



Mansfield
District Council

Mansfield District Council

Budget Consultation 2024 Final Report

Background Information

Introduction

We know households across the country are facing huge financial challenges. Rising prices makes this a cost-of-living emergency. Mansfield District Council is also facing its most difficult budget pressures for many years.

All local authorities are having to deal with large increases in inflation that are driving up costs and prices for energy, fuel and materials. The cost-of-living crisis means that we also have increased demand on our services. We must also budget for the annual pay awards and bad debt provision for potential unpaid commercial rent.

We must prioritise our services and focus on delivering what is needed. In order to get this right, we need to know what is important to the residents that we serve.

Between 16 September and 6 October residents were invited to take part in our Budget consultation. This was a primarily online survey; however paper versions were available at the Civic Centre, Mansfield Museum, and Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse and Warsop Libraries. The survey was also translated into the following languages; Arabic, Cantonese, Dari, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Romanian.

Statistical Reliability

Due to achieving a sample size of 422 responses, the confidence interval (margin of error) achieved for this consultation on the whole is 5 with a confidence level of 95%. The confidence interval tells us the range of values we would expect the value to fall between if the entire population being measured answered (in this case, if every single Mansfield resident took part). Essentially, together this means that if for example 45% of residents who answered the survey stated they liked orange juice, we can be 95% certain that if we asked the entire population the true answer would be between 40% (45-5) and 50% (45+5). In order to reach this statistical reliability, 383 participants are needed.

Key Findings

Participants

In total, **422** participants took part in this consultation (although not all participants chose to answer every question).

The majority of responses were completed using the online method. However, there were 11 responses which were submitted using paper copies. These were either handed in to the Civic Centre reception or collected from the museum or libraries.

Highlights

Based on the services which were included in this survey, participants ranked Community Safety as the service which was most important to them with an average score of 2.76 out of 9 (with 1 being most important and 9 being least important). Planning services achieved the lowest score with 6.75.

85% of respondents stated that they did not want a spend reduction in Waste in Recycling, whereas 91% supported a spend reduction relating to Members allowances.

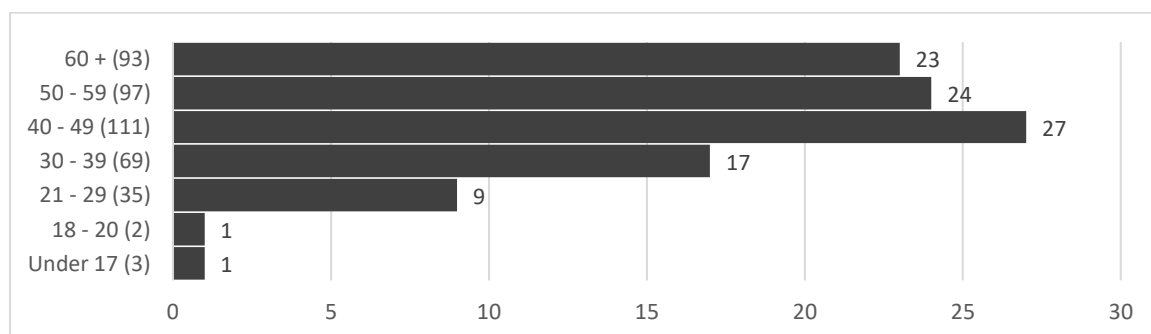
Charges and Council Tax

65% of participants supported a charge increase for the Garden Waste service whilst 44% supported paying more per hour to park in Mansfield district.

57% are willing to accept a Council Tax increase of 2.99%.

Overall Results

The following sections detail the results for participants who specifically answered the individual questions, regardless of whether or not they are a Mansfield resident.



Q1. For the following question, please rank which services are important to you with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.

For this question participants ranked the order in which services are important to them. The table below shows the average scores for each of the services area. Please note, the closer the service area's score is to 1 means participants ranked it more important.

2024 Responses

	Service Area	Average Score
Most important to residents	Community Safety	2.76
	Waste and Recycling	3.77
	Public Spaces	4.20
	Town Centre	4.55
	Council Operations	5.38
	Environmental Health	5.70
	Culture and Entertainment	5.78
	Revenues and Benefits	5.97

Least important to residents	Planning Services	6.75
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This question was asked in the 2023 budget consultation (with slightly different services being presented). Please find the results of last years responses to this question below.

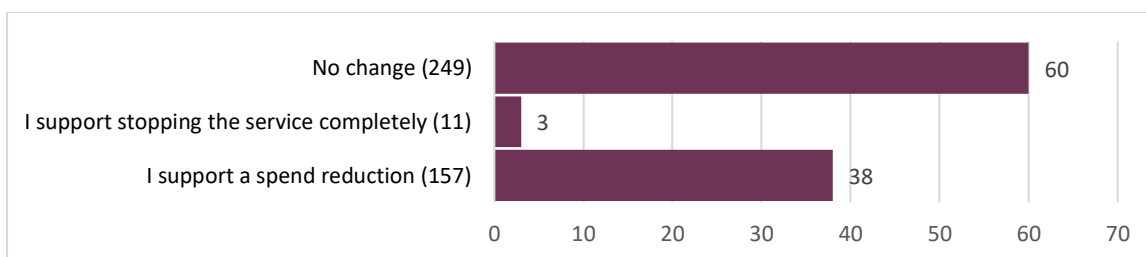
2023 responses

	Service Area	Average Score
Most important to residents	Community Safety	1.84
	Clean and Green	2.47
	Town Centre	3.13
	Culture and Entertainment	3.53
	Customer Services	4.03
Least important to residents	Grants and Support	4.44

Community Safety

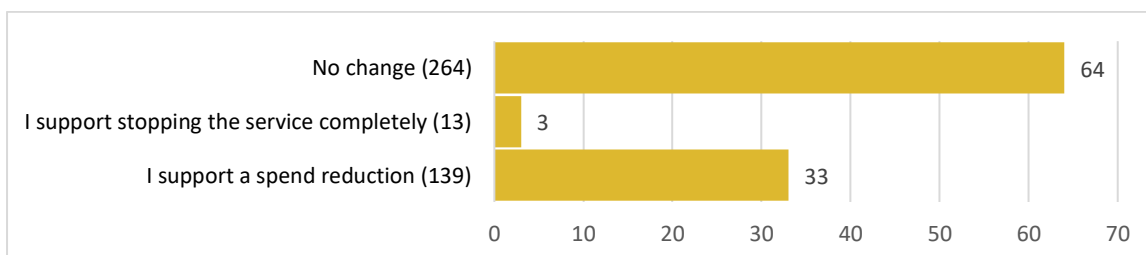
Changes to CCTV operation and monitoring

