

1. Results of Budget Consultation

Appendix 7

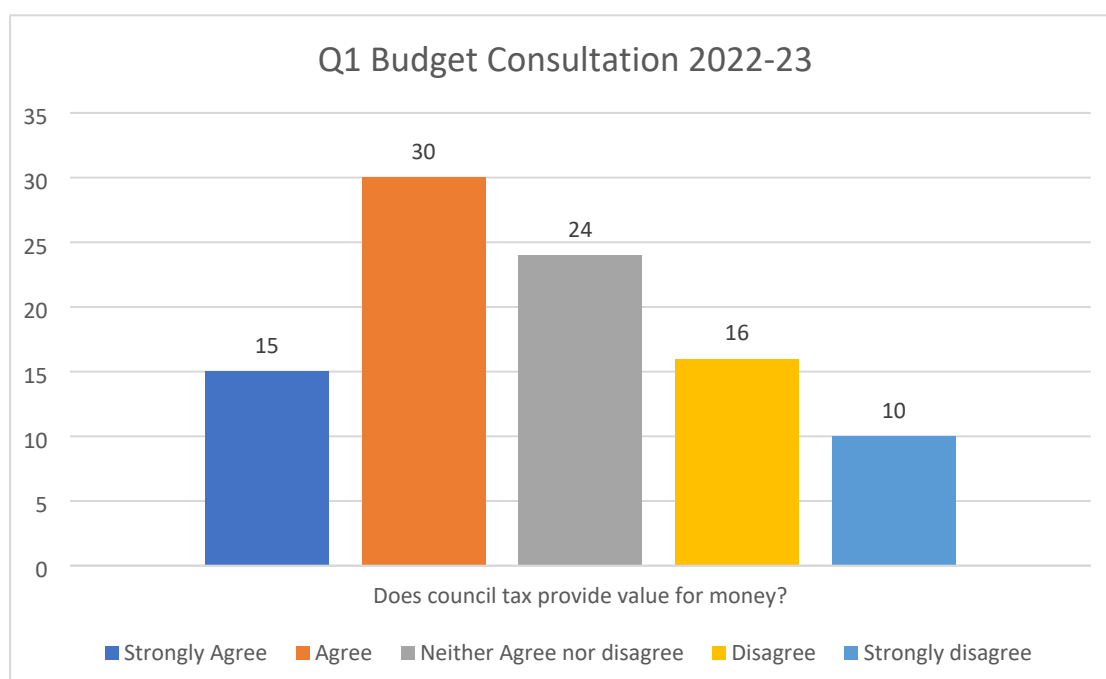
- 1.1 The council's budget consultation for 2022/23 has used an on-line interactive budget survey, a link to which has been available on the council's website.
- 1.2 The six-week consultation period was during December 2021 and January 2022.
- 1.3 Throughout this process, views of the public and other partners/stakeholders have been sought on the council's financial plans including levels of spending, potential efficiencies, and budget savings, as well as opinions on fees and charges.
- 1.4 95 responses were received as part of the consultation process

