

## 2022-23 General Fund and Special Expenses Budget Consultation

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

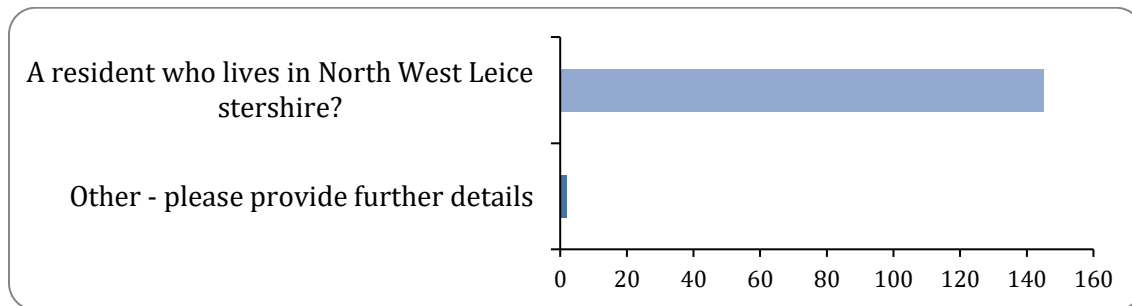
This report was created on Monday 31 January 2022 at 11:34

The activity ran from 12/01/2022 to 30/01/2022

Responses to this survey: **147**

### 1: Are you:

There were 147 responses to this part of the question.

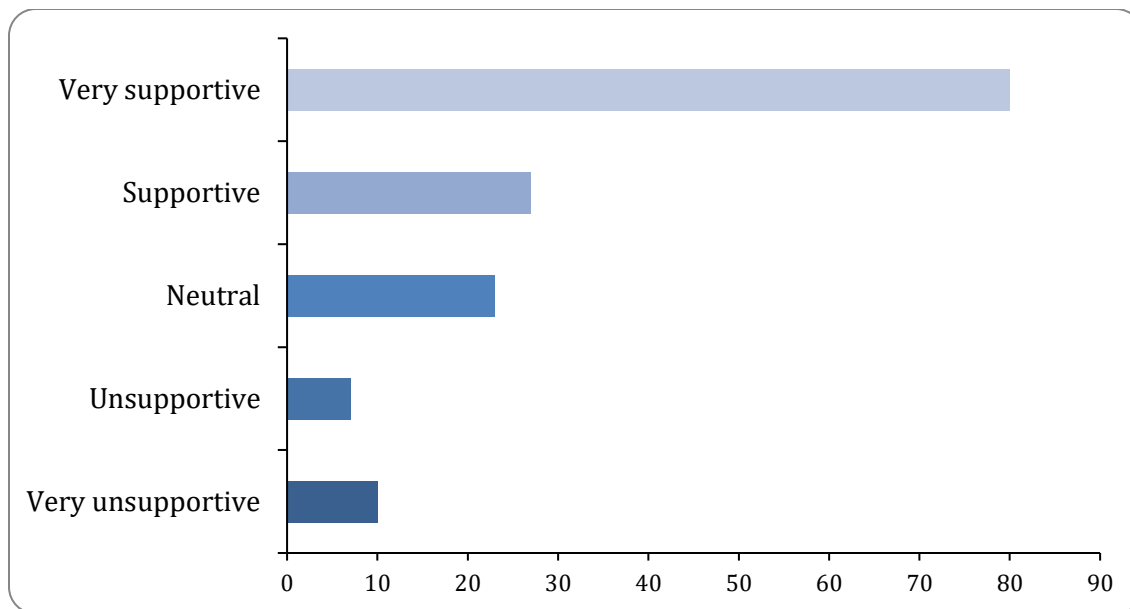


Option	Total	Percent
<b>A resident who lives in North West Leicestershire?</b>	145	98.64%
<b>A business, charity or other organisation who operates within North West Leicestershire?</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Other - please provide further details</b>	2	1.36%
<b>Not Answered</b>	0	0.00%

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 147 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	80	54.42%
Supportive	27	18.37%
Neutral	23	15.65%
Unsupportive	7	4.76%
Very unsupportive	10	6.80%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

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

There were 60 responses to this part of the question.

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

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

Of those that were neutral:

- 4 were concerned about potential service reductions because of council tax freezes.

