

MEETING OF THE CABINET
WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2024

ADDITIONAL PAPERS

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CABINET – 31 JANUARY 2024

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM MR DONOVAN TO COUNCILLOR N RUSHTON

Is the Council aware of the wide-ranging services provided by Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland across NW Leicestershire and funded from external sources, including the charity's reserves?

- A 4 day-a-week day centre based in Coalville serving 56 people at an annual cost of £108,000. Serving the needs of people living with dementia, mobility, and personal care needs, mental health and learning disabilities.
- A neighbourhood mental health cafe in Measham for people aged over 18 (2 days per week). Annual cost of £30,000.
- A Home Care Service supporting 54 older people - cleaning, meal preparation and companionship.
- A Dementia Support Service. Between October-December 2023 195 people supported. Plus, a memory clinic once a month. 31 members with 26 people on the waiting list.
- An information/advice Service. Between January 2022 and December 2023, the charity supported 1,152 people - benefit claims, benefit checks and general enquiries.

Benefits claimed for older people living across NW Leicestershire amounted to £249,107 during that period – money that would be spent in the local area.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR N RUSHTON TO MR DONOVAN

Yes, the Council and Cabinet is aware of the work that Age UK conducts in the district. I'm also aware that the Chief Executive recently met with Mr Donovan to listen to his concerns in response to the budget proposals. The Council has also received written representations from both Mr Donovan and Mr Young, Assistant Director, Age UK, Leicestershire & Rutland.

The Council is aware of the reserves position of Age UK at both the local and national level.

At today's meeting, Cabinet will be considering the budget proposals to recommend to Council next month. From recent discussions and correspondence referred to above, the Council is aware that the funding provided supports around 40 clients in the district at a cost of £22,000 per year.

The Council is aware of the range of services provided by Age UK Leicestershire & Rutland to support older people, their carers and families, many of which are highlighted in the question from Mr Donovan. We understand that they are committed to providing much-needed support to older people to help them remain independent in their own homes.

It would be wrong of me to pre-empt that discussion and decision of Cabinet today, but we are fully aware of the work and also the comments made by Age UK to our budget consultation which will be taken into account in coming to our decision today.

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Budget Consultation Report

5

Who has responded?

There were 117 Responses in total

1. Please tell us your age

[More Details](#)

Below 18

18 - 24

25 - 34

35 - 44

45 - 54

55 - 64

Above 65

Prefer not to say

1

2

11

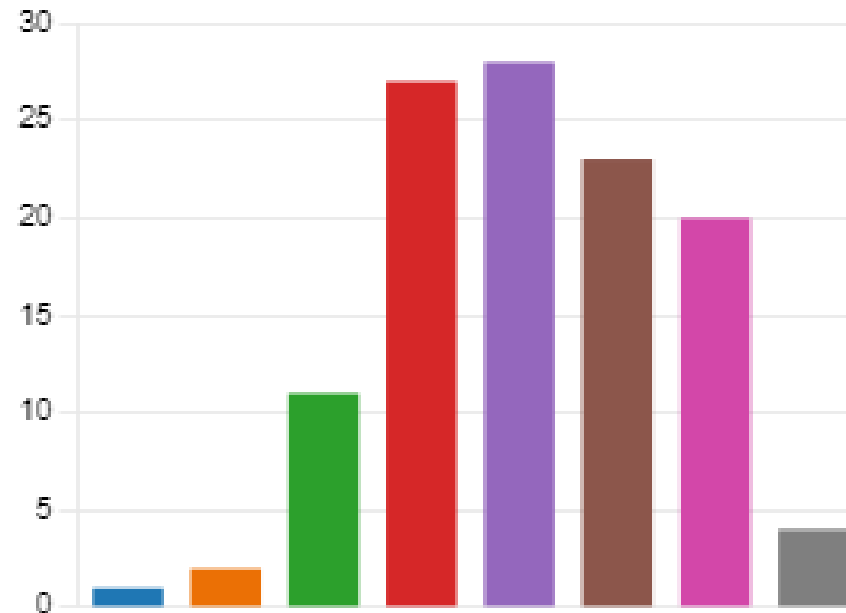
27

28

23

20

4



What is the ethnic breakdown of the respondents?

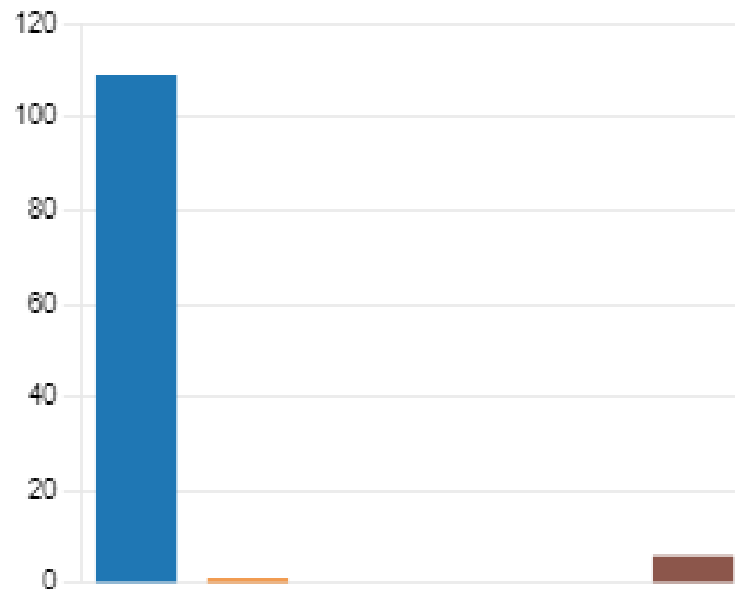
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2. Please tell us your ethnic group