Q2. We could have fewer cameras operating meaning that we couldn't collate as much evidence during an incident. It is likely that cameras would not be monitored 24/7. Or we could stop the service all together (%)



Changes to community safety

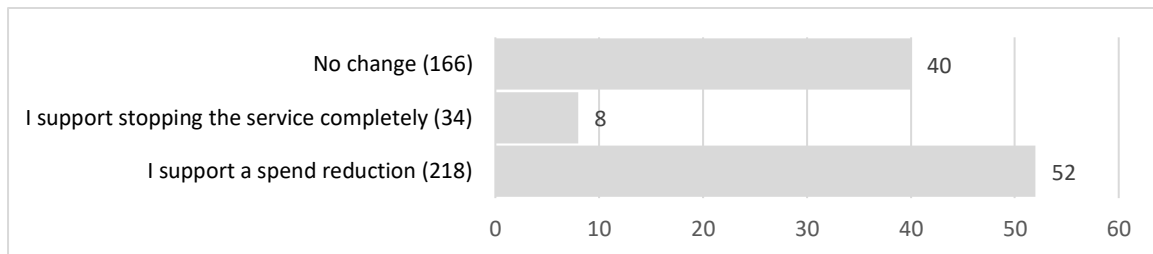
Q3. Decrease in the number of visible patrols in our neighbourhoods which tackle antisocial behaviour and community issues. Or we have no patrols by the community safety team (%).



Culture and Entertainment

Cultural Services spend reduction

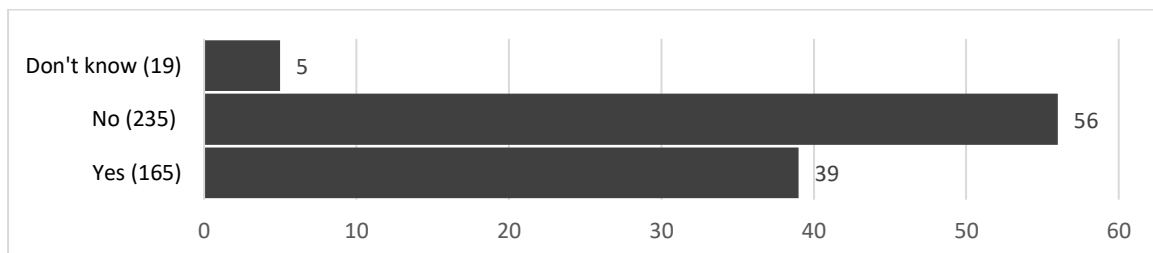
Would you support a reduction in services that provide a cultural offer for residents and visitors to the district? (which include Mansfield Palace Theatre, Mansfield Museum, an annual programme of events and shows, educational activities and services) (%)



Public Spaces

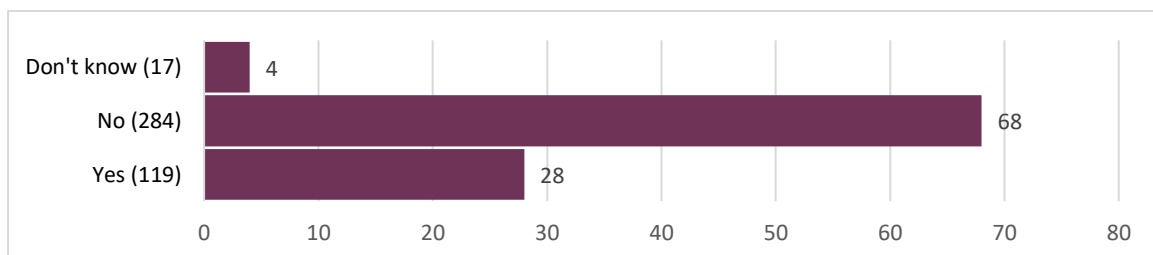
Reduction in maintained public open spaces service standards

Would you support a reduction in maintained public open spaces service standards? (e.g frequency of grass cutting) (%)



Reduction in Street Cleansing service standards

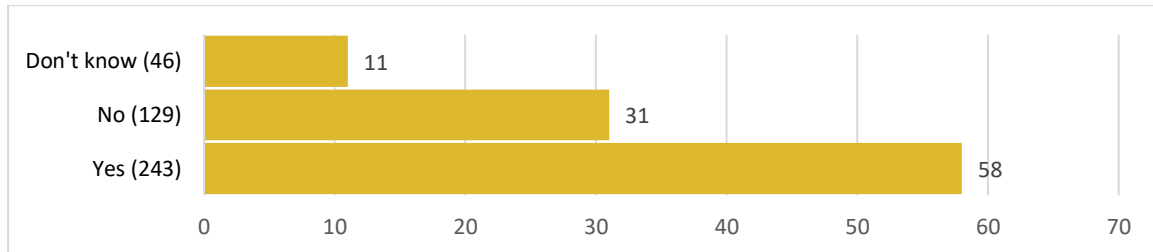
Would you support a reduction in street cleansing service standards (e.g frequency of cleansing rounds)? (%)



Revenues and Benefits

Reduction in Revenues and Benefits service standards

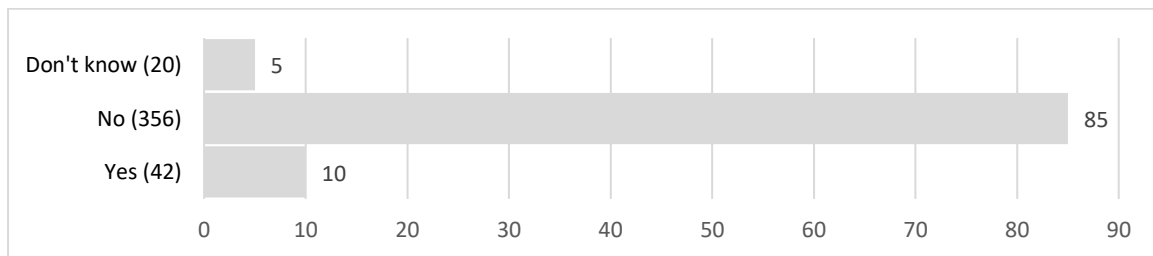
Would you support a reduction in Revenues and Benefits Service standards? (time taken to process claims etc) (%)



