

1. Results of Budget Consultation

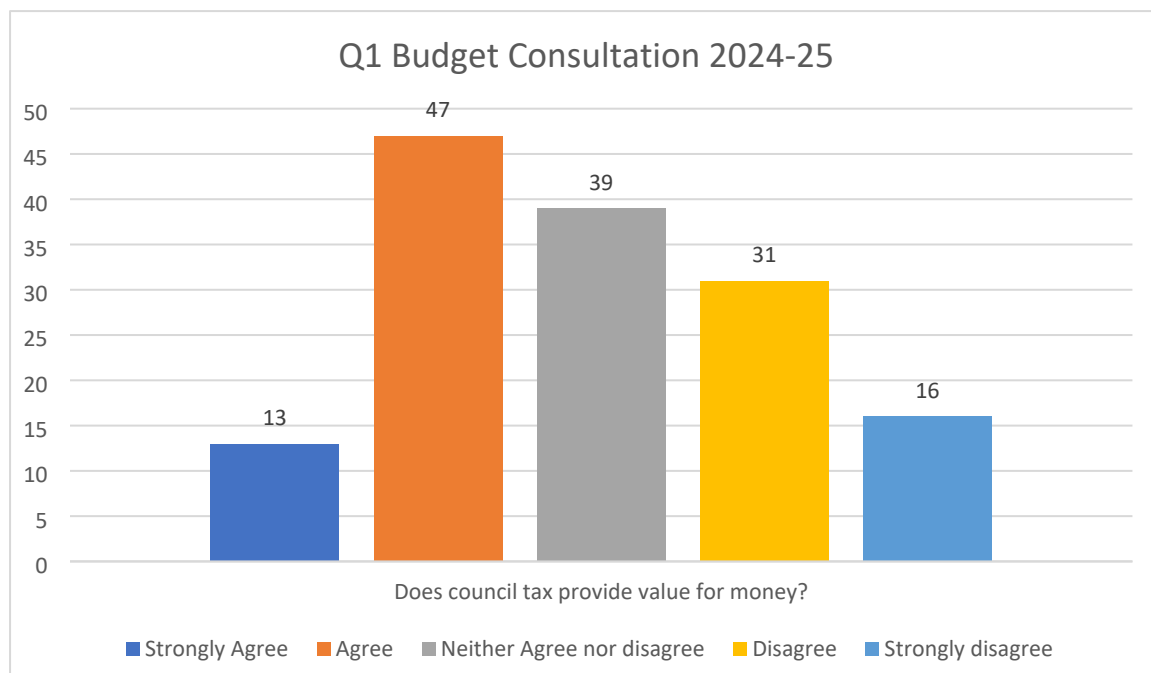
Appendix 7

- 1.1 The council's budget consultation for 2024/25 has used an on-line interactive budget survey, a link to which has been available on the council's website.
- 1.2 The eight-week consultation period was during November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024.
- 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.
- 1.4 147 responses were received as part of the consultation process.

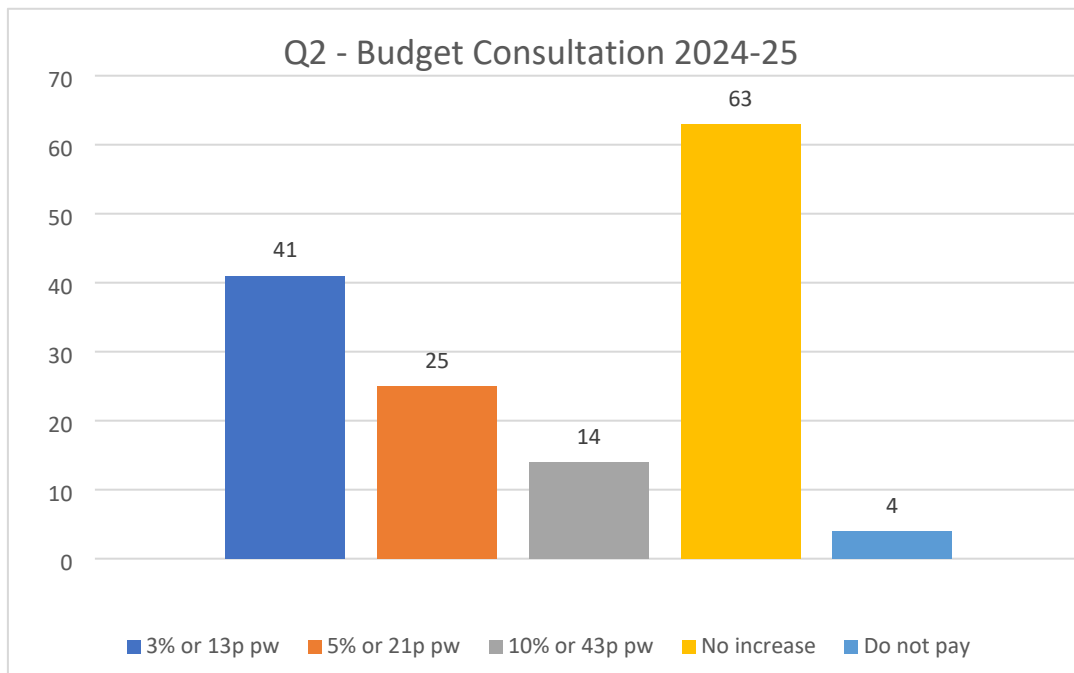
2. Consultation Responses

- Q1. Bearing in mind Gloucester householders pay £4.30 per week for services provided by the City Council (based on average Band D Council Tax 2023/24). Do you agree that Gloucester City Council provides value for money? Overall, 60 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the council tax charge provided value for money opposed to 47 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 2023/24 by 2.99% to £4.30 per week per household - based on an average band D property. Would you be willing to accept an increase to Council Tax in 2024/25 to ensure the City Council can continue to provide services? Overall, 80 respondents would be willing to accept a council tax increase (of varying amounts). 63 felt there should be no increase in council tax charges.