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

White/Caucasian	109
Asian/Asian British	1
Black/African/Caribbean/Black B...	0
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	0
Other ethnic group	0
Prefer not to say	6



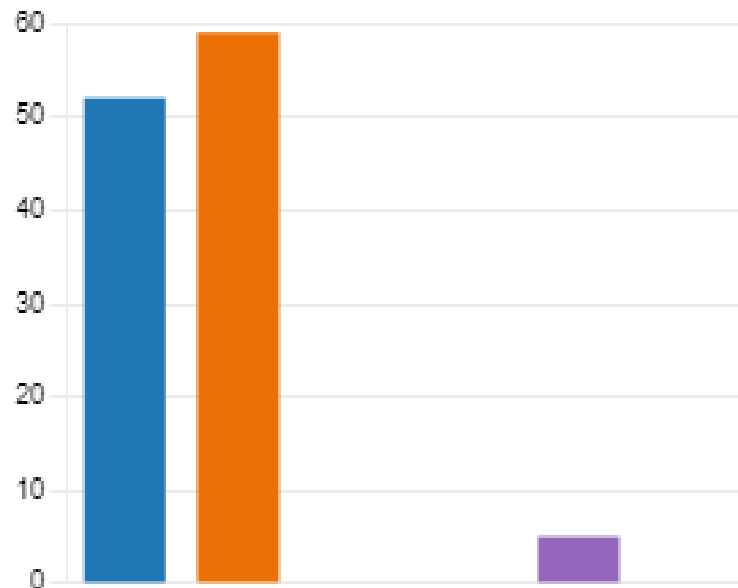
What is the gender breakdown of the respondents?

3. Please tell us your gender

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)





Male	52
Female	59
Trans-gender	0
Non-binary	0
Prefer not to answer	5
Other	0



In what Capacity were people responding?

5. Please tell us in what capacity you are completing this survey

[More Details](#)

 As an individual	109
 As a business	3
 As a Representative of a group	2
 Other	0



When asked for their postcode..

65 respondents (61%) answered LE67 for this question.

Le65 2nr

LE67 4RT

De12

De74

LE67

DE74 2RH

LE65 1HX

LE65

Le67 6jh

LE67 4JL



The Proposal to raise Council Tax.

7. We're proposing to increase council tax by 2.75% (an increase of £4.36 a year or less for most households to pay for district council services)






This is the first increase for the NWLDC part of the bill in 15 years

It will help towards closing our funding gap

Do you agree with this proposal?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

	Completely agree	45
	Somewhat agree	29
	Neither agree nor disagree	8
	Somewhat disagree	11
	Completely disagree	22



The Proposal to raise charges on Some Services

8. We're proposing to increase what we charge for some services by 7%






e.g. 3G pitch hire will go up by between 60p and £2.25

This will help to close our funding gap

Do you agree with this proposal?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

	Completely agree	41
	Somewhat agree	23
	Neither agree nor disagree	15
	Somewhat disagree	17
	Completely disagree	19



The Proposal to spend £2.2 Million to renovate the Marlborough Centre.

9. We're proposing to invest £2.2 million to renovate the 'Marlborough Centre' in Coalville

This will transform the look of the row of shops and flats on Marlborough Square and Belvoir Road

It will complement the work we're doing to redesign Marlborough Square, improve the retail spaces and create good quality housing in the centre of town.

Do you agree with this proposal?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Completely agree	17
● Somewhat agree	29
● Neither agree nor disagree	7
● Somewhat disagree	24
● Completely disagree	39



The Proposal to spend £50,000 in improving CCTV in the District.

10. We're proposing to spend almost £50,000 improving CCTV in the district

Do you agree with this proposal?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Completely agree	43
● Somewhat agree	37
● Neither agree nor disagree	15
● Somewhat disagree	7
● Completely disagree	14



The Proposal to demolish the former Council offices building in Coalville.






11. We're proposing the demolition of the former Council Offices building in Coalville

This will cost £150,000 but will mean we can sell the land and invest any money received in council services

Do you agree with this proposal?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

	Completely agree	42
	Somewhat agree	26
	Neither agree nor disagree	13
	Somewhat disagree	13
	Completely disagree	22



The Proposal to invest in key buildings and land.

12. We're proposing investment in some of our key buildings and land






Moira Furnace - £230,000 (phase 1 improvement work)

The Courtyard, in Coalville – £200,000 (roof repair to extend the life of the building)

19 Do you agree with this proposal?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

	Completely agree	16
	Somewhat agree	46
	Neither agree nor disagree	24
	Somewhat disagree	18
	Completely disagree	12



The Proposal to spread the UK Shared prosperity fund money Districtwide.

13. We're proposing to spend our UK Shared Prosperity Fund money across the district

Moira Furnace – £300,000 (phase 2 improvement work)


Memorial Workspace, Coalville - £350,000 (creating a business workspace in the former public toilet building)






National Forest - £171,000 (To support Heart of the Forest work)

Kegworth - £150,000 (creation of a 'quiet-way', a special lane designed to promote walking and cycling)

Do you agree with this proposal?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Completely agree	21
 Somewhat agree	41
 Neither agree nor disagree	12
 Somewhat disagree	21
 Completely disagree	21



The Proposal to create a public space at Stenson Square.






14. We're proposing to spend £1 million to create a public space at Stenson Square on London Road, Coalville

This will improve one of the main gateways into the town

Do you agree with this proposal?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Completely agree	5
 Somewhat agree	16
 Neither agree nor disagree	14
 Somewhat disagree	26
 Completely disagree	55



15.

Do you have any more comments on the draft budget?