Waste and Recycling

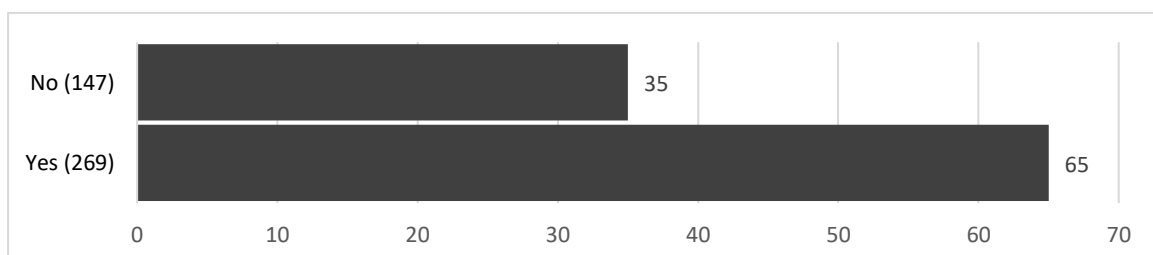
Waste and Recycling service standards reduction

Would you support a reduction in Waste & Recycling service standards? (e.g. frequency of collections). (%)



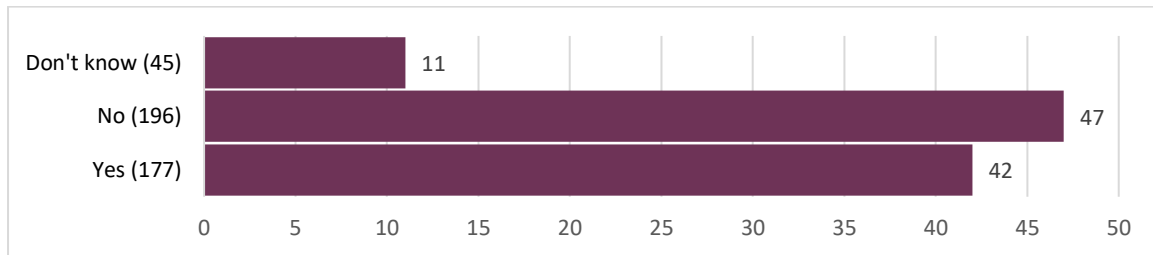
Garden Waste

Would you support a charge increase for the Garden Waste service?



Environmental Health

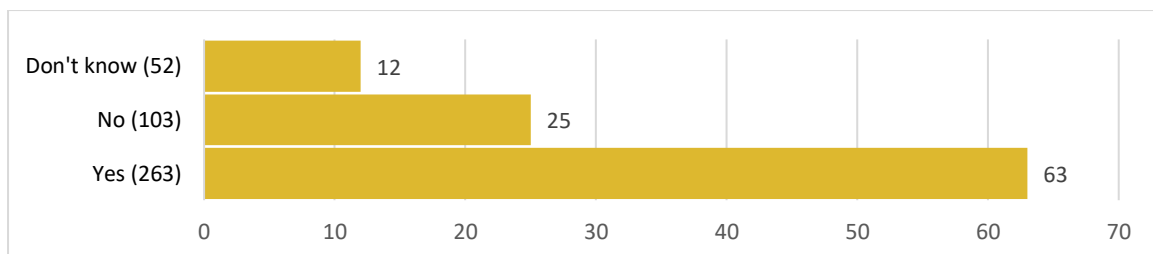
Would you support a reduction in Environmental Health service standards? (e.g. service request response times for complaints about noise nuisance, waste on private land, air quality).



Planning Services

Planning services standards

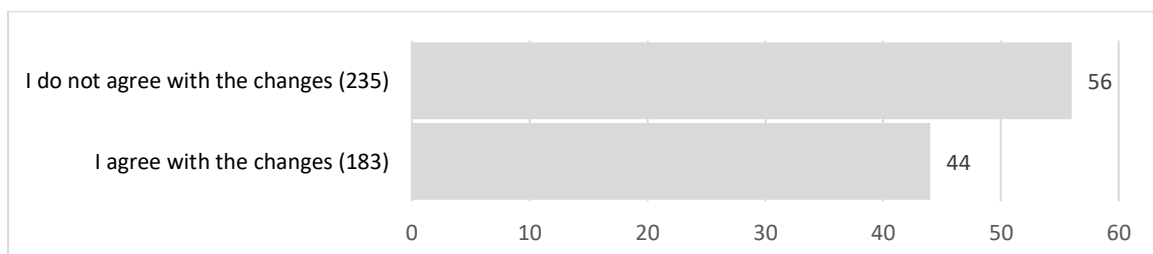
Would you support a reduction in Planning service standards? (e.g. time taken to determine planning applications)



Town Centres

Increased car park charges

Visitors would pay more per hour to park in Mansfield district .

