

Appendix 5a: 2022-23 General Fund and Special Expenses Budget Consultation

<https://consultation.nwleics.gov.uk/finance/2022-23-budget-consultation>

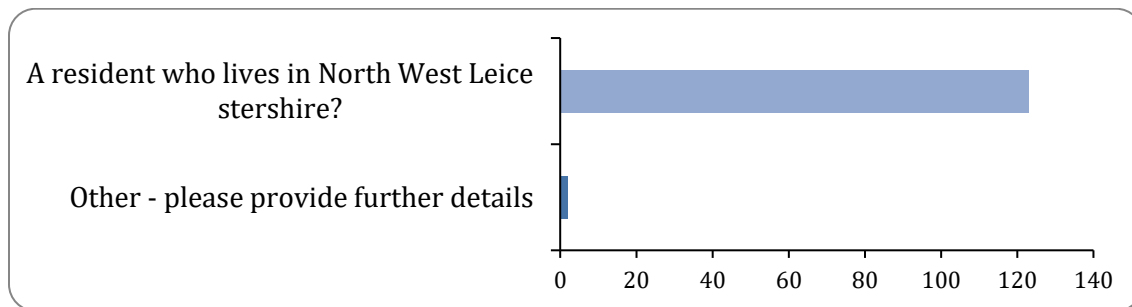
This report was created on Monday 24 January 2022 at 11:20

The activity had not yet closed when this report was generated. As such, this report may not accurately reflect the final distribution of responses, and should be treated as interim only.

Responses to this survey: **125**

1: Are you:

There were 125 responses to this part of the question.



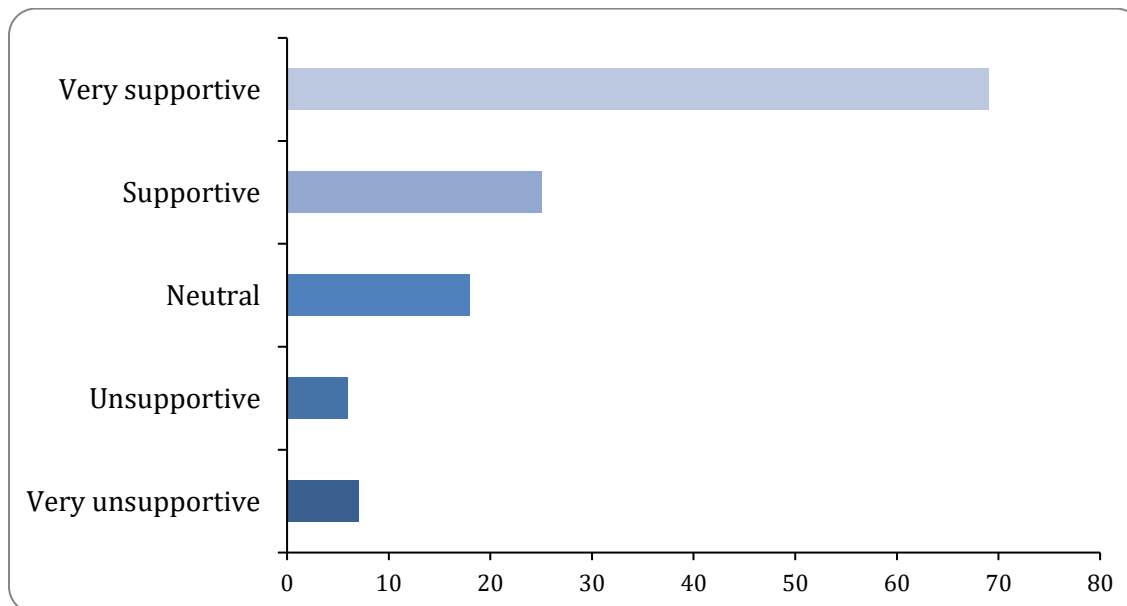
Option	Total	Percent
A resident who lives in North West Leicestershire?	123	98.40%
A business, charity or other organisation who operates within North West Leicestershire?	0	0.00%
Other - please provide further details	2	1.60%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Respondent type - other

There were 2 responses to this part of the question. Both responses indicated that the respondent was both a resident and business owner.