82 responses **82** Responses

ID	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	We are being told that the council needs to meet a deficit of over £3m in the next few years and needs to make savings but it feels like Coalville is getting an awful lot of funding to improve and I am not sure this is a wise use of money (for example the work at Marlborough square). I don't feel that the footfall in Coalville is enough to justify this and the money could be spent on lots of smaller projects that benefit more people from the district. I work in Coalville town centre but live in Ashby and I appreciate that Ashby is more affluent but I think the money could be spent more wisely.
2	anonymous	To save money, why not discontinue expenses and allowances for councillors. If they are paid allowances, then why expenses? Even better, reduce the number of councillors. Mine is Tony Gillard and a waste of time, fails to turn up site meeting, no apology, also emails unanswered.
3	anonymous	Proposal to stop funding public toilets in Ashby is disgusting. Forces people to use cafes instead and cause them more expenditure. Stopping grant to Ashby Museum: a useful source for locals and tourists.
4	anonymous	There appears to be little focus being paid to the crumbling housing stock in the district. Some properties suffer from damp. Some properties have very inefficient electric storage heating systems which are causing significant increases in running costs. Some properties have crumbling external brickwork.
5	anonymous	Budget spend seems heavily biased towards Coalville. Let's not forget small but important facilities such as Ashby museum. Keeping them going takes relatively small budget.
6	anonymous	There is a distinct lack of spaces for young people. They have nowhere to exist other than hanging out on the parks. Increasing 3G pitch hire by up to £2.25 (the suggested increase is suspiciously broad) does nothing to help that.
7	anonymous	Where are the details of the breakdown of the costs for the building works. No description of what is actually being done. What are the proposals and where are the plans.
8	anonymous	Must NOT cut funding to the Museum in Ashby!
9	anonymous	Lots of regeneration happening in Coalville but nothing planned for Ashby? Seems like the town gets forgotten when it comes to District council level.
10	anonymous	While I agree the council rates need to increase and the above investment I feel the somewhat small figure for the Museum in Ashby of £1500 per year could easily be maintained at a very limited cost to rate payers and maintain a tourist attraction in the area. Maybe not used by many (I do not know the figures) but staffed by volunteers and at £1500 pa will be cost effective.

ID	Name	Responses
11	anonymous	The majority of areas listed seem to be focussed on Coalville. More emphasis needs to be placed on the villages within the district and perhaps more to support the Parish Councils or investment into the villages.
12	anonymous	Must fund ashby museum. Essential archives and tourist hub (especially now tourist info is gone). Time to get rid of free wifi in town. Most people have phone data, or buisnesses have their own customer wifi.
13	anonymous	I chose to recently move to Ashby de la Zouch because I believed that Leicestershire does more and in a broader way to make a bigger difference to the quality of life for all residents. In particular using common sense and understanding the needs of different communities. For example the Smart Libraries is most useful. I would be very disappointed and disillusioned should a mistake be made by deciding to remove the essential (and relatively small investment) of financial support for the Museum. To risk losing such a wide reaching asset would impact on the community both short and long term and lessen the attractiveness of the town and wider area. I have been a Museum Volunteer previously in Nuneaton and have first hand experience of the value both personally and for communities for outreach and sense of community identity. I was thinking of offering to share my skills and experience to the benefit of my new home town. Please give me the opportunity to support Leicestershire.
14	anonymous	The questions on this survey relate to relatively large amounts of money your proposing to spend. You're not mentioned any cuts. I understand that there's a proposal to cut £1500 grant for the Ashby Museum, arguably a negligible amount for NWLDC. This is huge for the Museum and would cause budgetary issues for them. I think the councillors should reconsider this cut and remove it from their budget, ensuring that the Museum continues to receive this small amount. In addition there doesn't appear to be any mention in this survey regarding any spending within Ashby. Some people might question why this is.
15	anonymous	Maybe what we already pay should be looked at paying for potholes ro be filled and look at what's in coalville already and help people that are already in the shops not waste money like you already are. People can't afford to live has it is but you want to increase our fees.
16	anonymous	Instead of spending more money on Marlborough Square area, and making a public place, Stenson square, so close to our lovely park, why not spend that money towards reinstating a train station in Coalville?
17	anonymous	I strongly disagree with removal of the small grant to Ashby Museum. I also disagree with the planned closure of the public toilets in Ashby, especially having spent money on charging changes. These savings should be met from some of the other expenditure I disagree with. I am also particularly concerned about the poor level of service for carriageway and footways sweeping and cleansing, particularly in Ashby where I live.
18	anonymous	I strongly disagree on proposal to end £1500 grant to Ashby Museum and proposal to end funding for Ashby Public Toilets in 2025. Instead of spending £300000 on Moira Furnace for example you could spend £298500 and still spend £1500 on Ashby Museum.