2. Consultation Responses

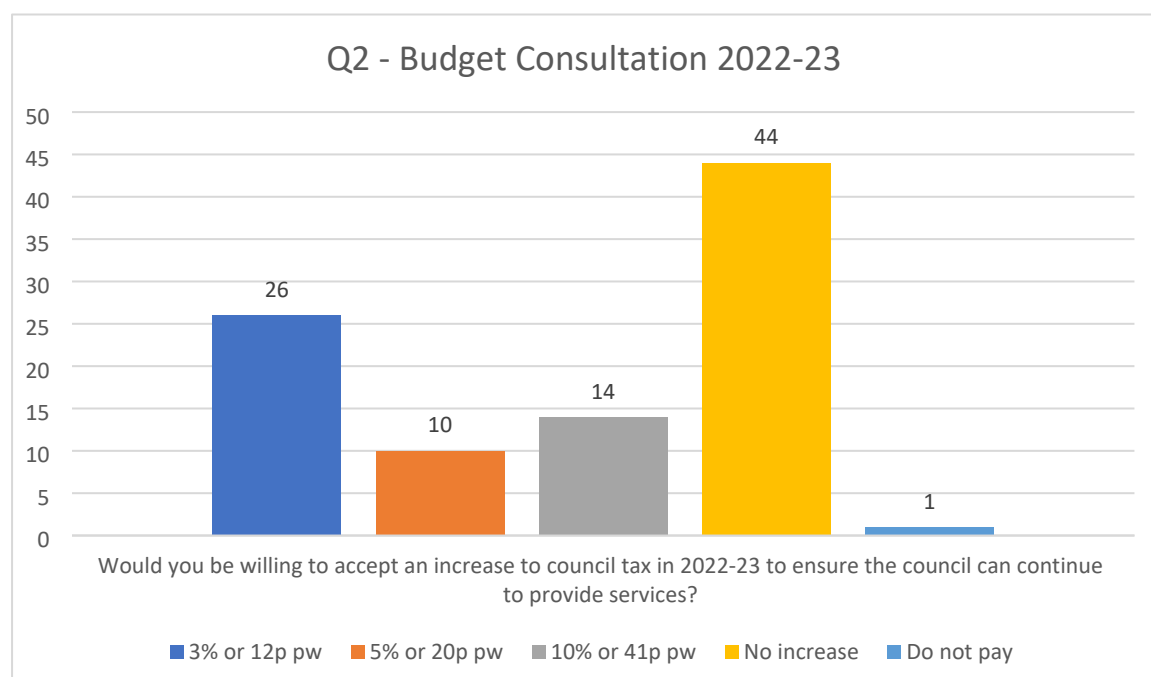
- Q1. Bearing in mind Gloucester householders pay £4.08 per week for services provided by the City Council (based on average Band D Council Tax 2021/22). Do you agree that Gloucester City Council provides value for money?

Overall, 45 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the council tax charge provided value for money opposed to 26 who disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The chart below provides a summary:



Q2. Council Tax - Increases in Council Tax help us to generate more income to balance the budgets and prevent reductions in services. The City Council increased the Council Tax it charges in 2021/22 by 2.5% to £4.08 per week per household - based on an average band D property. Would you be willing to accept an increase to Council Tax in 2022/23 to ensure the City Council can continue to provide services?



Q3. Which City Council Services are most important to you? The services listed below are those where the City Council invests most of its resources. Please tell us how important you feel each of these services are by selecting one answer for each service.

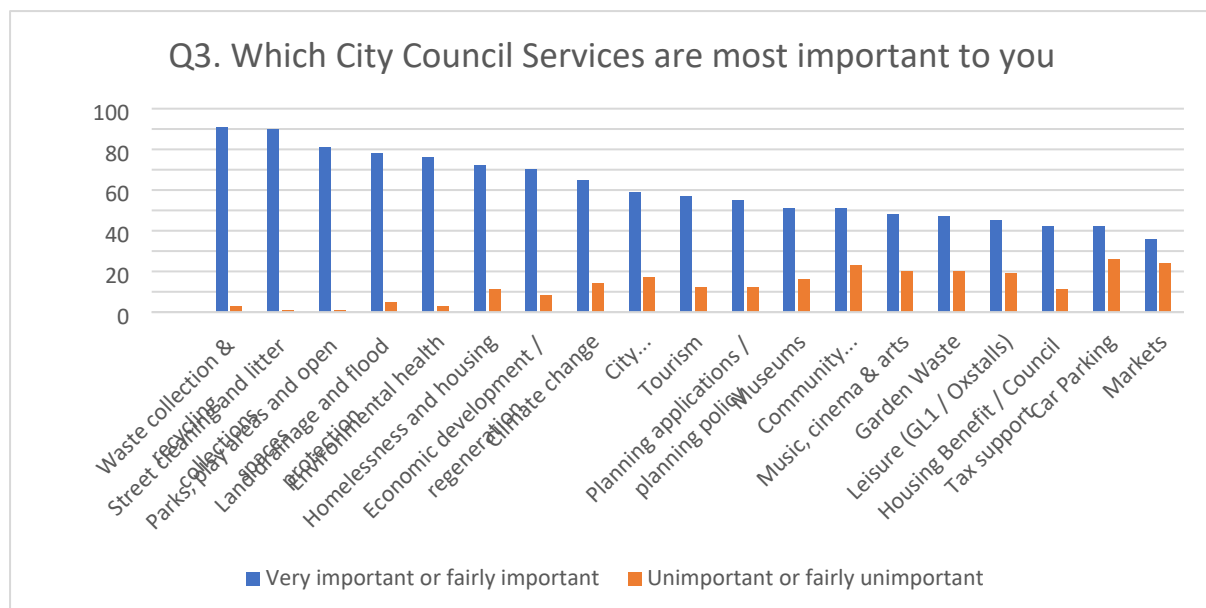
The responses showed the following;