2: How supportive are you of this Council Tax freeze?

There were 125 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	69	55.20%
Supportive	25	20.00%
Neutral	18	14.40%
Unsupportive	6	4.80%
Very unsupportive	7	5.60%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

3: What comments would you like to make about the council tax freeze?

There were 51 responses to this part of the question.

Of those that were supportive or very supportive of the freeze:

- 10 referenced general increases in the cost of living currently.
- 4 cited value for money concerns about their council tax.
- 2 suggested that council tax should decrease.
- 3 were concerned about potential service reductions because of council tax freezes.
- 1 suggested council tax should increase.

Of those that were neutral:

North West Leicestershire

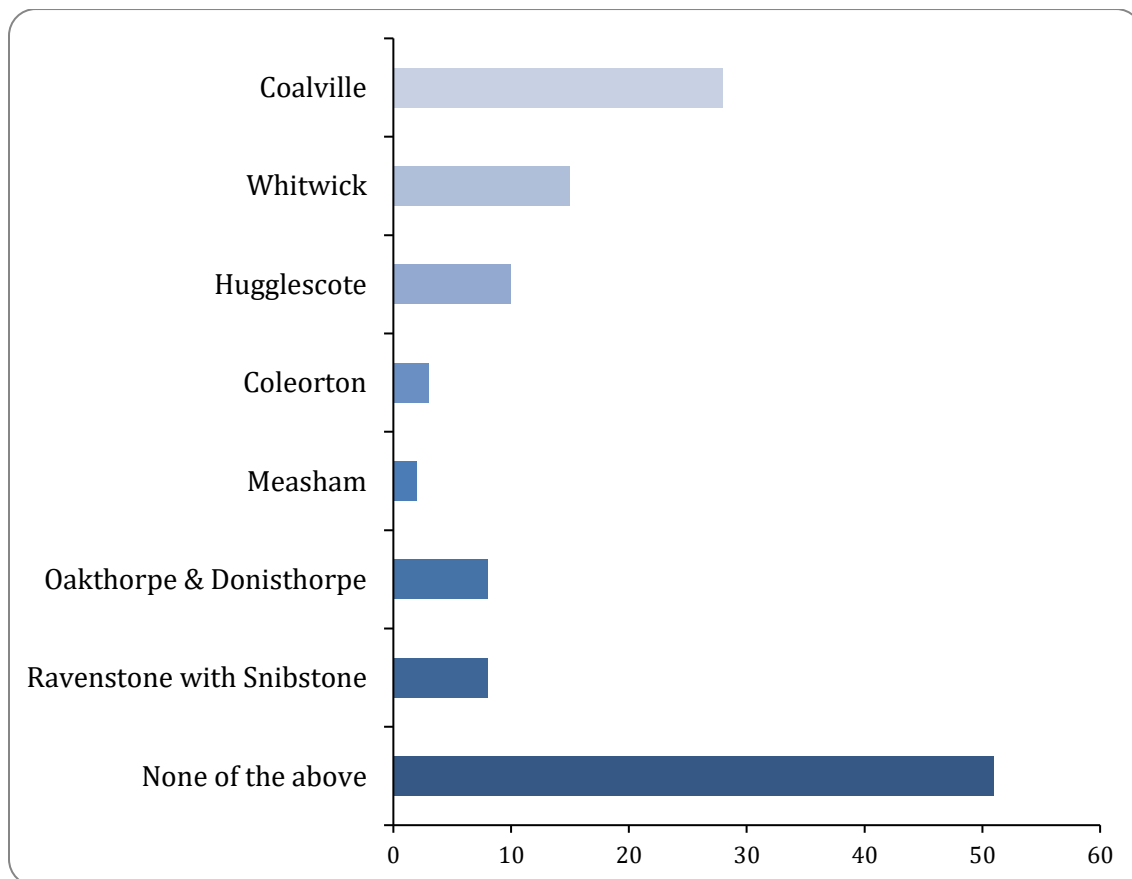
- 4 cited value for money concerns about their council tax.
- 3 were concerned about potential service reductions because of council tax freezes.
- 1 referenced general increases in the cost of living currently
- 1 suggested that council tax should decrease
- 1 suggested council tax should increase.
- 1 cited value for money concerns about their council tax

Of those that were unsupportive or very unsupportive of the freeze:

- 9 suggested that council tax should increase
- 5 were concerned about service reductions because of council tax freezes.
- 1 suggested more should be spent locally.