ID	Name	Responses
19	anonymous	<p>I appreciate the difficult situation you are in. However I gather that you propose to completely remove your regular grant to Ashby Museum. None of you can understand the amount of work and effort by volunteers in Ashby which has gone on in the last 50 years to set up the Museum collection, acquire items, archive them, mount exhibitions and improve Museum buildings. I would suggest that all of the NWLDC councillors have a tour of the museum and see what it is and does. If, after the tour, any of you would be happy to have on your conscience seeing the entire contents of the Museum and the archive in a skip outside on the car park, I would be shocked and surprised, for that is a scenario you are voting for. A tiny fraction of the million pounds you are proposing for Stenson Square (for example) could be diverted to keep paying the Museum £1500 per year. Certainly we could crowd fund to raise the money, but that's not the point. The money would be raised by a small number of people who see the value of the museum. The Museum organisers need to have the security of knowing that this relatively small amount of money will be given regularly. The Council should be leading the way and showing the whole population of NWL that this is a priceless shared resource which is vital to the community now and in the future.</p>
20	anonymous	<p>It is clear the Council House will be demolished to gain revenue for housing. There are other sites within the County that can be used for this purpose. As there will be no COUNCIL House once demolished to maintain the council tax bill should be reduced to reflect the running cost reduction. There will be less costs even with the use of Customer service Office in Coalville and the use of proposed site in Whitwick. It reflects the same purpose as the demolition of the Leisure Centre and the Real reasons that was demolished.... To console the residents and then sell the land for housing or development in the future and then further reducing costs by permitting Private company to run their own leisure facility. The Council need to be more transparent and not take the residents for idiots. Services and facilities cut or stopped and even removed yet residents are still being billed for them irrespective of the supposed increase in everyday costs. Do we need a revamp of Malborough square. NO. Given the mess of what transpired in Coalville precinct we all wonder what shambles will be presented as a completed project in Malborough Square. COALVILLE is dying and it's Thanks to the shambolic running by the Council. People have short memories of how huge plans were made to bring Superstore Tesco to town and monies used to support that plan. However what happened to that plan... The land still remains boarded off with historical pictures to try and make it nice and then Asda move to the old Netto location. POLICE station demolished and used for housing. That building was allowed to run down in order to be realised for housing. Now resisted out of the town centre and no access to the building to speak to anyone in person rather than on a telephone. It is easier to gain access to a prison or Bank vault. It appears the only way to get to see a police officer in person is to do wrong and even then they may or may not turn up. Do we even have any officers in Coalville or do they prefer to hang around within the building that no one can gain access to or sit in their cars hidden behind the bushes in the industrial estate in Whitwick. What are they doing there. Day after day Police cars are parked where they believe they cannot be seen. Officers just sat in them doing nothing? Why are postal queries never answered, despite acknowledgements of correspondence? Countless queries ignored, shamefully. Roads and overgrown bushes and trees allowed to become a hazard and danger to public road users and pedestrians. Drains not cleared causing roads to be flooded. No action against companies employed by the council to carry out road repairs pouring cement down drains which has hardened and now blocked the drain system causing flooding on major road.</p>

ID	Name	Responses
		<p>No action against drivers who cause obstruction by parking cars at busy junctions and outside schools. Roads crumbling, street lighting hardly ever on even though money spent on replacing the lights. Reliance upon Wombles to do the job you are charging to provide within the council tax. Hedge rows uncut and unkept causing danger to fear of using especially at times when the streets lights are off when they should be on.... Not at the times they are scheduled to be off.... How can you maintain a council service when employees work from home and have no idea as to the state of services when they live outside of the area. Where is the funding provided by new residential sites being used. It's definitely not for the purposes as stated on the BOARDS SITED outside the new developments in the area. Why is planning allowing new developments with roads that do not meet standard minimum sizes and therefore cannot be adopted. This will be a huge scandal in due course as it shows planning knowingly agreed to such developments which puts the maintenance on the residents rather than potential costs to the council and leaves the initial I costs to the developer until they leave site. Disgraceful and a council con.</p>
21	anonymous	<p>Marlboro sq and Stinson to me are a waste of money the cctv no one looks at them Not even police that money could be spent bringing a cinema back to bring people in</p>
22	anonymous	<p>Majority of work seems to focus on or around Coalville. Please consider other areas and their needs. As a resident in Coalville, I have very engagement with the Coalville area and, whilst I do not oppose the upgrades / changes, I would like to see the Council ensure money is spent on other areas too, that can benefit more people in the area.</p>
23	anonymous	<p>Why is it all Coalville centric. Ashby should also get its fair share of budget.</p>
24	anonymous	<p>Happy for an increase, but don't want money wasted on pointless projects. There's plenty of empty shops in the Belvoir centre. I think a slightly smaller increase than what is proposed would be better, and maybe look at doing another increase next year. All these projects are unlikely to be completed in 12 months so spreading the increase would be better. CCTV has been improving and needs more, more cameras across all the district not just Coalville and Ashby Town. Cameras in Measham, Ibstock, Castle Donington, Whitwick, Thringstone and Agar Nook/Greenhill. These places are a minimum could benefit 2-3 camera each. The spending on places like Moira Furnace would depend on what the view of increased tourism would be. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund seems like a lot of money on things that are unlikely to be overly used, also money is already being spent from other budgets to improve some of those areas. It's also important to think that although the increase is small I bet the County Council, Fire, Police and other services etc are all going to have a small increase which makes it overall a big increase. More investment in housing in places other than Castle Donington and Hugglescote, more houses is more money into the budget.</p>
25	anonymous	<p>We need more shops so more people spend in coalville</p>
26	anonymous	<p>Where money is needed is for additional dog and litter bins across the county. There is a tremendous amount of litter picking work completed by the NW Leicestershire Wombling group via Facebook and this is being done at no charge to the council. Areas of high fly tipping need to be reviewed and asked "why". There is a huge shortage of bins which could be a small step to a large improvement.</p>