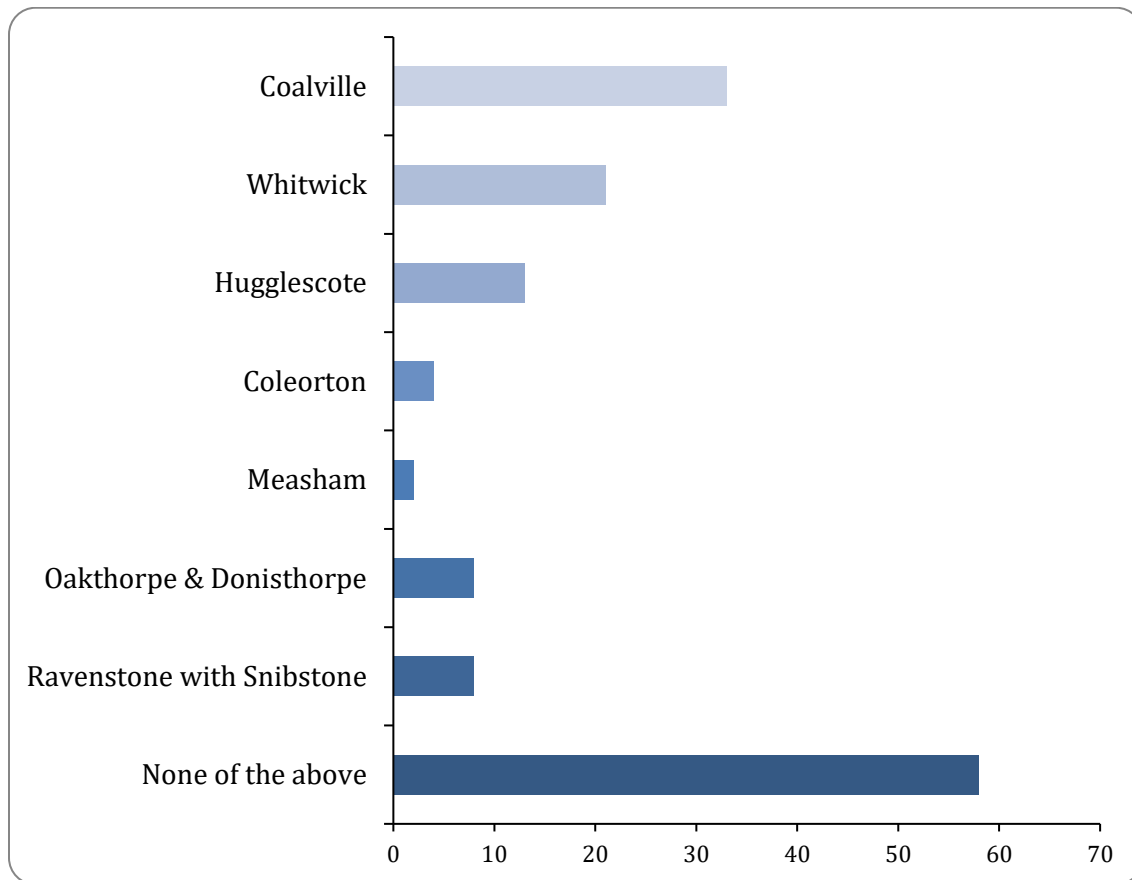
- 2 cited value for money concerns about their council tax.
- 1 referenced general increases in the cost of living currently.
- 1 suggested that council tax should decrease.
- 1 suggested council tax should increase.

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

- 11 suggested that council tax should increase
- 4 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 147 responses to this part of the question.

