

# Budget Consultation report

Strategy, Insight & Engagement  
Essex County Council

# Budget consultation report

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## Introduction

Essex County Council spends over £2bn each year on essential services for the people of Essex.

This is a substantial amount of money, but it doesn't go as far as we would like. Just like households across Essex, Essex County Council (ECC) have to make difficult choices about where they spend, and where to make savings.

ECC face financial pressure because:

- the money ECC receive from national government has reduced – for every £1 we received five years ago, we receive only 37p today;
- more people need ECC services and support; and
- the costs of providing services has increased – partly due to inflation, but also as a result of changes in the law (e.g. the introduction of the national living wage).

To balance our budget, Essex county council have already had to make over £370m of savings over the past five years. ECC benchmark strongly and have been rated by [IMPOWER](#) in the Top 10 most productive councils in England.

Recent government announcements have suggested that more money could be available for councils next year. This funding may be short term and is unlikely to be sufficient to meet the rising costs of council services.

Essex County council's longer-term financial position remains unclear.

Therefore, Essex County Council have decided to consult to inform the setting of ECC's 2020-21 Budget, and for gathering insights that will inform resource and business planning in the longer-term

This report shows the findings from this consultation. Respondents were given a list of proposals and options for services across the county and the analysis has been reported as an overall county wide view and data captured can be split into the following districts:

- Basildon
- Braintree
- Brentwood
- Castle Point
- Chelmsford
- Colchester
- Epping Forest
- Harlow
- Maldon
- Rochford
- Tendring
- Uttlesford

## Interpreting the data within the consultation

This report contains several tables and charts that present the consultation findings. In some instances, responses may not add up to 100%. There are several reasons why this might happen:

- The question may have allowed each respondent to give more than one answer
- A response of between 0% and 0.5% will be shown as <1%.
- Percentages have been rounded up to 2 decimal places when applicable
- As the questionnaire was completed by respondents themselves (self-completion), not all respondents have answered all the questions. Therefore, the base size (the number of people answering a question) varies by question.
- To ensure inclusivity, the questionnaire was open for anyone to take part and was available online and in paper format.
- For the analysis of free text comments, all have been read through and a coding frame was developed on a theme by theme basis and quantified thereafter.

## **Key conclusions**

- **There was a number of respondents who commented that some budget issues are out of Essex County Council's control**
- **When analysing the consultation there was no overwhelming agreements or disagreements with the consultation questions asked.**
- **A small number of respondents stated that they felt they wanted to have more information about specific things related to budget setting.**
- **There was a small number of respondents who commented about services delivered by District/City/Borough council and other organisations**
- **There was a general understanding that Essex County Council (ECC) provide valuable services to the people of Essex.**
- **There was a number of respondents who would like to be involved in future engagement relating to budget setting in the future.**

## Executive summary

- Just over 58% of respondents felt that they were well informed about local council business (Very well informed 6.9%, Fairly Well informed 51.4%)
- Nearly 52% of respondents felt that there had been a Negative impact from changes to Essex County Council services had on their household or business over the last 4 years with only 9% of respondents believing this to have a positive impact. 28% felt that this had no impact on their lives and 10% did not know.
- Just under 54% of respondents felt that *The Council has financial challenges ahead which will likely involve some spending reductions* and 31% felt that *The Council has serious financial challenges ahead which will likely involve large spending reductions*.
- When looking at what ECC could do in relation to budget priorities, The following priorities had a high percentage of respondents agreeing –
  - Streamline services so that we can deliver the same outcomes (65.55% = Agree strongly or Agree slightly)
  - Introduce charges for some services which are currently free/subsidised (48.62% = Agree strongly or Agree slightly)
  - Encourage local people and communities to deliver certain services (49.16% = Agree strongly or Agree slightly)
  - Help people to help themselves more so they have less reliance on publicly funded services (70% = Agree strongly or Agree slightly)
  - Prioritise spending to protect services for the most vulnerable and those without choice (77.22% = Agree strongly or Agree slightly)
  - Use / partner with other organisational bodies to provide services (62.23% = Agree strongly or Agree slightly)
- When respondents were asked *If a service in your local area was at risk from financial pressures, would you do any of the following?* The following responses were the most common in each of the following service breakdown
  - Local Service = I would pay a new or higher charge when I used the service (37.12%)
  - Local School = I would volunteer some of my time/(my employees time) (14.96%)
  - Local Organisation or Community Group = I would volunteer some of my time/(my employees time) (27.42%)
  - Local Charity = I would make a one-off donation (26.87%)
- The top five services that respondents felt should be protected were Care and support for vulnerable older people (86.98%), Maintenance of roads, footways and bridges (82.27%), Care and support for people with mental health needs (79.5%), Waste Management & Recycling (78.39%) and Child Protection services (78.39%)
- The top five services that respondents felt should be prioritised for an increase in spending were Care and support for vulnerable older people (59.28%),

