

Durham County Council Budget Consultation 2022

Format of response

	Frequency	Percent
Mobile	240	35.9%
PC	356	53.3%
Tablet	32	4.8%
Paper	40	6.0%
Total	668	100.0%

Do you agree or disagree with this approach?

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	31	5.1%
Agree	157	25.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	111	18.2%
Disagree	164	26.9%
Strongly disagree	146	24.0%
Total	609	100.0%

Please tell us why.

	Frequency
Council tax increase negative: Generic disagree	106
Miscellaneous positive: Generic agree	69
Miscellaneous negative: Generic disagree	62
Council tax increase negative: Will make families struggle	55
Back-office reductions negative: Generic disagree	42
Council tax increase negative: Already high	38
Miscellaneous negative: Review services council provides	33
Back-office reductions negative: Will impact upon services	30
Service cuts negative: Incorrectly directed at front line workers/management instead	29
Use of reserves negative: Generic disagree	22
Service cuts negative: Will impact upon services	19
Additional income/charges positive: Selling renewable energy	15
Council tax increase positive: Generic agree	15
Miscellaneous negative: No redundancies/staff cuts	15
Miscellaneous negative: Will impact staff wellbeing/safety	15
Service cuts negative: Protect services for the vulnerable	15
Service cuts negative: Theatres/leisure centres/sport/cultural services	14
Use of reserves positive: Generic agree	14
Miscellaneous negative: Review council buildings/land	13

	Frequency
Miscellaneous negative: New council headquarters	12
Additional income/charges positive: Generic agree	11
Back-office reductions negative: Cut councillors allowances	11
Back-office reductions positive: Generic agree	10
Miscellaneous positive: Savings need to be made	10
Additional income/charges positive: Explore commercial opportunities & profit making further	9
Service cuts negative: Review use of contractors and management of commercial services	9
Use of reserves negative: Uncertainty of future reserves	9
Additional income/charges negative: Don't use FPNs	8
Council tax increase negative: Stop council tax concessions	8
Additional income/charges negative: Don't increase green waste charges	7
Additional income/charges negative: Generic disagree	7
Back-office reductions negative: Need to be targeted	6
Council tax increase positive: Charge student properties	6
Back-office reductions positive: Needs to be balanced	5
Miscellaneous negative: DLI	5
Service cuts positive: Protect leisure centres etc	5
Additional income/charges positive: Increase FPNs	4
Council tax increase negative: Will cost money	4
Council tax increase positive: Agree with social care precept	4
Council tax increase positive: Increase further	4
Additional income/charges negative: Penalises the public	3
Back-office reductions negative: Loss of knowledge and experience	3
Council tax increase negative: Reduce council tax	3
Generic neutral	3
Miscellaneous positive: Partnership working/AAPs	3
Service cuts negative: Generic disagree	3
Additional income/charges negative: Questions money attainable	2
Miscellaneous negative: Sliding scale of council tax	2
Miscellaneous negative: Stop capital outlay	2
Service cuts negative: Keep CAPs open	2
Service cuts positive: Generic agree	2
Use of reserves positive: Use more reserves	2
Additional income/charges negative: Don't charge those with financial appointees	1
Back-office reductions negative: Outsource staff	1
Council tax increase negative: Disagree with social care precept	1
Long term information	1
Miscellaneous negative: Increase parking	1
Total	810

What do you feel will be the impact of this approach upon you?

	Frequency	Percent
Extremely positive	8	1.3%
Positive	24	4.0%
Neither negative nor positive	145	24.0%
Negative	261	43.1%
Extremely negative	167	27.6%
Total	605	100.0%

Why do you believe this to be the case?

	Frequency
Less money/increased cost of living	165
Less services (generic)	117
Can't afford/can't pay	39
Less staff	29
Staff less secure/worried	28
Pressure on staff/mental health	21
<i>10 categories <20 responses</i>	<i>54</i>
Total	453

Why do you believe this to be the case?

	Frequency
Less money/increased cost of living	165
Less services (generic)	117
Can't afford/can't pay	39
Less staff	29
Staff less secure/worried	28
Pressure on staff/mental health	21
Small change to council tax	13
Unhappy residents	10
Change of employment circumstances	7
Not impacted	7
Affordable change	5
Services protected	5
Improved efficiency	3
Need to protect services	2
Alienate vulnerable CAP users	1
Required	1
Total	453

Do you have any alternatives to the approach, whilst making the required savings?

