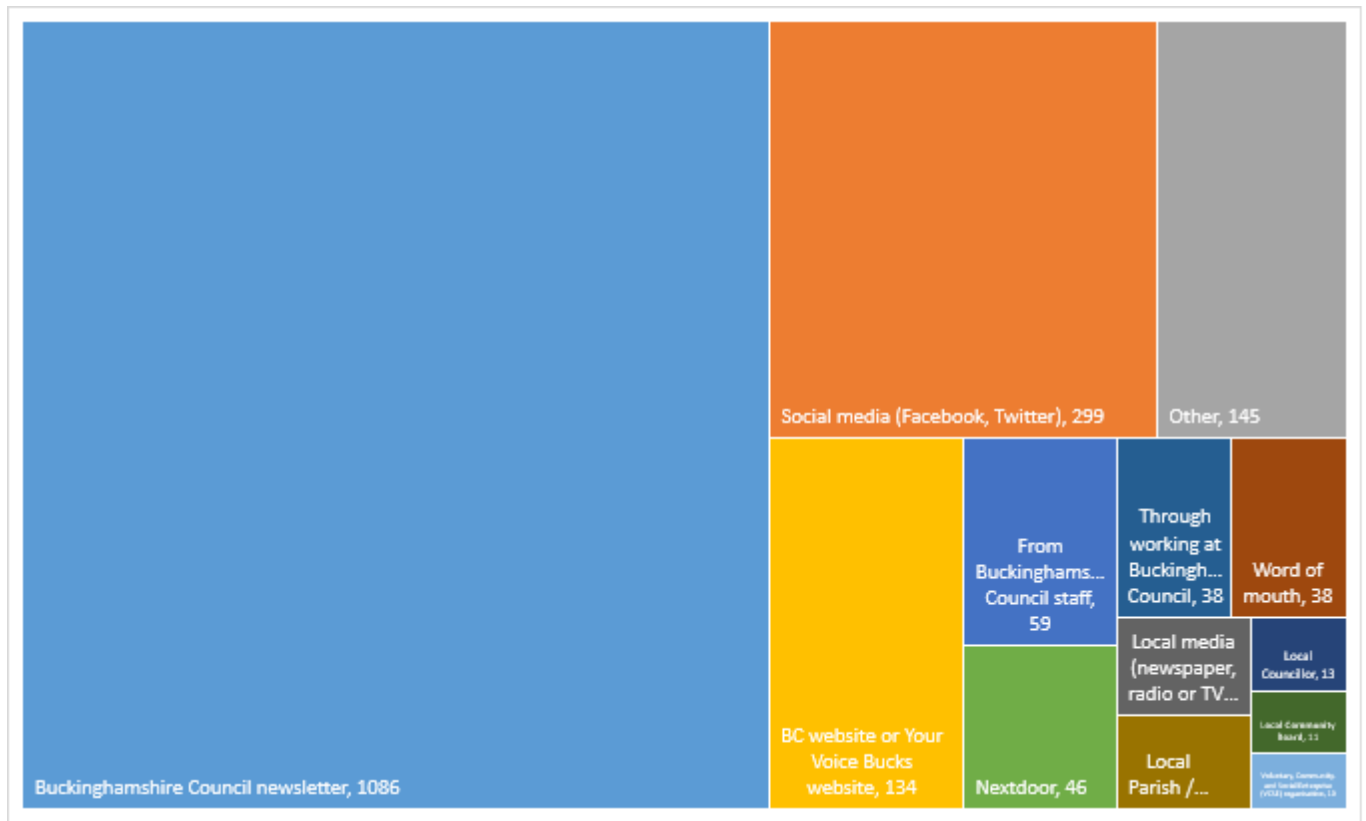


Figure 12

697 respondents provided their email address and said they would like to receive email updates about the progress of Buckinghamshire Council’s budget for 2023 to 2024.

Feedback from events

Engaging young people on the priorities for the Buckinghamshire Council

On 2 November 2022, members from the Council team attended the meeting of the Youth Voice Executive Committee. This is a group of young people who lead Youth Voice. Youth Voice is a space for young people aged 11-19, and up to 25 if they have a Special Education Need or Disability, to speak about issues that are important for young people. There are six young people on the Executive Committee, four attended this session. The four young people were all age 18+. The discussion was kept anonymous.

They were presented with the budget, broken down by service area, for 2022/23. The group then engaged in an open discussion about the budget and what was important and not important to them. This discussion is summarised below:

Youth services and spaces

- Young people don't have a lot of youth spaces (e.g., hubs) to go to
- There have been community safety concerns around the spaces they did have so some youth spaces have had to close down
- Youth clubs are really important – it can be the only thing young people have available
- The group would like more hubs around Buckinghamshire
- The group would like youth services to be more accessible and inclusive – for example, inclusive for young people that don't have technology and want to get involved by reaching them in non-digital ways
- The Youth Service is key in young people's lives

Environment

- Concerned that environment is towards the bottom of the spending list
- Should spend more on the climate crisis and green energy – it would be a good investment and make the Council look better

Culture and leisure

- The current budget felt a bit low
- It should be up there with education in terms of budget
- Has possibility to facilitate so much more and reinforce learning and experience where education hasn't

Waste and recycling

- Would like it to be split more evenly with environment
- Initiatives such as generating energy from the rubbish important (existing initiatives on energy from waste were briefly mentioned to the young)

Serious youth violence and violence against women and girls

- Need to do more about young people's safety such as awareness programmes, using school networks to promote
- Really serious issue with young people dying from knife crime
- Scared of walking alone
- Violence against women and girls a priority
- Young people are paying for alarms to help them feel safe – feel they should be widely accessible and free, potentially via schools. Mentioned young people living alone in particular.

Mental health

- Messaging through school assemblies isn't that engaging
- Use more messaging on social media (TikTok etc.)
- Having a counsellor in a room and asking young people to come and talk to them doesn't work

Money management for young people

- Unclear where to go / help available for young people for life events such buying a home

Engagement via social media

A social media campaign ran across five key channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor & LinkedIn. This consisted of organic posts on the five key channels supplemented with polls on three of the channels and an 'ad campaign' on Facebook and Instagram. Polls were run on Twitter, Instagram & Nextdoor. Two polls went out on each channel, one on 11th October just before the launch of the consultation and the other polls were approximately halfway through the consultation. The main aim of both the organic posts and the polls was to generate interest in the Budget Consultation, both the polls and the organic posts provided the opportunity to click on a link to be taken to the full consultation for completion. The ad campaigns ran for the duration of the consultation. Further details on the poll responses and organic post dates can be found in [Appendix 3](#).