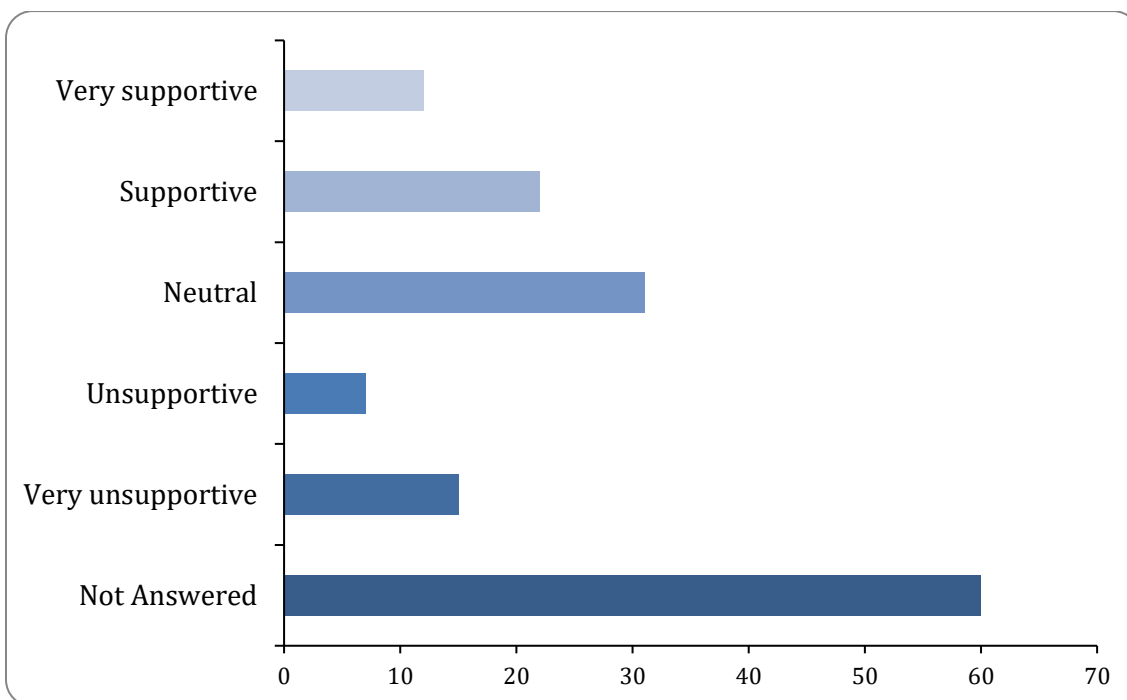


Option	Total	Percent
Coalville	33	22.45%
Whitwick	21	14.29%
Hugglescote	13	8.84%
Coleorton	4	2.72%

<b>Lockington &amp; Hemington</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Measham</b>	2	1.36%
<b>Oakthorpe &amp; Donisthorpe</b>	8	5.44%
<b>Osgathorpe</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Ravenstone with Snibstone</b>	8	5.44%
<b>Stretton-en-le-field</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Appleby Magna</b>	0	0.00%
<b>None of the above</b>	58	39.46%
<b>Not Answered</b>	0	0.00%

### 5: How supportive are you of these changes?

There were 87 responses to this part of the question.



<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Very supportive</b>	12	8.16%
<b>Supportive</b>	22	14.97%
<b>Neutral</b>	31	21.09%
<b>Unsupportive</b>	7	4.76%
<b>Very unsupportive</b>	15	10.20%
<b>Not Answered</b>	60	40.82%

**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 28 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.

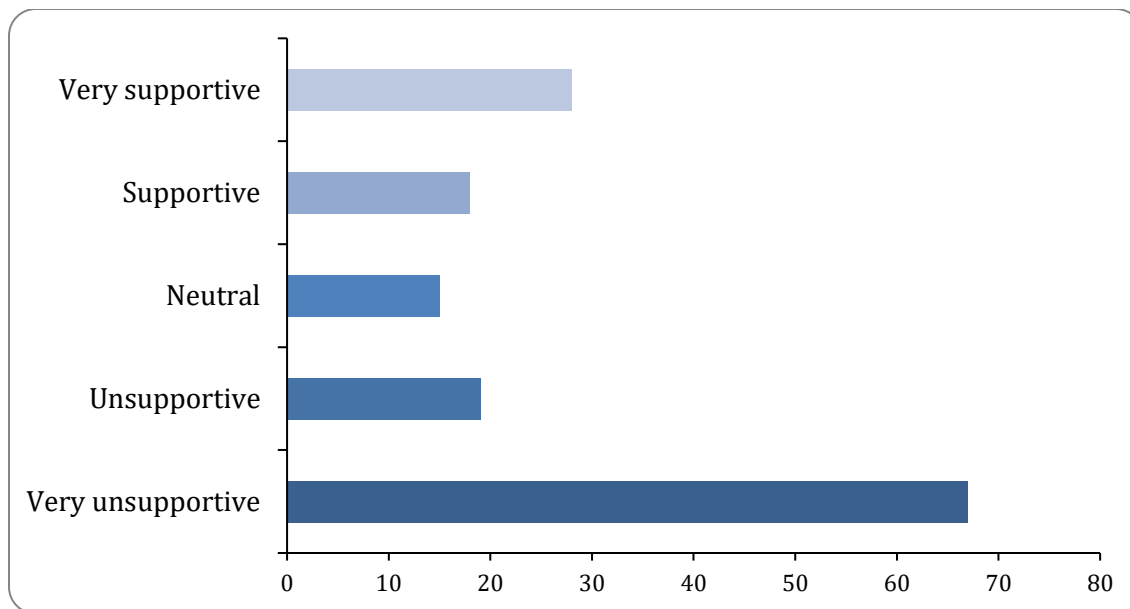
Of those that were unsupportive or very unsupportive of the changes to special expenses:

- 5 were concerned at the size of the increase
- 5 raised concerns about the condition of their local areas
- 3 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 147 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	28	19.05%
Supportive	18	12.24%
Neutral	15	10.20%
Unsupportive	19	12.93%
Very unsupportive	67	45.58%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

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

There were 101 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
- 2 had questions about how the charge would work in practice
- 2 cited concerns over fly tipping
- 2 considered the proposal to be 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:

- 3 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:

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

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

Residents were presented with the following information on changes to fees and charges:

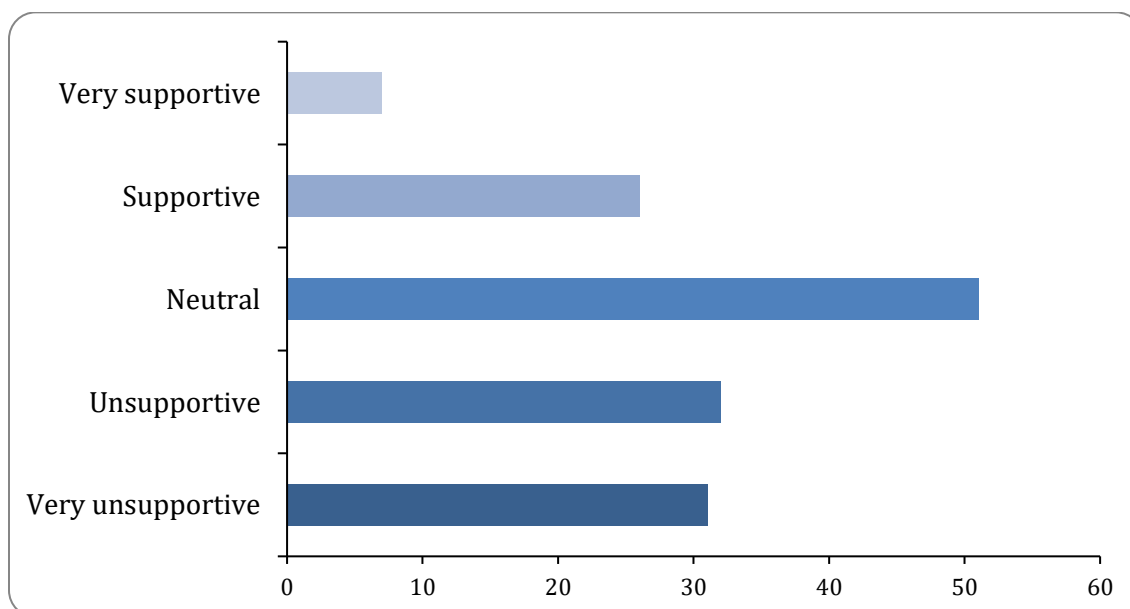
The Council has a large number of fees and charges it sets each year. Changes this year includes:

- Increasing the rents at the Appleby Magna Caravan Site by 3.1% to £36.19 per week.
- Increasing charges for Lifeline customers by 3.1% to £4.34 per week for the basic service and £6.54 for the enhanced service.
- Increasing non-statutory licensing fees by between 1% and 3%, with fees ranging from £3 to £64,000.
- Increasing Health and Safety charges by between 2-3%, with fees ranging from £4 to £155.
- Increasing Border Post Inspection fees between 2-3%, with fees ranging from £25.50 to £193.

- Increasing pest control fees by between 1% and 3%, with fees ranging from £16 to £200.
- Increasing football pitch charges by 2% on average.
- Increasing the Bulky Waste Collection fee by 3.8% to £27.
- Increasing trade refuse and recycling collection costs by between 4.8% to 6.9%, with costs ranging from £3.70 to £17.85 per bin per collection.
- Increasing trade sack collected up 3.6%.
- Increasing burial fees by 5%, with fees ranging from £79 to £1,587.
- Increasing car parking charges by 5.3% on average, with fees varying between £0.65 and £38.