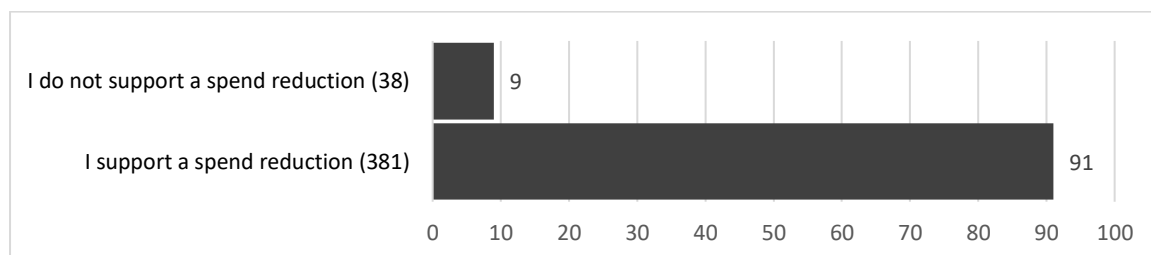


Changes to Council Operations

Changes to cost of political governance

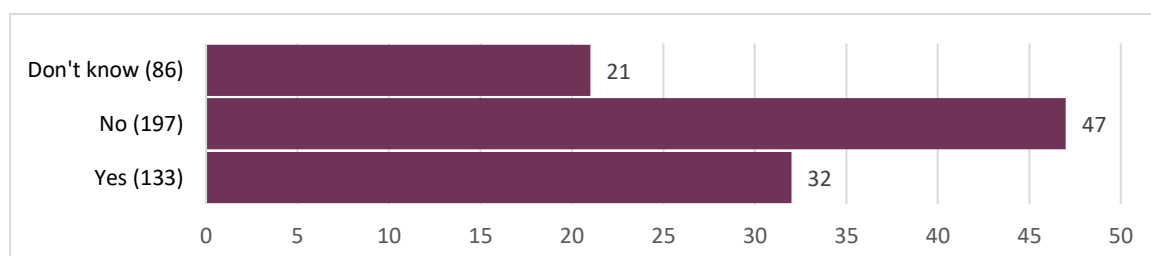
The council has one Elected Mayor, 36 Elected Members (councillors) and a number of different committees. All Elected Members receive an allowance for their role as well as a Ward allowance to spend in their communities. There are also additional allowances for extra responsibilities such as chairing committees or being a Portfolio

Holder on the council's cabinet. Would you support a reduction in the cost of providing these allowances? Please note, some allowances are set by an independent organisation, not Mansfield District Council



Outsourcing and alternative delivery models

Would you support outsourcing or delivering council services in a different way? (e.g. outsourcing services through contracts with private organisations, sharing services with other organisations) Please note, the council already outsources the operation of its leisure centres and dog control services and has shared services for Health & Safety and Human Resources



If yes, which service areas would you suggest be outsourced or delivered in a different way?

Thematic analysis was conducted on these responses identifying the most common themes. For a full list of comments received in response to this question please see Appendix 1.

1. Waste and Recycling Services (22 mentions)

The most frequently suggested service for outsourcing or improving efficiency through external contractors.

Examples: "Waste and recycling," "Waste collection and street cleansing."

2. Housing Repairs (13 mentions)

Many participants suggested outsourcing housing repairs or improving their management.

Examples: "Outsource housing repairs," "Housing repairs should be privatized."

3. Shared Services with Other Councils (12 mentions)

Participants frequently suggested sharing services with other councils, particularly in areas like planning, revenues and benefits, legal, and IT.

Examples: "Share services with other councils," "Planning and revenues should be shared."

4. Cultural Services (Theatre and Museums) (10 mentions)

Several respondents mentioned outsourcing cultural services, especially theatres and museums, to improve financial sustainability.

Examples: "Outsource the Palace Theatre and museum," "Outsource cultural services."

5. Legal Services (8 mentions)

High turnover and inefficiencies in legal departments led to suggestions of outsourcing or sharing legal services.

Examples: "Legal services to be outsourced," "Legal should return to a shared service."

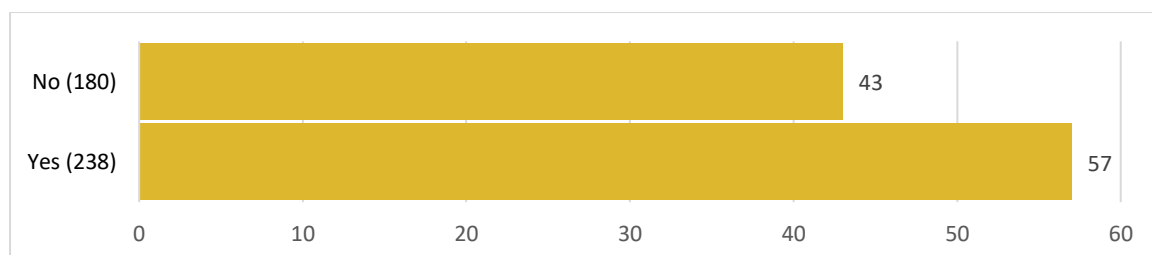
6. Human Resources (HR) (6 mentions)

HR was frequently mentioned as a function that could be outsourced or shared to increase efficiency.

Examples: "Outsource HR services," "HR could be a shared service."

Council Tax

To balance the budget we must consider increasing council tax by 2.99% in order to sustain critical services. Would you be willing to accept this increase to council tax to minimise impact on local services? Please note that a 2.99% increase would be roughly £5.80 a year for a band D council tax payer.



Did you have any further comments about our budget proposals?

Thematic analysis was conducted on the comments received (please see appendix 2 for a full list of these comments). The most common themes identified were;

Reduction of Elected Roles

Many respondents mentioned the reduction of the number of Councillors at the authority, alongside removing the Mayoral post, citing them as unnecessary expenses.

Example: “Get rid of the position of Mayor and review the current Chief Officer positions”.

Concerns regarding the Market

This theme covers suggestions related to the reduction or improvement of market services.

Example: “Stop pumping money into the market. No one shops there anymore, and it’s a waste of money”.

Administrative and staffing costs

These responses comment concerns about management layers, administrative costs and comments surrounding employee costs.

Example: “There are too many layers of management, and staff efficiency needs to improve”

Concerns over financial management

Numerous responses voiced concerns about wasteful spending and encouraged the Council to take a more business-like approach.

Example: “I personally think the council wastes money and could treat the revenue more as a business...”

Appendix 1: Full responses for the question asking participants if the Council could outsource or delivery any services differently.

Outsource Environmental Health and planning reduce customer services - offer more options on the automated switchboard options to get calls to correct departments without the need for contact centre to transfer them

If you don't already, you should move in the same direction as many private organisations whereby all 'central' operations are a shared service. Appreciate HR and H&S already had this model and this should be adopted for other areas such as finance, operations etc if not done already.

Sharing revenue and benefits, planning services and IT with another council

Legal as the staff turnaround is high Design services as the department is low for team

HR

Cultural services, private sector company. Hopefully bring in additional revenue. Waste & recycling, share facilities with other local authorities.

Housing lifeline.... street cleaning

Collection of Council Tax to be the responsibility of NCC. They do, after all get the lions share! Services which could be shared by other councils, if possible. Perhaps an independent 'SWAT' analysis of all services provided by MDC should be carried out. You say that Councillors have a pot of money to spend in their area? Is this spent fairly/wisely/etc.? Perhaps a 'pot' of money should be made available and Councillors would have to bid for funds? They would have to provide Best interests and suitability etc.