4: Do you live in one of the following areas?

There were 125 responses to this part of the question.

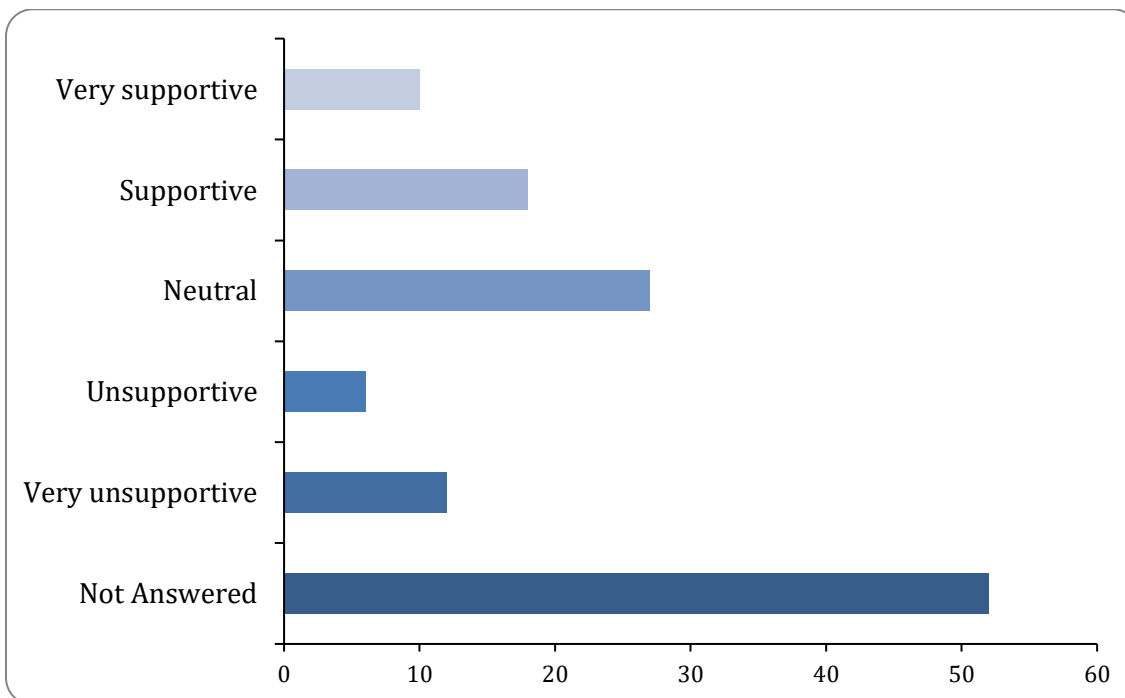


Option	Total	Percent
Coalville	28	22.40%

Whitwick	15	12.00%
Hugglescote	10	8.00%
Coleorton	3	2.40%
Lockington & Hemington	0	0.00%
Measham	2	1.60%
Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	8	6.40%
Osgathorpe	0	0.00%
Ravenstone with Snibstone	8	6.40%
Stretton-en-le-field	0	0.00%
Appleby Magna	0	0.00%
None of the above	51	40.80%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

5: How supportive are you of these changes?

There were 73 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	10	8.00%
Supportive	18	14.40%
Neutral	27	21.60%
Unsupportive	6	4.80%

Very unsupportive	12	9.60%
Not Answered	52	41.60%

6: What comments would you like to make about the proposed Special Expense precept increases? (If you would like to comment on a particular special expense area, please clearly note which element you are referring to)

There were 24 responses to this part of the question.

Of those that were supportive or very supportive of the changes to special expenses:

- 1 requested it was used to maintain and extend play parks in Coalville

Of those that were neutral of the changes to special expenses:

- 3 were concerned at the size of the increase.
- 1 highlighted the variance of increase between different areas.

