

## Budget Consultation 2018/19 – Summary Results

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. In December 2017 the Council launched a consultation which looked at the budget proposals for 2018/19. Comments were invited over a 6 week period, ending on 11 February 2018. The public were invited to comment on the proposed Council Tax increase and the budget options for savings and growth. This report summarises the results of the consultation.
- 1.2. Completed questionnaires were accepted up to 11 February 2018. The consultation period will formally close on the date the budget is approved in February 2018. This consultation followed the principles set out in the Council's Consultation Toolkit and industry standard guidance on best practice in consultation.
- 1.3. This appendix contains the summary results to the draft budget 2018/19 consultation. They will be used to by the Council as part of the process for informing priorities for the Council's Corporate Plan and for setting a balanced budget (including a capital programme).

### 2. Methodology

- 2.1. Residents, businesses, and other stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the proposals for the draft budget during the consultation period.
- 2.2. People were able to engage in a range of ways:
  - On-line survey asking people if they agreed or disagreed with the proposed Council Tax increase and the savings and growth proposals within the budget.
  - Advertised through social media
  - Paper questionnaires available upon request;
  - Website information on consultation proposals and questionnaire available to download and complete on-line
  - E-mail address, freepost address and consultation phone line set up to receive feedback;
  - Staff via intranet, trade unions and as general public;
  - Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 29 January 2018;
  - Audit Committee Meeting 15 January 2018

### 3. Consultation questions

**Q1** Northampton Borough Council is proposing a small increase in council tax in its draft budget proposals for 2018/19. A similar increase in 2017/18 enabled the Council to protect services and deliver improvements to parks and other

infrastructure within the borough through a fully-funded capital programme.

We are proposing to increase council tax for all households by 2.34%. This will be the equivalent for a band D household of £5 per year.

Doing this raises an estimated £334,000 in 2018/19, and this enables the Council to continue to deliver value for money services in the future.

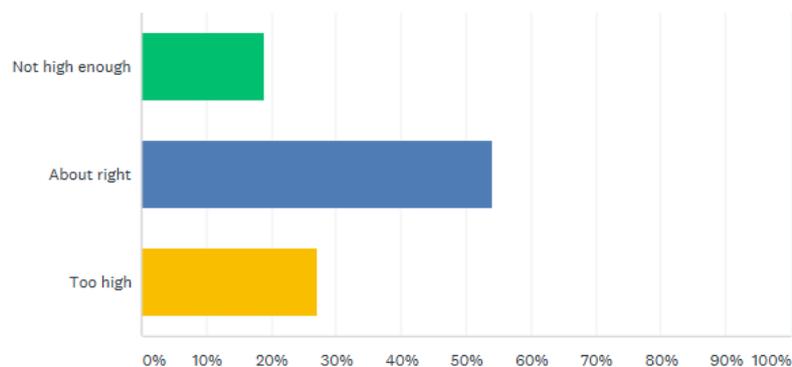
Q1

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Do you think that this increase is

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Not high enough	18.92% 7
▼ About right	54.05% 20
▼ Too high	27.03% 10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>

[Comments \(10\)](#)