Waste disposal. Parks.

Any that are cheaper. Councils are renowned for over over spending. Public sector workers do not work at the same pace as private sector workers.

Waste and Recycling and/or Housing Repairs

Waste & recycling, street cleansing - any town centre operation

Office base tasks that could be shared

museum and theatre, market

Waste collection and street cleansing

Outsource the Neighbourhood Warden Service then maybe we would actually see them on our streets instead of flashing by, two up, in a pick up truck.

Maintaining parks, roadside grass cutting. Maintaining footpaths. Public rubbish bin collection

Housing

IT, Waste, Revenues & Benefits, Marketing & Events, Legal, Housing Repairs, Audit CCTV, Planning.

Planning applications Street cleansing Community safety

Waste and recycling Trade Waste service Town Centre services Markets and Car parks maintenance in the Town Centre

parks, inhouse office functions, asset management

Human Resources

Refuse collection to a private company

Palace theatre and museum

Palace theatre, museum

Legal service

involve more local businesses

Waste & Recycling Legal

If possible, the Theatre may be an option to be outsourced as they liaise and work with several external organisations already. Legal could return to a shared service with Ashfield District Council as this recently changed and was dissolved.

Waste collection to unify with other areas and improve the service scope and frequency to match other areas services. Stop making visiting the town centre cost prohibitive and a deterrent for money spending visitors to the town with lack of parking and charges, especially at night! The public transport provision is appalling in the evenings and hardly a draw for out of town residents. The strangle hold over businesses and for the clients they try to attract is a sure way to ensure less business revenue and a town centre unable to support itself and one that attracts trouble and conflict through its depressive offerings.

Not sure i can answer this, as areas that could apply would need to be shared. However, there would have to be checks and balances to ensure costs in the long term do not increase to contractors and quality reduces in services offered.

look at all the suppliers of any service and get alternative quotes for the same service / product

I would support any service being outsourced IF it was cost effective and there was no detrimental effect on service provision. Also no enforced redundancies to existing MDC staff. Instead offer to TUPE them over to the new provider.

Waste and recycling to a more efficient external contractor same with street cleansing. Council needs to sort out the way in which it manages it's housing stock too.

Theatre outsourced potentially go back to some shared services with Ashfield District Council

Outsource or jointly deliver all support services.

Contracting out or joining a shared service for specialist services where value can be added at reduced cost

Management of the market stalls to be contracted out to a third party

Put ALL outsourced contracts on KPI's, that way there would be a financial hit to said contractor if they fail in certain areas.

More shared services rather than stand alone support services. This would increase resilience

Cultural Services, perhaps see if Inspire would take them on?

Anything that drives efficiency without reducing effectiveness

Waste

The running of the council - it's inadequate

Waste and recycling, park maintenance, revenue & benefits

planning

All internal processes if cheaper than current pay grades. Maintenance team again if contract cheaper Market management.

Housing repairs Housing Waste & Recycling Fleet Democratic services

I would look at ANY service that can provided just as efficiently by as few people as possible. Combining responsibility where feasible.

Waste Markets Theatre

Not frontline services, support services yes You need to stop wasting money on vanity projects like events, which are ok when money is plentiful but not during austere times. Focus on core community services that improve neighbourhoods in the long term not short term spending.

Mansfield museum and Palace Theatre

I don't feel that I could comment on which services because I don't feel that I am fully informed of all the services that the council provide, but if it meant keeping that service going then I think that it would be good thing.

Finance staff shared with another local authority to cut down on personnel who work from home much of the time. We were told many live outside MDC and are actually unfamiliar with location and service outreach around the district.

Housing Repairs

Housing Repairs

Car parks to be outsourced Theatre to be outsourced CCTV monitoring to be outsourced

Waste Town Centre Cultural Services Community Safety/CCTV

Areas where it is difficult to recruit.

That's your job to assess and decide.

Not sure without a list to choose from

The cost savings would need publishing in order to make an informed decision, procurement processes to be followed would ensure performance and cost savings.

More digital services, less gace to face.

Cultural services Waste collection Finance

Outsourcing companies don't care

CLT

Remove mayor post. Extra layer of leadership that is unnecessary. Have more volunteer scrutiny on committees

Waste and recycling and housing repairs

bin collections, park maintenance

All of them

Waste

Legal Services. Refuse Collection.

Theatre and museum

Planning Control, variable tariff where resource is outsourced where Developers pay for an enhanced service which will provide determination against an agreed SLA depending on scheme complexity.

The whole procurement and tendering team should be outsourced, it needs a fresh pair of eyes to bring a commercial view and bring costs down. This would mean all areas of costs would have a fresh overhaul

#NAME?

Planning

All services, Run as a business as competitive tender rather, with contracts and kpis, if the contract does not provide good services, switch

Look at other councils what they've done well and adopt their models

Bins

Waste and recycling

Appendix 2: Full response for the question “Do you have any further comments”

Get rid of parish council and the precept in Warsop and use it for core services that are described in this survey. The town hall has already been taken over by another organisation so I'm not sure what value the majority of residents are getting from having a parish council.

I am a governor at a school and receive no money for this, it's a crucial role that holds school to account, I feel counsellors should receive less benefits for their roles which would save money rather than asking households to pay more council tax when cost of living is out of hand.

Please stop pumping money into the market, no one shops on the market anymore and it is a waste of MDC money. The market space could be put to better use.

Mansfield Museum acts as a site of social care and works to build community cohesion. Residents use the museum as a warm space, a safe space and an opportunity to connect with others. Activities and events build pride in place and create a sense of identity for Mansfield. The work happening there has been recognised by the arts council and other awarding bodies as nationally significant, it is a true asset to us and the reduction in opening hours could potentially hinder this activity.

Cultural services are essential in many ways: - attracting visitors to the area - ensuring people's well-being through the various programmes on offer (& therefore reducing pressure on health and social services) It would be easy yet extremely short sighted to cut them.

A mayor is an unnecessary extra expense

Referendum on mayor and number of councillors

Nothing works anyway. CCTV and antisocial behaviour teams are just tick boxing it seems.