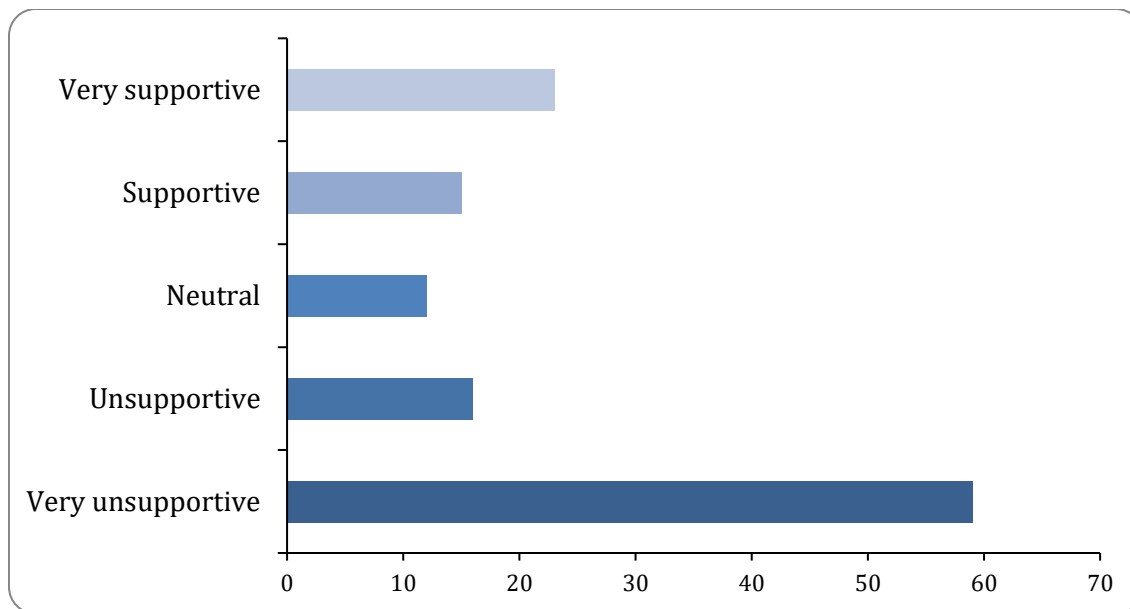
Of those that were unsupportive or very unsupportive of the changes to special expenses:

- 4 were concerned at the size of the increase
- 4 raised concerns about the condition of their local areas
- 2 queries the variance of the changes amongst different areas.

7: From April 2022, the Council plans to keep collection of a single garden waste bin free. However, there will be a new annual charge of £45 for each additional bin.

How supportive are you of this new charge?

There were 125 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	23	18.40%
Supportive	15	12.00%
Neutral	12	9.60%
Unsupportive	16	12.80%
Very unresponsive	59	47.20%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

8: What comments would you like to make about the new garden waste charge?

There were 88 responses to this part of the question.

Of those that were supportive or very supportive of the new garden waste charge:

- 3 suggested charging for the first bin too
- 3 had questions about how the charge would work in practice
- 2 cited concerns over fly tipping
- 2 considered the proposal was affordable
- 1 person raised affordability concerns
- 1 stated that we generate an income from composting the garden waste, suggesting it was unfair to then charge for collection too.
- 1 suggested charging for general waste collections
- 1 had concerns about the value for money of the charge

Of those that were neutral:

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- 2 had concerns about the value for money of the charge
- 1 cited concerns over fly tipping
- 1 had questions about how the charge would work in practice
- 1 suggested more collections were required

Of those that were unsupportive or very unsupportive of new garden waste charge:

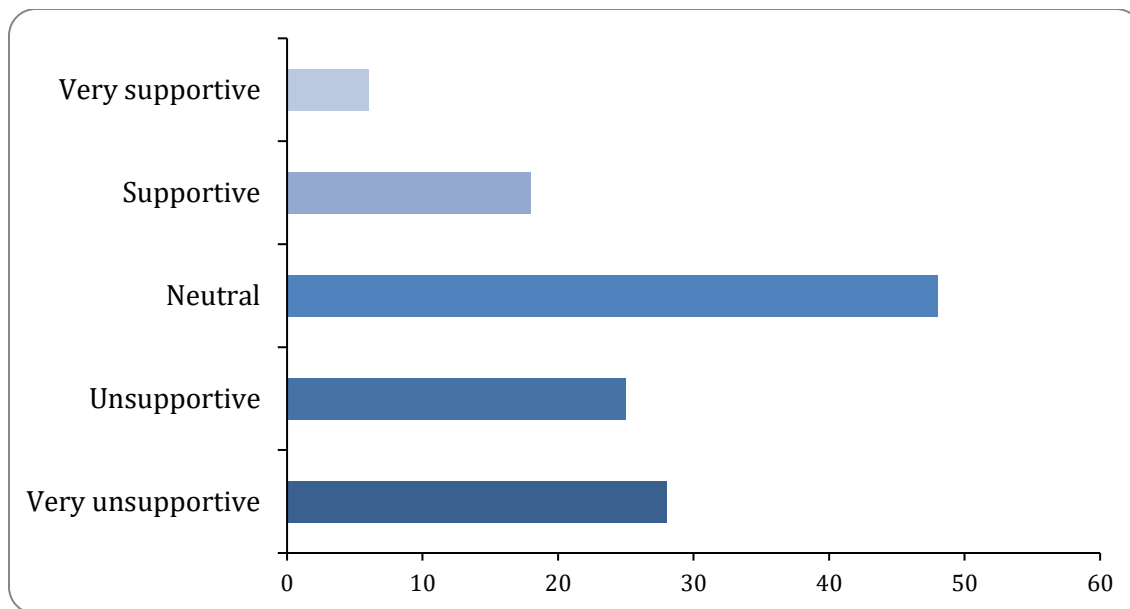
- 23 respondents were concerned about the potential for fly tipping to increase
- 13 were concerned that it might reduce the amount of garden waste that gets recycled
- 11 had questions about how the charge would work in practice
- 6 had concerns about the value for money from the charge
- 5 cited concerns about the affordability of the charge
- 5 suggested it is unfair as properties with larger gardens are likely to pay higher council tax
- 4 suggested it was unfair on the basis the Council makes money from composting garden waste.
- 3 were concerned that it could lead to gardens being less well kept
- 2 were concerned that air quality could be affected if residents burn waste
- 2 respondents suggested that the first two bins should be free
- 1 suggestions more collections were required

9: The Council also plans to make a number of changes to existing fees and charges.

How supportive are you of these changes?

There were 125 responses to this part of the question.

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Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	6	4.80%
Supportive	18	14.40%
Neutral	48	38.40%
Unsupportive	25	20.00%
Very unresponsive	28	22.40%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

10: What comments would you like to make about the changes to these fees and charges? (If you would like to comment on a particular fee or charge, please clearly note which element you are referring to).

There were 62 responses to this part of the question.

Of those that were supportive or very supportive of the changes to existing garden waste charges:

- 5 raised concerns about car parking charges increasing, and the affect that could have on footfall in town centres.
- 2 raised concern about increasing football pitch prices, and the impact that could have on use.
- 2 raised concerns about increasing bulky waste charges
- 1 raised concerned about the affordability of charges
- 1 considered that staff should be charges parking fees
- 1 was concerned about increases in burial fees
- 1 cited value for money concerns

Of those that were neutral:

- 6 raised concerns about car parking charges increasing, and the affect that could have on footfall in town centres, whilst one was positive about the change.
- 4 cited concerns about fly tipping resulting from the increase in charges.
- 3 raised concern about increasing football pitch prices, and the impact that could have on use.
- 3 were concerned about increases in burial fees
- 3 were concerned about the trade waste and recycling increases.
- 2 were concerned by the planned increases to lifeline charges
- 2 raised concerns about increasing bulky waste charges
- 1 cited value for money concerns about the charges.