ID	Name	Responses
27	anonymous	Quite a lot of money being spent in the Coalville area , the public transport system from the hub in Ashby along the Moira Road is non existent. There is quite a lot of elderly people like ourselves who have bus passes and do not use them because of the distance the public transport systems that are available are from our area of residence I am new to the area,nearly 90 years old,my wife is nearly 85 years old and has dementia. We came to Ashby to be near family ,but the lack of a public transport system,does preclude us from getting around, and at the moment TAXIS are the only means of getting into Ashby for the local facilities.
28	anonymous	The council seem to move between buildings, costing the public huge amounts of money to renovate said buildings. Funding should be to benefit the public as a priority. The proposal to demolition the old council buildings (which aren't very old) is to allow yet more housing to be built despite the area being completely saturated with new houses. Services unfortunately have not kept pace with this & are overwhelmed. I disagree with the development around Stenson House as this is away from the town centre; the focus should be on the town centre & making that a more pleasant area for people. Again, it feels as if this development is for the benefit of the council.
29	anonymous	Your contractor merrisons should be stripe of all contracts
30	anonymous	Lighting is terrible on Coalvilles car park by old market hall. Most of the lights are out on the road signs which is especially hazardous by the crossing for staff leaving the Belvoir shopping centre. Rather than creating a public space on London Road Coalville which will then be costly to maintain could you just maintain the planted areas we already have? The planted area with National Forest wooden sign on it on Broom Leys Ave and area with seat at end of Devana Ave to name two?
31	anonymous	where are the details of the projects you mention, Marlborough Sq, Stenson house park, Moira Furnace upgrade. Kegworth Green way, support for the National Forest How can anyone agree / disagree when you have not provided details of the projects. Or if you have no made them easy to find. I notice a political spin has been put in the first rates increase in 15 years, maybe you should have increased it more often so better services are provided throughout the district. I presume the UK shared prosperity fund is from Central Government and is not actually from our rates Still no cinema Areas full of litter, reliant on voluntary groups to keep areas clean Grass cutting in public areas done to a minimum standard Planning department with minimum enforcement and developers taking advantage of poor decisions. All we have had is building more warehouses and houses (no bungalows) and no provision of extra public services. NWLDC are responsible for traffic enforcement in Ashby, but no one is about from 6pm to enforce no parking at the top of the High street near all the takeaways. :
32	anonymous	I agree with most of the proposals apart from Stenson House. Your spending to improve and create a public space within Marlborough Square. Stenson House is in the outskirts of the town centre, the building is utilised by few, I agree it needs improvements as it is an eye sore but not more than some landscaping and resurfacing. I cannot believe how much the council.spends on production of waste calendars which only alter around 1 month of the year due to Christmas. We need to accept the switch into a digital age provide access alternatives for people without connection but that will be at a reduced rate. What if like to see is an app residents could usutilise and the council could communicate through. Let's

ID	Name	Responses
		face ut you can't order a coffee now without the companies app. QR codes could be a great way for instant access.
33	anonymous	Can you sort out the parking in Ashbymain carpark, it's not tourist friendly. At the leisure centre the signs showing the regulations are inconsistent and too small to read until you have parked, when it's too late. At least one part of the carpark is covered by 4 different regulations signs with different times and info. The tourist information staff have no idea where the long stay places are. This is no good for people trying to spend a day in Ashby. 3 of us ended up walking round the whole carpark trying to work it out, after we'd google long stay before setting out and spent an hour driving round queueing for places then finding they were short Stay. 😊. We stopped other drivers to ask and not a single person knew. We now know ALL the parking regs for the whole area, it definitely needs a bit of cash spending to make signs bigger and take down the ones that are wrong and make some proper long stay places which you can charge a bit more for. And yes we did have a lovely time once we'd parked 😊
34	anonymous	Disagree with removing the grant from Ashby Museum and the proposed closure of Ashbys public toilets.
35	anonymous	I realise Coleville needs help to rejuvenate but feel there is too much focus on this.
36	anonymous	Boring no initiative no improvement
37	anonymous	Significant proportion of funds allocated to two locations - Moira Furnace and memorial workspace with little indication of benefit to the community or recouping funds invested. Unclear why a public space is proposed for Stenson Square when footfall is low in this area. Funds could be put to better use. Supportive of funds allocated to the national forest, but due to the way the consultation has been structured it's not possible to provide feedback on individual investment plans
38	anonymous	Would like to see services delivered we already pay for example Donisthorpe woodland park we pay an extra charge for which included a ranger to empty the dog poo bins, most are now broken with a black bin bag left, often overflowing. I recently saw the ranger pick up a full bag but leave a virtually full bag meaning it would be overflowing within days, then for volunteers to complain that people aren't respecting the park. If it was collected more frequently in full and the bins replaced the issue wouldn't exist
39	anonymous	The purpose of the 'public square' needs to be explained more; we have a 'public square' at Memorial Square, and will have much of one in Marlborough square too: what will the one at Stenson House actually do? What will we expect it be used for, and how will this be of benefit? The old 'four squares' project may have been slightly too aspirational!!
40	anonymous	Please review a nappy waste bin for households!!!! People would much rather this than new roofs.
41	anonymous	Little detail or breakdown in the costs of these estimates or what work is actually being carried out. Vague to say the least.

ID	Name	Responses
42	anonymous	What proposals to tackle the following issues: • Traffic (e.g. on Grange Road at the junction with Central/Station Road) • Entertainment options. Bowling, Cinema etc • With the huge influx of new families, how to address the short and long term needs for spaces at nurseries, primary and secondary schools? • Improve the general appearance of buildings along the High Street.
43	anonymous	I disagree with the spend at Stenson house, this is part of the conservation area and the look could be improved with changes to the planting. If you are selling the land to build yet more houses then as a condition of building the developers can pay for the space to be developed. The houses developers in this area are doing just as they wish!
44	anonymous	More wasted money and opportunity. It doesn't matter how much we the public tell you that you're wrong, you won't listen.
45	anonymous	What is the Quiet way proposed for Kegworth? Is there any consideration for Castle Donington , as this ha the highest taxes , please answer these questions
46	anonymous	There is nothing in this proposal for Castle Donington, Lockington or Hemington. What about some money to finish the sports pavilion in Hemington?
47	anonymous	Anything for Ashby, or villages besides Castle Donington? SPF money should be for the community, not to prop up the council operations.
48	anonymous	I haven't the read the documents as I don't have time but spending £1 million on public space seems excessive so does moira furnace funding.
49	anonymous	Fund ashby and Measham museum. Put money into villages like Measham.
50	anonymous	You need to improve disabled parking also bring rates and rents down so more shops can thrive in town , also need a cinema, places for kids to go
51	anonymous	Drop the plans for a public space and don't increase the price of services.
52	anonymous	£350k to improve the toilets into a workspace. You must be joking. Everything is now working remotely company's rely on the likes of zoom or teams or webex but this £350k is absolutely necessary in order to keep things functioning in coalville. Shocking. Hang your heads in shame for even applying for this.
53	anonymous	I think you schould be helping with transport links in the local area to encourage shoppers and people working as the buses are useless
54	anonymous	Each investment should have its own option to agree or disagree, grouping them all into one isn't giving people a true list of options. Whilst I no longer live in CV I own multiple properties in the town.
55	anonymous	Every single thing suggested is a complete waste of time and money. We were promised the completion of a cinema by the council yet instead of renovating one of the properties described above its suggested they are demolished? People need an incentive to come to coalvile Town centre yet the suggested refurbishment is just going to create a few more