Would the removal of the Mayor provide a saving? The Market seems to be dying on its feet perhaps this should be subject of a funding review? How much is 'wasted' on flyers? Going to the theatre museum etc you will see piles of flyers gathering dust. OK I suppose that this might be a small saving but looking after the pennies...

I personally think the council wastes money and could treat the revenue more as a business / their money rather than an endless pit of money, by sourcing goods better, utilising staff more efficiently (the number of times we see council staff doing very little especially around parks is frightening) every business and household has the same issues but businesses and homes do not get much support, why should the council get preferential treatment?

Mansfield is deteriorating as a town and I feel that community safety and cultural services are really important to maintain to keep the town feeling as safe as possible and offering a positive vibe within the town.

We already pay too much. There are too many people in the area who pay nothing, they have their rates paid for them through benefits at the expense of hard working tax paying residents. I am fed up of paying more of my wages for the feckless, non working people in this area. People who can work, but who it is easier and more profitable not to.

MDC provides excellent services for residents and I regret the necessity to reduce or curtail any of them.

An increase yes but at a lower level

None statutory services should be looked at and cancelled if necessary.

N/A

You'll put it up Anyway

We need to try to keep local jobs for local people And free stuff for people as going to a park is something all can afford Stop wasting money on the mayor and councillors Do we need that many?? Mayor or chief executive both???

The services you offer are already reduced, Look at restructures that cost money not save and aren't working, too many managers who don't know what they are doing Cost savings that aren't saving, ordering clothing from 1 supplier which isn't cheaper than were it was ordered from I could go on, but what's the point as people don't listen anyway, already decided where savings are coming from, any consideration for people's well being?

The amount of managers within the council could be cut to save money - there are too many layers. The market could be run by an external organisation, like many car boot sales are. Parking charges should be cut to bring more people into town.

People don't like it but we simply have to pay more to protect services if they really are that important to us

Re Q16. The Labour government are considering doing away with the single person's council tax discount, I would be strongly against that and upwards changes to the maximum increase.

Get rid of the position of Mayor and review the current Chief Officer positions as all appear to be failing badly.

Waste collection and public waste bins should not be reduced.

Must consider other ways of delivering all services e.g. outsourcing and shared services Consider vote for public to decide if we need a Mayor

Close the market or increase stall prices. It's very poorly attended and doesn't bring people to the town like it used to. The space could be used for many other things and it would stop some of the anti social behaviour that goes on if the empty stalls were not there for people to sit/gather around.

Stop people building on green belts

To provide transparency to residents with explanations of why this is happening. To reduce the level of middle management through out the council. Be honest and transparent to all

hitting car parks with increased parking fees will only detract usage of the town centre that is already on its knees

Although it may only seem like a small increase to some, I do worry how those with smaller incomes will be able to cope, especially since it's not just council tax rising, it's every other bill rising.

Consider charging staff to park when in the office. Have more staff working from home to rent out more of the space at the civic. Consider closing reception part time, sometimes the reception staff member can be seen sat doing nothing during quieter periods not value for money. Get rid of the mayor and cut down on top management

Yes, any chance of getting a District Referendum, on whether District residents want to keep or dissolve the positions of the District Mayor and Deputy Mayor. My own personal view is nearly £100,000 could be saved if these 2 positions didn't exist.

I'm very concerned about your budget proposals and I hope you don't reduce the spending of much needed services in Mansfield.

Only supported if there is no drop in service. If that occurred on top of an increase then potential flash points would occur in the future.

Don't spend any more money on Cycle lanes. The one you put on Leeming Lane is a total waste of money. We walk there often and cyclists use the pavement not the path.

Flower display and golf course at King George would be a saving

Flower display and golf course at King George would be a saving Old garage sites owned by Mansfield district council

Provided the increase actually improved the services, I have no issue with a slight increase. However, I consider the amount already paid as fairly high and the service standards as average, so improvements are definitely needed!

Yes start at home ..all council expenses can be scrapped for a start it's ridiculous that we are expected to go without while council are raking it in for the most stupid things! It's time they were means tested for their heating allowances etc ..sort it out..it's criminal!

MDC must keep the public happy - people need to see where the money is being spent - if you cut cut cut things that people can see - you guys won't get elected

again. There seems to be a clear lack of vision. Why put car parking fees up? you need to be encouraging people into Mansfield not discouraging them with higher fees. Planning - stop granting planning for out of town developments - let's fill the town centre first - then work outwards.

I said no to the council tax going up because apart from our bins emptied, we see no other services for it. It must be at least 6 years since I've seen a road sweeper round this area. We don't get police patrols. The local park is a overgrown mess.

Reduce the senior management team. Scale back / sell some parks and open spaces. Reduce number of elected members in particular those who are in active. Scrap / don't vote for Mansfield BID as an extra cost on local businesses they don't need. Ensure spending of all funding allocation has a strong business case to ensure will have a direct impact on results, say no where it doesn't. Streamline processes and remove bureaucratic barriers to maximise efficiency. Challenge poor performance robustly.

Ultimately if Council tax is increased there is no decision on whether to pay so it isn't about accepting the increase, it's about agreeing with it. Further concerns are around cuts being made again and how this significantly affects the morale of all employees as a huge amount of skills and experience has been lost recently via turnover due to the lack of job security and communication which leads to recruitment costs anyway. Cutting jobs means people are overworked which is more absence and costs.

Saving money should not be the only focus, there should still be an eye on promoting the area and attracting business and visitors to the area with a vibrant free business community, especially when you look at the accessibility of places like Meadowhall for entertainment, eating and shopping. This is driven by free parking provision and accessibility to clients, I am deterred in coming into the town with the lack of businesses open and the parking provision that is even implemented at night!

There is a perception of waste to public money, particularly when it comes to council spending money on less seemingly important things, such as building renovations for council offices etc. Reduce multiple layers of bureaucracy that could drive further efficiencies and cost reductions. Encourage community spirit and support, ask for more volunteer support initiatives. More community service work for junior and adult offenders to improve the local area, rubbish collection, graffiti removal etc.

nothing is mentioned about improving performances of existing members of staff or their teams / departments

Focus attention on statutory services and listen to the responses you get to this survey. If you can't act on what the public say they want, tell them why. Be honest with them. People THINK they know why decisions are made and base their

opinions on those assumptions. If you provide the information that decision are made on then they are better placed to make an informed opinion. Make it easy to find as people are inherently lazy and won't do any research unless it's right in front of them.