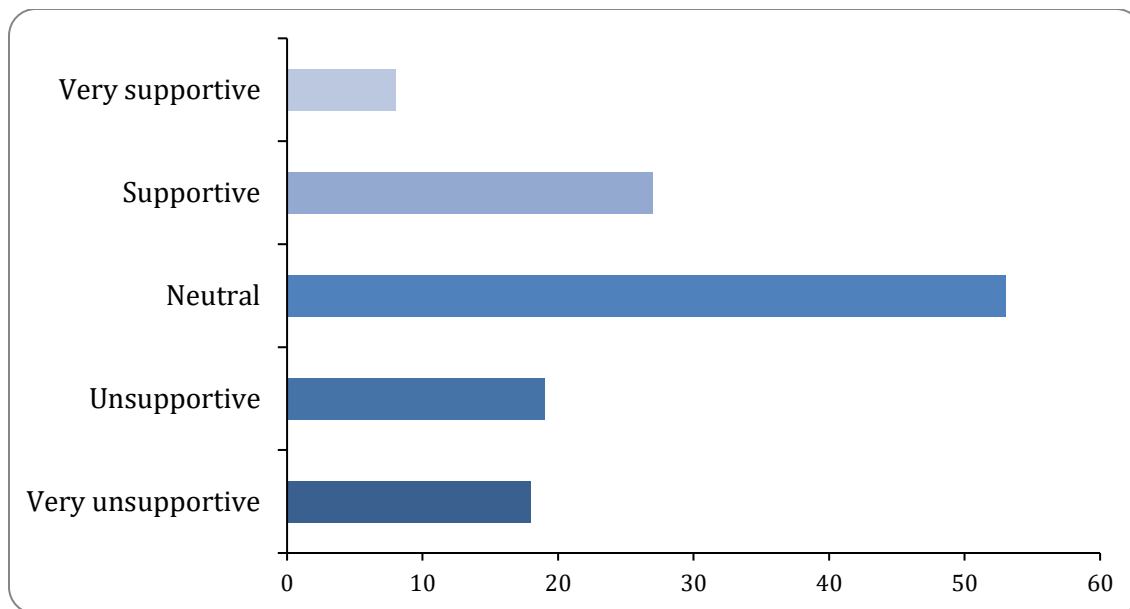
Of those that were unsupportive or very unsupportive of the changes to existing fees and charges:

- 9 were concerned by the car parking charge increases
- 4 were concerned about the affordability of charges
- 3 had specific concerns about the planned increase in burial fees
- 3 were concerned by the planned increases to lifeline charges
- 3 cited general value for money concerns with the charges
- 2 cited concerns about fly tipping resulting from the increase in charges.
- 2 cited specific concerns about the planned increases to football pitch charges
- 1 raised concerns about the trade waste and recycling increases.
- 1 cited concerns with the bulky waste charge increase

11: How supportive are you of this expenditure?

There were 125 responses to this part of the question.

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Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	8	6.40%
Supportive	27	21.60%
Neutral	53	42.40%
Unsupportive	19	15.20%
Very unsupportive	18	14.40%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

12: What comments would you like to make about our spending plans? (If you would like to comment on a particular element of our spending, please clearly note which element you are referring to).

There were 53 responses to this part of the question.

Comments from those that were supportive or very supportive drew on the following themes:

- 4 raised concerns at the value of the costs for a feasibility study to look at the future of the parks and waste depots and hermitage leisure centre.
- 3 were positive about the regeneration of Coalville
- 1 raised a value for money concern, suggesting more funding was needed for waste services.

Of those that were neutral, comments followed the themes below:

- 9 were concerned about the cost of the feasibility study for the parks and waste depots and hermitage leisure centre.

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- 3 raised concern about value for money from services.
- 2 were negative about the progress of regenerating Coalville
- 1 wanted increased spend on areas other than Coalville
- 1 raised concerns over the infrastructure in Coalville
- 1 approved of providing more employment opportunities