	Frequency
Cut the fat/make available savings	85
Reduce senior wages	37
Reduce number of buildings/land	36
Stop Capital project expenditure	34
Decrease management numbers	29
Reduce staff travelling/WFH	29
Increase charges for services/fines/parking	22
Remove non-essential services	22
Increased use of solar power/wind power/renewables /energy	19
Reduce cost of Councillors (numbers/pay/benefits/projects)	19
Stop DLI	19
Invest to save programmes	14
Use HQ money/keep CH	14
Expand profitable businesses	13
Cut back on arts projects/public events	12
Pass all ERVR/staff cuts/redeploy into essential services	12
Cut back on grounds maintenance throughout the county	11
Increase higher band CT	11
Look at council licenses, subscriptions, procurement	11
Crosscutting roles/knowledge	10
Get rid of AAPs	9
Look at CT and students including student landlords	9
Reduce/simplify benefits system	8
Stop using consultants and using agency staff	8
Review leisure centres	7
Reduce access to care services	6
Get rid of design and print services/publications	5
Rent council buildings by daily rate	5
Cut back on regeneration projects	4
Don't fill any vacancies	4
Bring people on benefits to work	3
Pursue debts	3
Charge employees to park	2
Charges on council parking for public	2
Increase general taxes on the wealthy individuals and companies	2
Review council tax rates in rural areas/target group	2
Dissolve Parish Councils	1
Reduce fleet size	1

Support small businesses	1
Total	541

If the government do remove the cap, do you agree or disagree with the council utilising additional council tax raising powers over the current 2.99% forecast?

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	55	9.0%
Agree	112	18.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	55	9.0%
Disagree	114	18.6%
Strongly disagree	276	45.1%
Total	612	100.0%

Please expand here.

	Frequency
Disagree: Will cause hardship/unaffordable	51
Disagree: Too high already	26
Agree: Protects services	19
Disagree: Save in alternative ways	18
Disagree: Will be/has been wasted	14
Agree: Affordable	11
Neutral: As long as reasonable increase	9
Disagree: House size does not reflect wealth	6
Disagree: Taking from the poor to help the rich/others	5
Agree: Is required	3
Disagree: Deflects blame from Government	3
Disagree: Lobby/protest about the Government	3
Agree: Poor are supported	2
Agree: Use to promote climate change	1
Neutral: DCC will do what they want	1
Total	172

Are you responding as:

	Frequency	Percent
A resident	562	91.5%
A Durham County Council employee	150	24.4%
A business	11	1.8%
An organisation	8	1.3%
Other	2	0.3%
Total	733	119.4%

If other, please specify.

	Frequency
Visit library within County Durham	1
Volunteer within County Durham	1
Total	2

Are you:

	Frequency	Percent
Male	197	38.7%
Female	306	60.1%
Prefer to self-describe	5	1.0%
Non-binary	1	0.2%
Total	509	100.0%

What is your age?

	Frequency	Percent
Under 18	1	0.2%
18-24	6	1.2%
25-34	46	9.0%
35-44	130	25.3%
45-54	120	23.4%
55-64	113	22.0%
65-74	68	13.3%
75+	29	5.7%
Total	513	100.0%

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	101	19.8%
No	409	80.2%
Total	510	100.0%

What is your religion or belief?

	Frequency	Percent
Christian	292	60.3%
Buddhist	4	0.8%
Muslim	2	0.4%
None	179	37.0%
Agnostic	2	0.4%
Atheist	2	0.4%
Pagan	2	0.4%
Spiritualist	1	0.2%
Total	484	100.0%

What is your ethnicity?

	Frequency	Percent
White British	487	97.6%
White Non-British	5	1.0%
Asian or Asian British	1	0.2%
Mixed Race	4	0.8%
Travelling Community	2	0.4%
Total	499	100.0%

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

	Frequency	Percent
Heterosexual/straight	425	94.0%
Gay or lesbian	20	4.4%
Bisexual	7	1.5%
Total	452	100.0%