As I live in a rural area within the Mansfield area, I and my family strongly feel that we don't get value for money as it is. We have to request services, whereas we have observed these services taking place in the built up areas.

We have one of the highest council tax payments in the UK. People would possibly be happy with an increase if they were seeing something for their money but currently, there is no sign of any improvements and lots of money being spent in the wrong places!

Work more openly with partners to deliver wider benefit to Mansfield

Spend less on administration, more on actual doing. Dont say things will happen, then have excuses as to why they haven't. No financial perks for being a councillor

Stop wasting money on covid memorial gardens and council offices in the Beales department store and then council tax wouldn't need to go up! STOP WASTING MONEY

Scrap the mayor position

There should be a focus on spending on services that promote and facilitate growth within the District thereby improving the financial viability of the Council all-round.

Why not have bigger fines for anyone caught vandalising public spaces which would help in the cost of maintaining these services? Reduce the amount Council members receive for their services especially if they hold down full time jobs in addition to their Council duties. Maybe hold more markets/craft fairs etc where the stall holders pay for the stall at a fair rate and bring the town center back to life which in turn increases revenue for the council from stores wanting to be here.

yes why do we have so many councilers and mps and could we have some of them with a science background,

Need to support Mansfield Market more. A good market increases a footfall to the town centre. Look at Chesterfield the way it operates. We visit it on most Thursdays. Mansfield used to have a good market. I have travelled a lot of towns in England and Wales since retiring. Our market is poorly supported. Come on Mansfield town centre staff. Show some enthusiasm. Allow cars to use WEST GATE daily. We used to have market stalls up West Gate.

The town centre needs a complete overhaul. The town centre is shocking. Get more tall buildings built & give the town more of a city feel. Also can't we do more to

attract more students to live here. They have the disposal income & if we can attract them the bars, restaurants & other leisure based services will follow.

Council tax has been increased already along with the cost of living. Wages do not reflect these increases and this is another stress to worry about.

I do not accept the sole discount being taken of us, so therefore I do not accept the 2.99% increase.

Explore invest to save options rather than focus on service reductions

Reduce councillors and make larger ward areas. Look at removing Mayor role to reduce costs.

Please continue to look for outside investment and stop freezing council tax. Everything has gone up so how can you deliver services without more income?

Get rid of the mayor, the position is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers money.

The majority of these services are for the centre of Mansfield our small communities rarely benefit, can't remember the last time I saw a police patrol in our village. I had to email in regarding the mess our green spaces were in which was also causing difficulties to walk safely down a main road! We don't have security cameras in our village but plenty of antisocial behaviour with no support.

Get rid of the market or increase the prices of the stalls.

Reduce costs of office spaces by merge depots/satellite sites. More home workers to reduce office space/costs for running the civic and other sites. Cease payments of employee professional fees

The council is failing. There is nothing appealing in the town centre to appeal to residents or visitors. The town centre might as well not exist as shop options are poor, the market is pointless but could be so much better with some creativity. We do not need a mayor, cost saving there. The council's only options seem to be increasing taxes which is another blow to those struggling.

Maybe concentrate more on areas within Mansfield Woodhouse especially when it comes to emptying public bins and parks. The park on Thoresby Road is a wasted piece of land with so much potential for the children but there's absolutely nothing on there, so can't really call it a park. Also the parking charge at Mansfield Woodhouse train station has led to people parking on public roads making it hard for people to park who actually live there.

To many managers Invest wisely

Q & Q12 require a don't know... sample I do not have a brown Bin as I prefer to take it to the Civic Amenity at Warsop rather than have to continually clean up after a collection as no Council sweeper ever comes on the road unless one of the residents rings to complaint. So actually we are already getting a reduced service that we actually contribute towards...

Would be a good start to look at council employee's and expense and try and cut rather than taxing residents more to reduce their services! Reduction in the mayor expenses. Reduction of cabinet members and councillors - maybe full time roles for councillors rather than people who have no fixed schedule of work and have other priorities of employment. Restructure of office staff. Reduction of expenses for staff. Reduction in benefits being paid out - reduction of expenses for job seekers.

In this time of such hardship for so many of our community, I feel it is vital to maintain the services which maintain our public spaces, keep the streets clean and safe, and provide support and entertainment for our people. So many people are barely getting by, the joy of going to a clean, safe park with your children/grandchildren cannot be underestimated. Our children deserve to be growing up in a town which has standards, of care, cleanliness, safety and pride.

Local communities and community projects need more funding. Roads need more funding. The arts need more funding.

The open communication is really good and I think it would help people to see some figures about increased demands to show that this isn't just a statement with no evidence. e.g. calls to customer services, amount of DHP applications, amount of planning applications, ASB issues dealt with by wardens, all compared to five years ago

This helps me understand the difficulties councillors face.

Yes, why would I accept a council tax rise for less services? Get rid of the CEO position if keeping a Mayor, Cut number of ward councillors by 2/3 giving them something to do.

Stop creating management roles that duplicate services & stop raising the costs of living

I would have thought Question 1 would be, "Do residents think they are currently getting good value for money" Answer no, we never see quite a few of these services. It's always a reactive Council to ASB, waste, fly-tipping, noise vehicles, e-scooters the list goes on. Mansfield;d is doomed if I ws not so ld I would leave the area. Sadly I have left it too late, foolishly believing that Councillors, positions and the police would sort things out. Sadly not he case...

I would strongly advise against charging more for parking in the town center, as it would only accelerate the death of the high street. People prefer free parking in retail parks outside the center. Another area that is sub-standard already and wouldn't want to see it drop further is the tidiness of our streets. The town center is OK most of the time, but the rest of the town has been neglected! We haven't seen anyone litter-picking or coming along with a brush car on Butt lane for 3+ years!

As long the money raised from this goes on this rather than vanity projects

Stop wasting money on events when main services need to be delivered on the doorstep, not expensive events that last a few hours. Scrap the BID it's an extra tax that businesses don't need and will encourage smaller businesses to open Close the market Increase public toilets across the district as lack of facilities significantly affect people with medical conditions

I think that the department for council tax should be bought back in house , so you can speak to a human being, not a phone, i was kept on hold for 40 mins before some faceless answered.