ID	Name	Responses
		flats that will be overpriced and the people who actually need the housing won't be able to afford. I highly suggest having a public consultations, perhaps even multiple over a week at different times so all people can attend so you can get peoples honest opinions. This is a chance for you to listen and to actually action what people want. Then I believe your suggestion of increasing prices would be justified and people wouldn't be so angry.
56	anonymous	Absolute waste of time seeking residents views as the council budgeting processes will already be well developed and no time or appetite to amend. The funding gap has been caused by years of poor financial management and council tax freezes. Small increase year on year would have meant we werent in the position we are now. Complete waste of money on some of the renovation projects particularly Marlborough Square a complete white elephant, Stenson Square???? It would be interesting to see if there have been any assessments of the environmental impact a building demolition will have. How much if the building materials will be reused? No money earmarked for Ellistown, always the same money thrown at Coalville, Ashby and Measham??? Sort out the poor services ie street cleaning, street enforcement, dog fouling before you put up silly, irrelevant showboating projects that no one really wants.
57	anonymous	Stop wasting public money, ask the local community what they want and stop wasting money on projects that will continue to lose further money in the future
58	anonymous	Coalville, was is, and always will be a lost cause. What about the west side of NWL??
59	anonymous	Most of the ideas in here are pointless. Give the building in Marborough Square a fresh coat of paint it won't cost millions then. What's happening with the bowling alley that was getting built? That's come to a stand still with plans. Can you give us an update?
60	anonymous	Need to look at getting quality retail into the town to encourage all of the new residents in the new developments to use the town
61	anonymous	The youth and families need local entertainment as a priority,a lick of paint and new signage should come secondary to the actual needs of the community.
62	anonymous	Proposals should be split so that you can clearly see what projects local people support, to group them together skews the results and gives no option for comment individually. A public space isn't needed at the former council offices. Anything that increases green space is to be applauded but perhaps the money would be better invested in Coalville Park and upgrading and enhancing the existing facilities there. The nature of the Shared Prosperity Fund and the fact that the money will have been awarded to the council based on a bid detailing projects would suggest that you are already quite far down the line with these proposals already and consultation is a fait accompli. £350,000 for the Memorial Workspace seems rather a high cost for little return. The Marlborough Centre is not a cost effective use of taxpayer money during a cost of living crisis and I totally disagree with it.
63	anonymous	COALVILLE NEEDS A TRAIN STATION!!!
64	anonymous	£1 million for a public space what about leisure facilities entertainment new shops not more charity shops or cafes the shopping centre is a joke the slabs are up level and the new seating is cheap shoddy and the wood is warped and yes I know it's owned by a

ID	Name	Responses
		<p>private company, also the car park road (again owned by private company)is full of pot holes which could cause damage to cars or pedestrians walking. What’s happening to Iceland/co-op building probably being knocked down for flats/housing with no parking. What happening about a possible train station we need good transport inks. There are small villages that have train stations, Quorn, Littlethorpe but Coalville a large town rubbish transport network. Council think about the bigger picture not filling your pockets.</p>
65	anonymous	<p>memorial workspace - workspace for who? and why, there are loads of empty offices/buildings in the area. stenson square - again why? we already have public space around the clock tower, which is mostly unused. you have already invested 2 million in marlborough square, supposedly to encourage people to hang out in the area (?) PLEASE stop wasting money on unnecessary, ill conceived schemes. If you have £2 million to spare, I suggest you re-visit your budget and see what is affecting/concerning people the most. If we want to regenerate the town, why not use it to subsidise the exorbitant rental rates, support start ups and encourage small business. Or use the money to provide or improve current services, instead of running everything on a shoestring and making excuses. You cannot talk about deficits leading to hikes in the council tax and in the next breath try and justify spending all that money on something so frivolous. Having worked as a manager in a corporate firm - I understand the red tape and politics only too well - however what I see consistently in councils and governments is a lack of common sense and basic comprehension of what is required. I fully accept you cannot 'please all the people etc'. but PLEASE don't waste anymore money.</p>
66	anonymous	<p>The increase is too low given the challenges you will face over the next 12 months which includes incorporating another 9.5% pay increase in April and the money required to reduce business rates to encourage sustainable retailing within coalville. Let alone finding the money for grounds maintenance flowers etc.... The ex council offices can be sold as is.... There is no value in the demolition costs to the publics money... Whitwick leisure centre (hermitage) demolition wasted half a million when coalville can, Ashby angling and the football clubs would have taken that on and had the ability given time to support community projects going forward.... The district council has to start thinking along financially sustainable lines and stop spending what amounts to millions of tax payers money on failed projects because they can't maintain sensible and productive communication with local constituents or businesses!</p>
67	anonymous	<p>Please consider allocating money for a swimming pool in Castle Donington</p>
68	anonymous	<p>The council desperately need to employ competent a quantity surveyors practice when it comes to their projects. As a professional quantity surveyor, I'm highly dubious of the Marlborough Square works in terms of cost. I don't think there is a proper process for managing this - I don't see how there can be given the exorbitant cost. If a quantity surveyor is present on the councils side, they absolutely should be looked at as to why this project is costing what it is. And then trying to recoup the lost monies from the public through tax is absolutely terrible. The existing offices do not appear close to end-of-life, and detailed information on why they will be being demolished should be presented. This is a poor expenditure of public funds, and a significant blow to the councils green credentials. I personally specialise in refurbishment, and do not see the benefit in demolition in this case.</p>