Very Important/Most Important

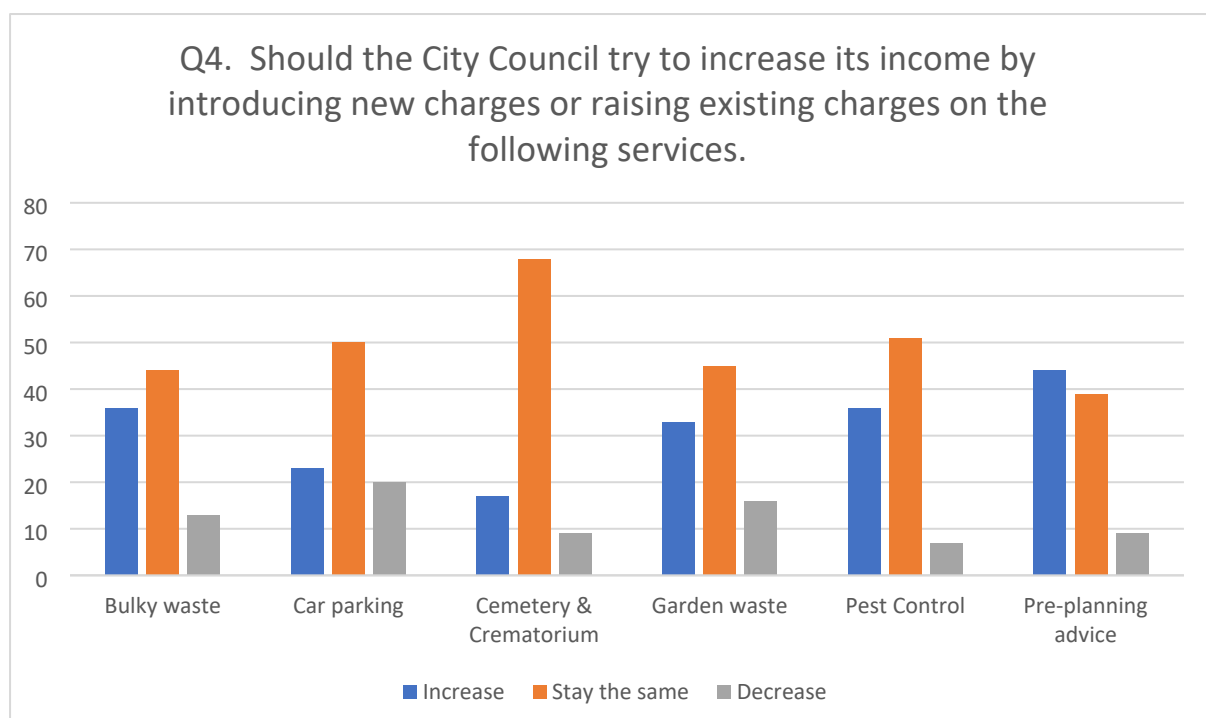
1. Waste Collection and Recycling
2. Street Cleaning and Litter Collection
3. Parks Play Areas & Open Spaces
4. Land Drainage & Flood Protection
5. Environmental health

Very Unimportant/Fairly Unimportant

1. Car Parking
2. Markets
3. Community Development (including grant support to groups, charities and third sector)
4. Music Cinema and Arts
5. Garden Waste



Q4. Should the City Council try to increase its income by introducing new charges or raising existing charges on the following services?