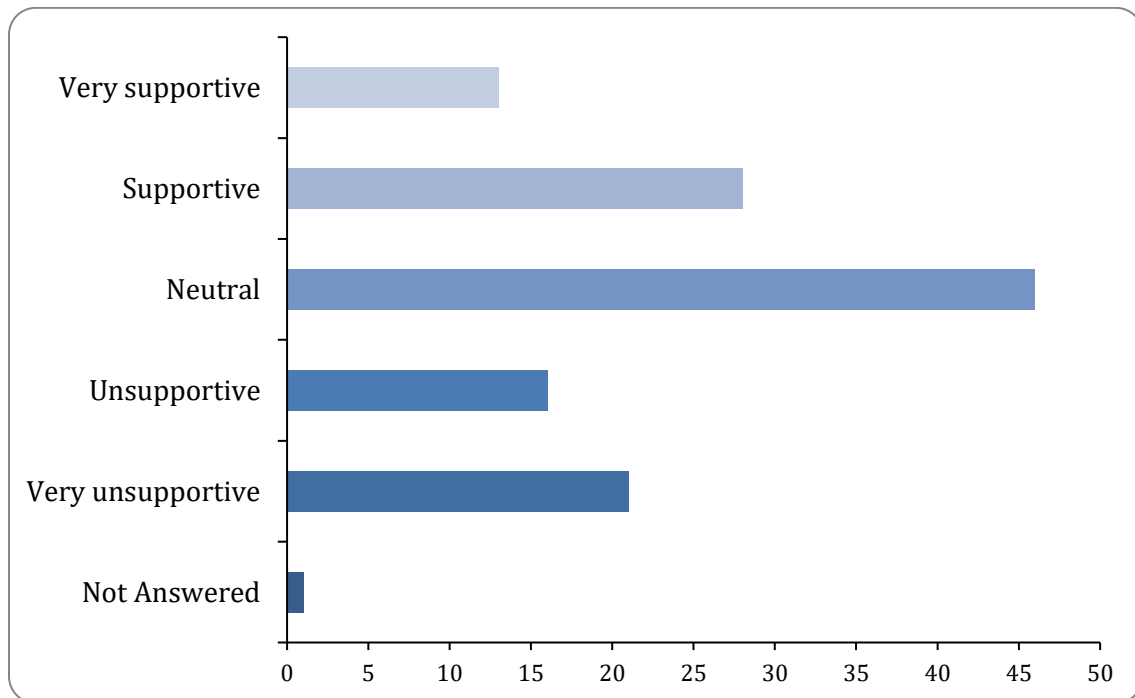
Of those that answered unsupportive or very unsupportive, the following themes were drawn out from comments:

- 8 raised value for money concerns about the council.
- 7 thought spending needed to be focused on areas other than Coalville
- 6 were concerned at the cost of the feasibility study for the parks and waste depots and heritage leisure centre.
- 5 disagreed with additional funding for staff in property services.
- 1 was negative about the progress made in regenerating Coalville
- 1 approved of additional staff for waste services

13: How supportive are you of this expenditure?

GF Cap support

There were 124 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	13	10.40%

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Supportive	28	22.40%
Neutral	46	36.80%
Unsupportive	16	12.80%
Very unsupportive	21	16.80%
Not Answered	1	0.80%

14: What comments would you like to make about our spending plans?
(If you would like to comment on a particular element of our spending, please clearly note which element you are referring to).

There were 52 responses to this part of the question.

Of those that said they were supportive or very supportive of the planned general fund capital programme:

- 5 were positive about plans to regenerate Coalville
- 3 felt less should be spent on the accommodation project
- 2 had concerns over Coalville Regeneration
- 1 requested more spend on play areas
- 1 had concerns on the Marlborough Centre spend
- 1 thought spending needed to be focused on areas other than Coalville
- 1 had concerns over local infrastructure
- 1 raised a value for money concern

Of the neutral respondents:

- 6 posted comments against the size of the accommodation project
- 1 thought spending needed to be focused on areas other than Coalville
- 1 had concerns over local infrastructure
- 1 had concerns over Coalville Regeneration
- 1 had concerns about the fleet replacement programme
- 1 were positive about plans to regenerate Coalville

Themes from those that were unsupportive or very unsupportive were:

- 11 were negative about the amount planned to be spent on office accommodation.
- 6 thought spending needed to be focused on areas other than Coalville
- 4 were negative about the amount of money being spent regenerating Coalville
- 3 flagged up general value for money concerns
- 1 felt more consultation was needed on capital spending plans