ID	Name	Responses
69	anonymous	Train services, improved bus networks so they don't take over an hour to get to Leicester, a cinema, better funding for smaller businesses to open shops (cheaper rent), less recycling bins and just put in one bin.
70	anonymous	As a representative of LiFE Multi Academy Trust, I am commenting on the reduction of the £15,000 grant to Ibstock Leisure Centre over the next 3 years. This partnership between the school/Trust and NWLDC is key to the success of this facility and given the cost of energy and running pools and facilities such as this, has trebled in the last 2 years, this grant is fundamental to this partnership. Within this partnership we are collectively spending public money and the responsibilities that go with this. With the pressures on education budgets and local government funding, we need to work together to ensure that we keep facilities for the community, like Ibstock, open. This £15,000 grant is significant at this time to support this facility, particularly around the pool costs. The reduction of this to zero over 3 years, will have a significant impact on the resources to open this as fully as we currently do thereby potentially reducing opening times and access for our most vulnerable groups. Given the scale of the Local Government budget, this grant is minimal, but the impact on Ibstock would be significant if it was cut. We ask that this reduction be reconsidered.
71	anonymous	You need to breathe more life into the town like they have in Loughborough it looks totally transformed also we need more to do in Coalville like reopening the cinema putting in a bowling alley there is nothing to do in The town spend the million pounds on that not by creating an open space Coalville needs revitalising not an open space with benches give us something to do !!!
72	anonymous	One aspect of the budget proposal is a reduction in support funding to Ibstock Leisure Centre - reducing the £15000 contribution over the next 3 years to zero. The leisure centre is part of the Ibstock Community College site & over the last 3 years, due to significant increasing utility costs has presented additional budget pressures for the site. A reduction in contribution would mean the school would have to review operating hours to reduce costs, which would in turn impact on the community facility. £15,000 is a relatively small amount given the size of the overall budget but reduction of it to this facility has potential to be detrimental to the community including use by the vulnerable groups that have access.
73	anonymous	no
74	anonymous	Reference the CCTV If it is monitored then perhaps it could be used for driving offences IE: vehicles parking outside shops on the main roads, Vehicles going the wrong way along one way streets and general poor driving offences, as well as spotting criminal activity
75	anonymous	Several of your proposals are quite extravagant for a council that is cutting back on many services that people use and want continuing. A small saving here and there makes very little difference to the overall budget but impacts tremendously on the people it affects. You can save a few quid by not cutting the grass on the park as often or by cutting funding to Ashby museum but you do not consider the impact of these changes. At a time of increasing childhood obesity you have reduced cutting grassy areas to an extent where children can no longer play. Surely the pittance you currently provide for Ashby Museum is an investment that is rewarded several times over by increased interest in the area and

ID	Name	Responses
		<p>increased visitor numbers. With regard to Marlborough Square, who owns these buildings that are going to received all this money for regeneration? Why is the taxpayer increasing the value of their property? Who is gaining from this investment - not the people who are paying the bill that's for sure. I am equally sure that the taxpaying public of Coalville are clambering for a million pounds to be spent on the front garden of the council offices. Is this a joke or is it just a lost leader so the public concentrate on this ridiculous proposal so that when it is rejected the council can say they have listened to what people want. Can you please concentrate on the basics and get them right. I know it's not as sexy as getting involved in new projects and spending lots of dosh but for once give us what we want and spend our money wisely. You then might get our respect.</p>
76	anonymous	<p>Spend less on knocking things down and building on the remaining land we have left and turning every part of our greenbelt into housing estates. Invest into what we have and make NWLeics cleaner and greener. Less litter, no pesticides, invest in green spaces, allotments, nature areas.</p>
77	anonymous	<p>I see no direct evidence of intentions to support the cultural/arts life of the local communities.</p>
78	anonymous	<p>I wholeheartedly disagree with the suggested planned reduction of the £15,000 grant currently supporting Ibstock Leisure Centre to provide a rich and diverse community programme. The planned reduction over the next 3 years to zero makes no sense given the recent enormous price hikes in energy costs. With many public swimming pools closing and leisure centres reducing their hours, the dual use Leisure Complex is providing a much needed leisure provision for the local area. £15,000 is a minimal amount given the size of the LA budget but reduction of it to this facility would be detrimental to the community and the vulnerable groups that access this.</p>
79	anonymous	<p>How come there is going to be 1 million pound spent on a public space which there is no information on what it might be ,I think rather it could be spent on more houses also might be worth considering buying the precinct from the current owners as there is no point in having a gym there</p>
80	anonymous	<p>£3.8 million on vanity projects in Coalville? I'd hardly consider that a wise investment decision.</p>
81	anonymous	<p>It's nice your improving buildings but we need to encourage businesses to rent them more restaurants, bars, cafes. Shops that are not charity shops. I don't know anyone who bothers to drive to Coalville centre. Look at Hinckley they really improved their area. The old Council building is actually a really nice building to look at driving in why replace it with something else. Rent part of it out to a restaurant etc.</p>
82	anonymous	<p>Complete waste money on toilet building and Stenson sq why not spend it on hotel street to improve look of shops</p>

Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland Budget Response

After being told about the Council's proposed budgetary cuts, I met with officers from the council to talk about the impact of those cuts on Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland if applied, and very importantly, the many older people we serve through the Befriending Service we deliver in your area..

It seems the Council wish to reduce the funding we currently receive for the service, year on year, for the next three years, when no funding will be made available at all.