Q2

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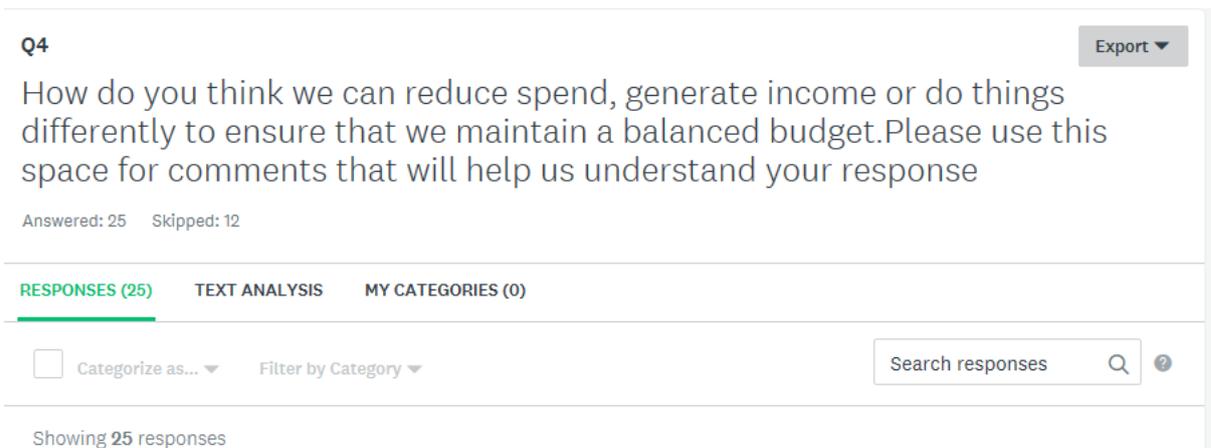
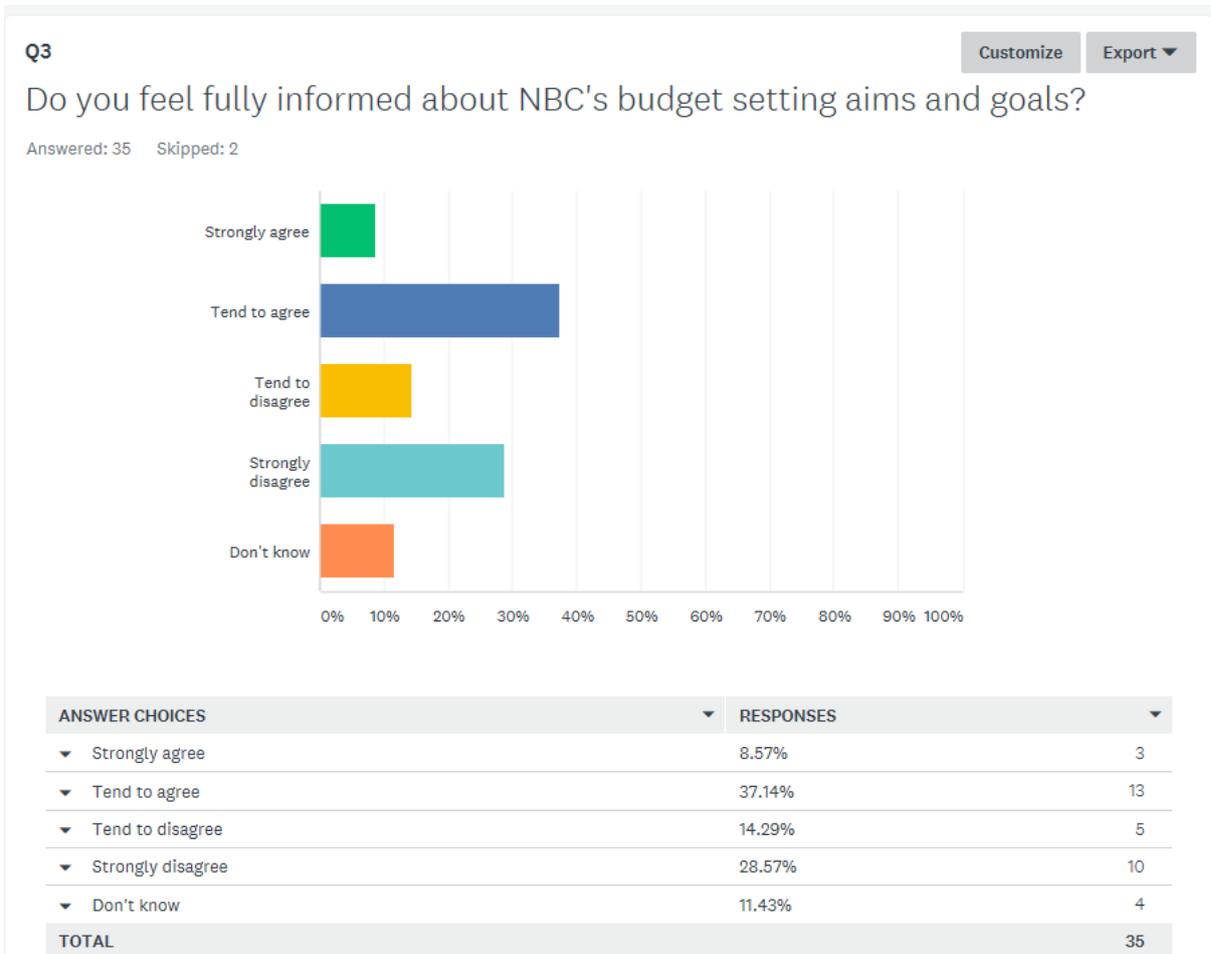
Where do you feel the Borough Council should be spending additional funds? Please use this space for comments that will help us understand your response

Answered: 29 Skipped: 8

A number of the responses to this question related to the services provided by the County Council, such as social care, highways and libraries. Some of the key themes of relevance to the Borough Council's budget were:

- Cleaning up the town centre, as well as improving parks and open spaces and planting more trees.

- Provision of more social housing
- Support for vulnerable people, especially the homeless



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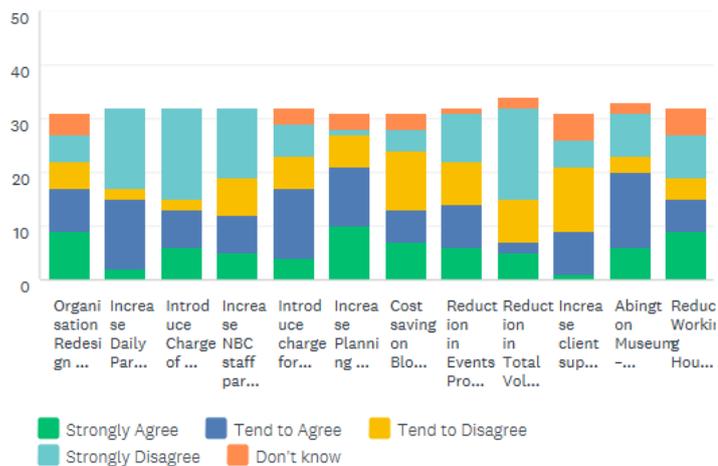
- Focus on core services, rather than items such as bronze statues.

- Reduce use of consultants and interim staff
- Ensure fees and charges are set at the right level for all services

**Q5**

The key proposals for budgetary savings and growth are set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet budget report published on our website. Please indicate your views on these proposals:

Answered: 32 Skipped: 5



These proposals are as follows (from left to right):

- Organisational Redesign – to support delivery of value for money services – saving £370,000
- Increase Daily Parking Charge from £7 to £8 – increased income £100,000
- Introduce Charge of £2 for parking all day on Saturday and on Sunday – Increased income £700,000
- Increase NBC staff parking charge to £40 per month – increased income £40,000
- Introduce charge for market rubbish collection – income of £10,000
- Increase Planning Fee Income - £200,000
- Cost saving on Bloom - £18,000
- Reduction in Events Programme - £30,000
- Reduction in Total Voluntary/Community Funding to £1.07m – saving £94,000
- Increase client support for new Environmental Services contract – growth of £60,000
- Abington Museum – Extended Opening Hours – growth of £20,000
- Reduce Working Hours to 37 per week – cost £150,000