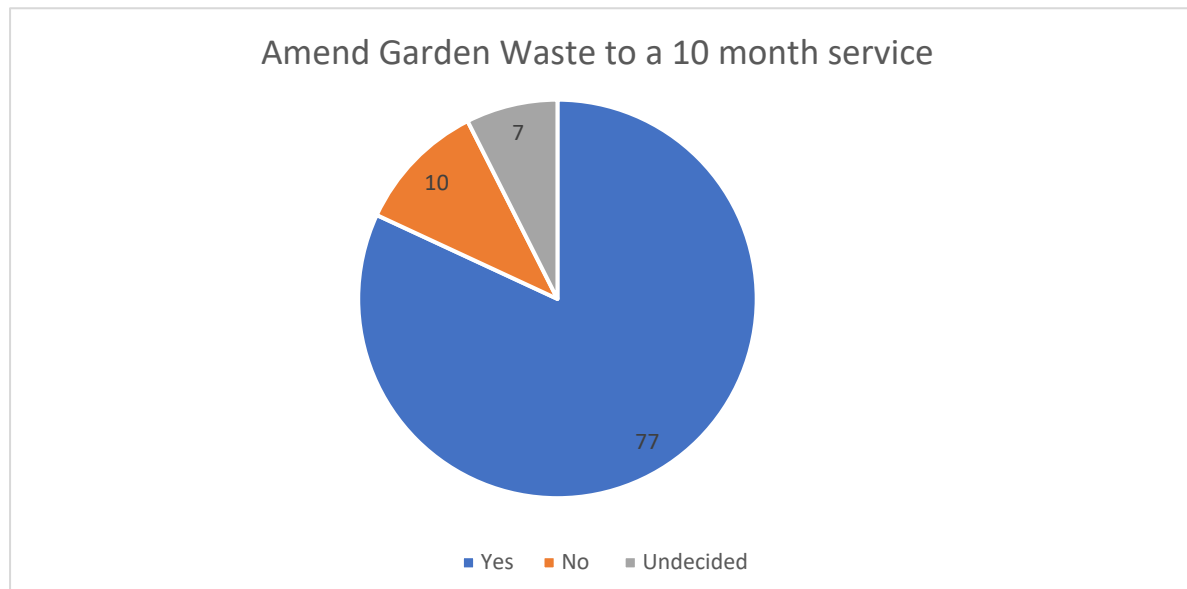


Q5. We would like to ask you some questions relating to our optional Garden Waste Service:

The City Council are considering changing our garden waste service to run for ten months a year, not running in December and January as evidence shows that very little garden waste is produced in those two months, with just 156 tonnes in January 2021, compared to 975 tonnes in June 2021. By changing the service to a ten month operation, the Council could achieve vital carbon savings. In addition, our teams could focus on collection of other household waste at a time of year which is traditionally busy for other domestic refuse collections.

Would you support this change in service to contribute towards the City Council's carbon reduction target?

77 respondents (82%) would support the change, 10 respondents would not and 7 were undecided.



Q6. Gloucester City Council is the only council in Gloucestershire to still offer concessions on certain fees and charges - such as garden waste - for residents in receipt of Housing Benefit and Council Tax support, which are administered by the council. We are unable to offer concessions to residents in receipt of other benefits, such as Universal Credit, not administered by the council. Because of this inconsistency, and the fact that many other councils are no longer able to offer concessions as the cost for this must be met elsewhere, [from other council tax payers], we are considering whether we should continue to offer concessions.

Should Gloucester City Council retain concessions for residents in receipt of benefits administered by the council?

30 respondents felt Gloucester City Council should retain the concessions whilst 65 respondents thought that concessions should be removed.