### How supportive are you of these changes?

There were 147 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	7	4.76%
Supportive	26	17.69%
Neutral	51	34.69%
Unsupportive	32	21.77%
Very unsupportive	31	21.09%
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 72 responses to this part of the question.

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

- 7 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.
- 1 raised concerned about the affordability of charges
- 1 considered that staff should be charged parking fees
- 3 were concerned about increases in burial fees
- 1 cited value for money concerns

Of those that were neutral:

- 7 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 raised a general concern about the affordability of price increases
- 1 cited value for money concerns about the charges.
- 1 respondent was positive about increases in parking charges, citing the potential to increase walking and cycling.

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

- 14 were concerned by the car parking charge increases
- 5 were concerned about the affordability of charges
- 6 had specific concerns about the planned increase in burial fees
- 5 were concerned by the planned increases to lifeline charges
- 3 cited general value for money concerns with the charges

- 4 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.
- 3 cited concerns with the bulky waste charge increase

### 11: How supportive are you of this expenditure?

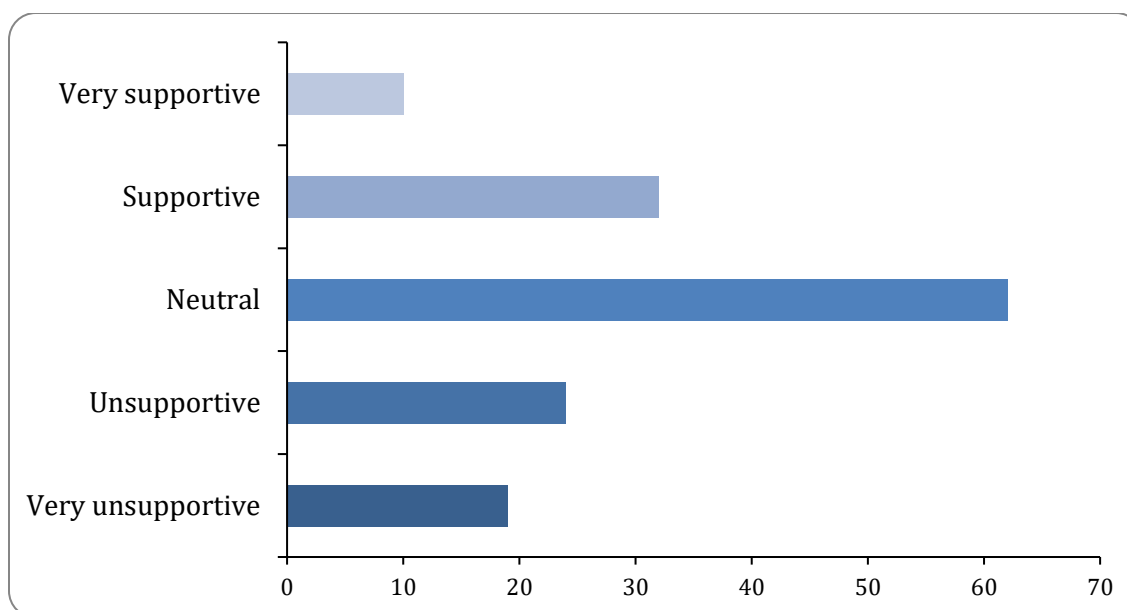
Residents were presented with the service developments, as set out below:

Overall, we expect to spend £16.6 million in 2022-23 on our day to day activities, which is £1.1 million more than the previous year and largely the result of additional cost pressures the Council is currently facing.

We also plan to spend £162,000 improving the services we offer by:

- Spending £65,000 on a feasibility study to support the regeneration of Coalville, which will include looking at the future of our current waste and park depots as well as the Hermitage Leisure Centre.
- Employing additional staff without our waste services team in response to increasing demand, at a cost of £72,000.
- Employing additional staff within our Property Service team to manage the Council's property, at a cost of £26,000.

There were 147 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
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<b>Very supportive</b>	10	6.80%
<b>Supportive</b>	32	21.77%
<b>Neutral</b>	62	42.18%
<b>Unsupportive</b>	24	16.33%
<b>Very unsupportive</b>	19	12.93%
<b>Not Answered</b>	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 60 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 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
- 2 raised a value for money concern, suggesting more funding was needed for waste services and another suggests staff performance needed greater management.