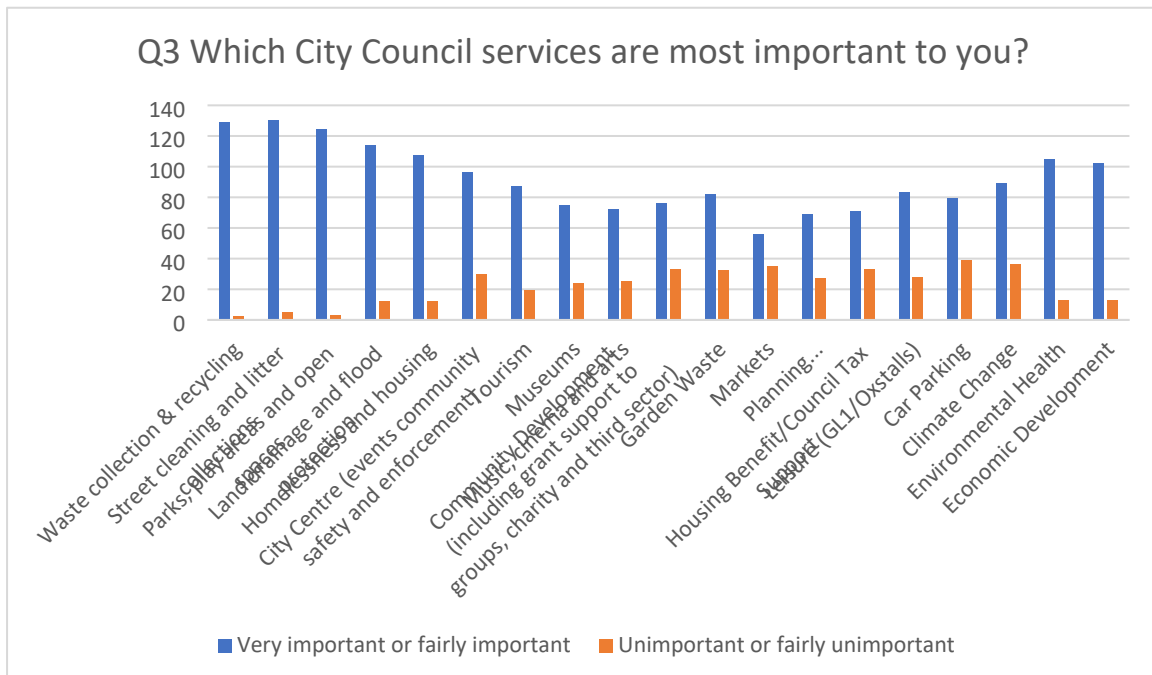
Q3. Which City Council Services are most important to you? The services listed below are those where the City Council invests most of its resources. Please tell us how important you feel each of these services are by selecting one answer for each service.

The responses showed the following:

Very Important/Most Important

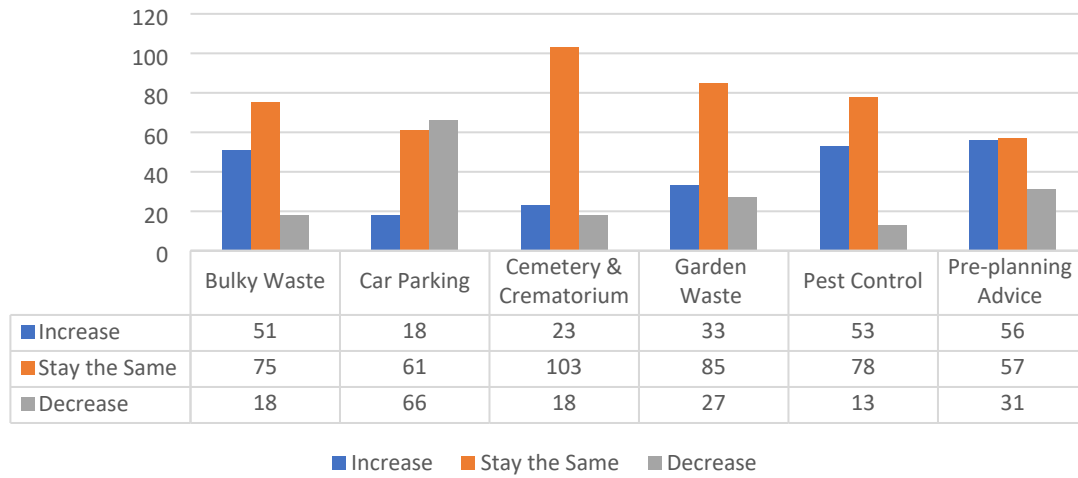
1. Street cleaning and litter collections
2. Waste collection & recycling
3. Parks, play areas and open spaces
4. Land drainage and flood protection
5. Homelessness & Housing
6. Environmental Health
7. Economic Development
8. City Centre (events/community safety/enforcement)
9. Climate Change

10. Tourism
11. Leisure (GL1 / Oxstalls)
12. Garden Waste
13. Car Parking
14. Community Development (including grant support to groups, charities and third sector)
15. Museums
16. Music, cinema and arts
17. Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support
18. Planning Applications / Planning Policy
19. Markets



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

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Q5. 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 looking at whether we should still offer concessions.

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

46 respondents felt Gloucester City Council should retain the concession, whilst 99 respondents felt they should be removed.

Q5. Should Gloucester City Council retain concessions for those in receipt of council administered benefits?