Totally disagree with paying for social care in any shape or form as the system TOTAL Disgrace and unfare as if required Sell house even if worked, paid and required by another family member Those whom Abuse system better care, rooms given

You need to invest in the infrastructure in town centres such as the two big car parks, card payments, increased green spaces, additional leisure offer to encourage people back into town and stay longer = spending more money

No

No.

I would rather the events in the Market Square be stopped rather than other services

If the council tax only rises by the £5:80 for band d I find it acceptable however I expect there will be additional charges for other services putting it up even more than the £5:80 quoted What I would like to know is why the council tax is among everything including water, gas, electricity that increases every year and the general public are just expected to find the extra cash How are we supposed to find this,conjure it up from fresh air?

Keep the council tax reduction for single occupants in a property in place. If this was taken away from me, I would struggle to pay any increases

Planning and follow-through of initiatives have been seriously delayed as with the “listed buildings regeneration in the Town Centre.” Constant changes in the lead for this project since 2019, new planning requirements and spiral costs of the improvements mean that this excellent idea is now beyond the funding possibilities for one keen applicant and willing tenants. What a waste of time and at considerable cost for the applicant who required architects to plan the details since 2019.

Planning decisions need retained as a priority as it is important to ensure that developers are held to account and development is robustly considered to preserve wildlife and the environment. I am also concerned about the increased risk of flooding.

Cost of living crisis and you want to raise council tax complete joke.

Working households in the Mansfield District Council area are struggling financially more than ever. I agree with the proposed increase in council tax to fund essential community services, however I worry about how we will afford the winter months this year, in relation to keeping priority payments up to date. I would like to see the budget reflect non working families being asked to contribute more to rent/ council tax payments from their disposable income.

Joke asking people to support an 2.99 increase. The council need to learn to stop wasting money and dealing with rip off 3rd parties and then pleading poverty. You would not treat your own money this way so don't treat mine this way.

It's already to expensive for the poor services we recieve try reducing councillor salaries

Save money by not having a mayor.

Cannot see anything relating to the road conditions in Mansfield which are now at an unacceptable level and nothing seems to being done about them Examples - St John's Street (Near School shop) Sutton Road (near hospital) Hamilton Road - most of it Marr Road near Pleasley

Difficult decisions for local government but asking the public to rank services in order of priority is divisive- particularly when the list contains statutory services alongside discretionary services. The public generally aren't ware of the 'have' to do as opposed to the 'nice' to do so your survey results will always lean toward what you statutorily have to do anyway. Focus your resources on what you have to do and reduce costs for what you don't have to do.

I think it is important to preserve our parks and wildlife also the maintenance of the parks and gardens

Stop wasting money with bad decisions, eg properties in London and vanity project of moving council offices at a great cost, and do the bloody job you're paid to do.

Try to organise revenue raising events in the district

good luck!

I think services like libraries should be pay per use. I believe only around half of the population use these services yet we all pay for them, if we were getting/using what we were paying for maybe we would be more willing to pay more.

The Council should focus on the important things why are they not providing houses for local people which they can afford . People in £1,000,000 houses do not spend in Mansfield cos it's a mess. The market has died due to "improvements" made a number of years ago which turned it into a -dosing place for people and their scary dogs and bottles of cheap beer. It could be a thriving place and should form a hub for the town as it was previously. Why is it no being regenerated as a priority.to attrac

The questions are not good you shouldn't reduce services that we have to have

WHY BUY A WORTHLESS PILE OF JUNK LIKE BEALES,WHY ARE MANAGEMENT GIVEN PAY RISES WHEN THEY HAVE LESS STAFF WHY HAVE YOU GOT A CEO A MAYOR AND TWO DIRECTORS. DEPARTMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SELECTED TO BE OUTSOURCED SO WHY ASK,IT WILL CLEARLY BE THE LOWER PAID WHO SUFFER FOR THE COUNCIL WASTING MONEY

You need to start working smarter Outsourcing where you can to reduce the budget and getting rid of any non statutory services, unless they can self sustain themselves. You also need to look at how we can make money out of recycling, such as recycling garden waste and then selling back to the public as compost - this is already being done elsewhere. You need to look to solutions rather than just deal with problems Housing - you could do a complete holistic approach to advertising properties,

encourage those who receive benefits or are a net burden to leave the area

I support a higher council tax increase because Mansfield District's portion is just a small part of the overall bill. Changing governance wouldn't help residents—it would strip away our democratic right to choose the council leader. There's no advantage in switching to a leader and cabinet model, and a referendum would only waste money our cash-strapped council can't afford.

Are there too many Wards?

More should be done to bring in school children and volunteers to assist with some of the services being cut, litter picking in parks and apprenticeships collaborations with local employers where viable.

The Council should consider outsourcing certain services which are either transactional or carry the most risk. By transferring risk to the private sector, MDC can insulate itself from the unforeseen costs and gain a greater level of control over its budgets. The risk for delivering a quality service to cost lies with the contractor and is enforced through its legal obligations under the contract. This provides transparency and accountability in the delivery of the services = better outcomes.

Do the police contribute to the running costs of the CCTV system, if not then they should.

Raise council tax by 6%

Abolish the role of a Mayor. Stop large conglomerates and housing developers putting in large planning applications that are taking up all of the greenbelt land. Charge large companies who use lorries that cause pollution a levy for using local roads. Please don't change the theatres, or parks and open spaces. These need to stay open for the town's social and mental health.

Are there things that have not been listed that could be economised on ?

Yes stop employees working from home so that members of the public can speak to someone rather than them not answering the phones due to them WFH. They are civil servants and should be available to be spoken to. Stop hiding behind WFH. It's not acceptable. During Covid it was ok but should not be permanent. Get them all back into the offices. That's what we are paying for a lovely building with half of it empty. Concentrate on cleaning up the town centre and deal with the drug addicts.

If the Council budgets are in such dire circumstances, why has mayor after mayor taken the easy option and pledged not to increase them as part of their manifesto? This would have generated millions over the last decade. The other services on the bill did not freeze increases. It feels we as a community have been let down by individuals playing party politics for cheap votes and are now paying the price.

Overtime for refuge