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

- 12 were concerned about the cost of the feasibility study for the parks and waste depots and hermitage leisure centre.
- 3 raised concerns about value for money from services.
- 2 were negative about the progress in 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:

- 10 raised value for money concerns about the council.
- 7 thought spending needed to be focused on areas other than Coalville
- 7 were concerned at the cost of the feasibility study for the parks and waste depots and hermitage 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?

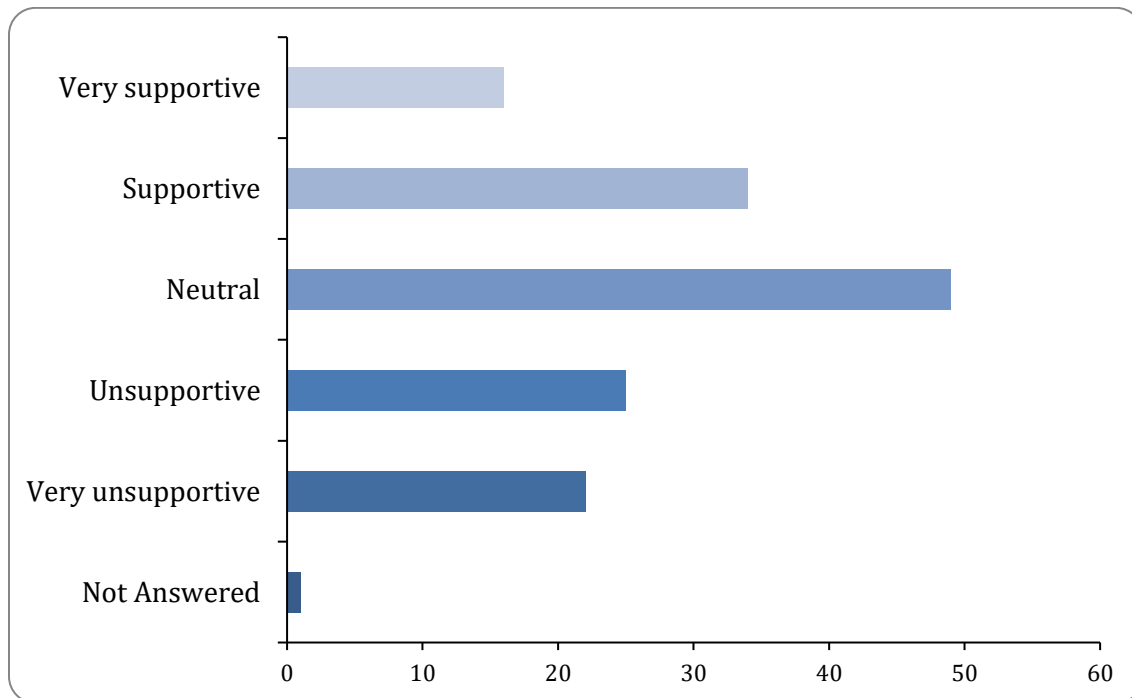
Residents were presented with a high level of summary of the General Fund Capital Programme, as set out below:

Capital expenditure relates to larger projects that produce something that will last for a number of years, such as a new council buildings or major upgrades to our existing council buildings.

In 2021-22 we have planned to spend £10.7 million on such projects, which includes:

- £8.3 million on projects to regenerate Coalville. This includes £3.7 million for the renovation of the Marlborough Centre, £3.1 million for planned improvements to the Council's office accommodation and £1.5 million for other projects as they come forward.
- £1.4 million on replacing vehicles that have come to the end of the life. The Council will be replacing vehicles with battery electric vehicles where feasible as part of its Zero Carbon programme.
- £1.0 million on other capital projects, such as the provision of Disabled Facility Grants and replacing ICT equipment.

There were 146 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Very supportive	16	10.88%
Supportive	34	23.13%
Neutral	49	33.33%
Unsupportive	25	17.01%
Very unsupportive	22	14.97%
Not Answered	1	0.68%

#### 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 58 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
- 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
- 2 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:

- 12 were negative about the amount planned to be spent on office accommodation
- 7 thought spending needed to be focused on areas other than Coalville
- 3 were negative about the amount of money being spent regenerating Coalville

- 3 flagged up general value for money concerns
- 2 had concerns on the Marlborough Centre spend
- 1 had concerns about the fleet replacement programme
- 1 felt more consultation was needed on capital spending plans