I appreciate the financial pressures on NWL District Council, but I ask that the Council review the decision which, if applied, will greatly impact on the lives of many vulnerable older people, resulting in some perhaps having to go into residential care.

Thanks to the support of the Council, Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland has been able to provide befriending support to older Northwest Leicestershire residents for over thirty years. In more recent years, and as a sign of Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland's commitment to the local older population, the charity has subsidised the service. This year we anticipate a £2,500 subsidy.

The service is currently supporting 45 vulnerable older people who are socially isolated with other needs as well.

The Befriending Coordinator also hosts a weekly coffee morning at Coalville Library where older people can access information on local services, receive benefit advice, and be signposted to other agencies if required.

The majority of Befriending referrals come from social prescribers (attached to local GP surgeries), social care, mental health teams and individuals themselves.

33 volunteers undertake the Befriending work.

If there is any reduction in funding for the financial year beginning April 1st 2024, the Charity will have no choice but to close the service down placing more pressure on statutory services including our local NHS service.

Ashby de la Zouch Town Council Budget Response

In response to the NWLDC budget consultation for 2024 Ashby de la Zouch town Council comments as follows:

Ashby de la Zouch Town Council calls upon NWLDC to remove the following items, which directly affect our residents, from its draft General Fund Revenue budget:

- **Withdrawal of grant to Ashby Museum (£1500).**
This is a very small sum for the District Council, but a vital source of funding for the Museum. Ashby Town Council already pays the Museum's rent of £9000 pa. The museum plays an important role in attracting tourism to the whole District and provides a fantastic resource to our community on all aspects of local history. It is entirely staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers.
- **Increase in charge for public conveniences to 30p.**
This represents a 200% increase from the maximum pre-Covid fees. We would not object to a proportionate, inflationary increase.
- **Stop providing a toilet service in Ashby from April 25 and seek an asset and service transfer of Ashby public toilets.**
This is a policy decision that has not been debated, scrutinised or agreed by NWLDC; nor has Ashby Town Council been consulted. This budget line has no impact on the 2024/25 budget and so should be deleted until a decision is made by the council on the underlying policy through the proper procedures. We understand that an assurance has been given that a paper will be presented to the NWLDC Community Scrutiny Committee before any final policy decision.

We are also concerned about the equity of moving expenditure on Closed Churchyards from Special Expenses to the General Fund. This would leave Ashby Council Tax payers funding the whole of the cost of closed churchyards in Ashby and a proportion of the costs of closed churchyards across the rest of the District. We urge NWLDC to treat the whole of the District equitably in this respect and request further discussions with the District Council on this.

Ashby Town Council also urges NWLDC to reconsider the following items in its budget which affect the whole of the District, including Ashby residents.

- **General Fund - Revenue: No longer print and distribute annual waste collection calendars to every house in the District.**
This is a valued service which allows all residents to easily check which type of recycling will be collected on any particular day and is particularly useful for reference during bank holiday periods when there can be a significant level of confusion. The small cost saving of £15,000 pa is disproportionate to the value of the service to our community.
- **General Fund - Revenue: Removal of freephone number for homelessness enquiries (£2,500).**
The claimed justification for this is a customer service centre in Coalville. Whilst this may be convenient for those made homeless in Coalville, it is of little help to those finding themselves homeless in Ashby or other areas outside Coalville. This is a valuable lifeline for people when at their most vulnerable and should be retained

at least until customer service hubs are opened in the main population centres around the District.

- **General Fund - Revenue: Council's Community Grant Funding budget to Age UK reduced by a third for each of next 3 years (£7,330 per year)**

This cut is likely to affect our most vulnerable residents, unless the Council are certain that Age UK are able to obtain similar funding from other sources.

- **HRA Capital: Reduced zero carbon budget for council housing. (Now £2.5m).**

Two years ago, the MTFP forecast for this item in 2024/25 was £4.1m. It reduced to £3.1m last year. It has now been reduced again and is slated to be lower than previously forecast next year. Whilst we accept that NWLDC urgently needs to complete a stock condition survey in order to prioritise its net zero programme and properly identify the works required across its whole housing stock, we suggest that the scale and urgency of the net zero task means that these issues should not prevent the Council from proceeding with the most urgent carbon reduction works to its housing stock and applying for match funding at every opportunity, particularly with respect to improving insulation. We are concerned that the reduced budget and resulting delay in the programme will lead to higher than necessary energy bills and exacerbate the cost of living for many of Ashby's council housing tenants.

- **HRA Capital: Reduced New Supply Budget (Now £3.4m).**

Over the three years spanning 2020/21 to 2022/23, the Ashby Town Council area lost 22 council homes to Right To Buy with only two replacements. It is important that the Council at least replaces its stock lost through RTB. The HRA New Supply budget has been reduced for 2024/25 by £400k from last year's MTFP forecast and we suspect that only a small amount, if any, of the current year's budget has been spent.

We would encourage restoring the 2024/25 budget to at least that envisaged in last years MTFP (£3.8m) and speeding up replacement of lost RTB council housing in Ashby and across the District. We acknowledge that the budget over 5 years has increased but currently this is heavily weighted to year five.

Ashby Museum Budget Consultation Response

The museum is a vital part of our community.

It seems petty to withdraw the grant which means so much to the survival of the museum.

The volunteers work so hard to keep our history alive and provide great educational resources for both young and old.

School children gain great knowledge from a visit and groups from near and far come to visit. The memory boxes provide excellent aids for the elderly.

Bringing visitors to Ashby is to be regarded as highly essential. We need to maintain footfall to keep our town busy and sustain business.

I urge the district council to continue to provide the grant and show a commitment to keeping our museum for the people of Ashby and much wider community.

I truly hope all concerned take this issue seriously and make a sensible decision.

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