**Maintenance of roads, footways and bridges (52.91%), Children's mental health services (44.04%), Care and support for people with mental health needs (41%) and Child protection services (39.34%)**

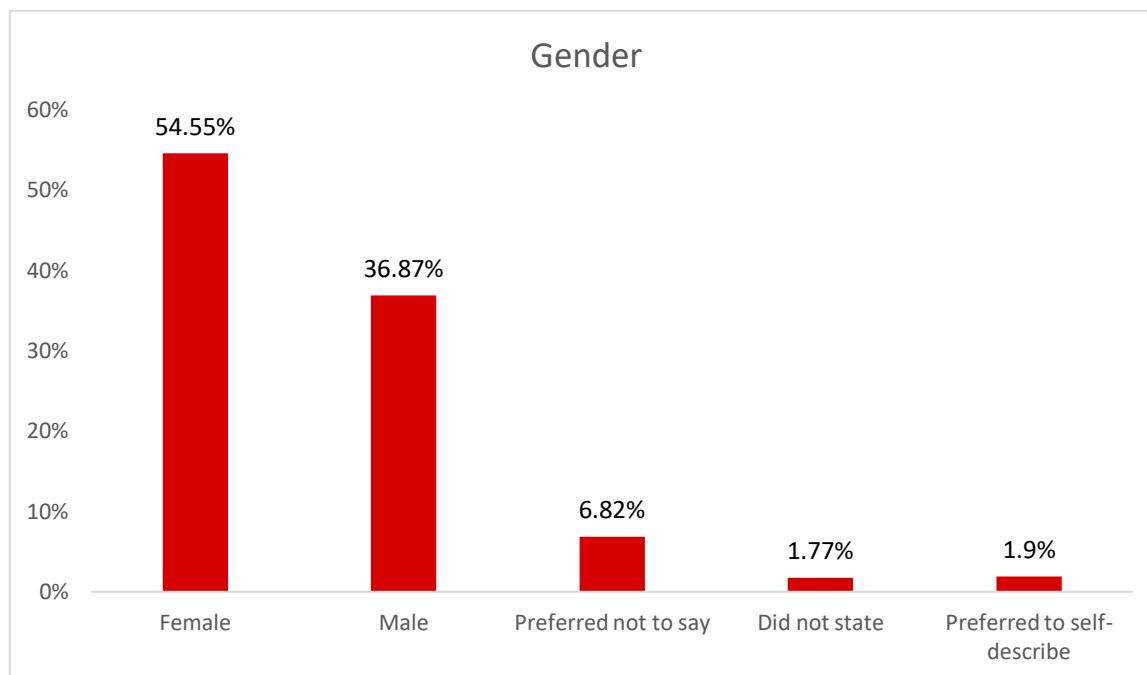
- **The top five services that respondents felt should be considered for funding reductions in order to allow investment and protection in other areas were Smoking cessation (43.77%), Obesity programmes (40.17%), Adult Education (31.30%), Home to School Transport (29.09%) and Tourism (28.25%) However a high number of respondents stated that there should be no funding reductions to any services.**
- **A few respondents gave comments on services that are provided by district/borough council and other public services not responsible of the county council.**
- **There was a high number of free-text comments which made comments about other budget issues which were not related to the actual proposals which are subject to the consultation (General Comments in Detailed Findings).**

**More detailed analysis can be found in the detailed section below.**

## Who gave their views?

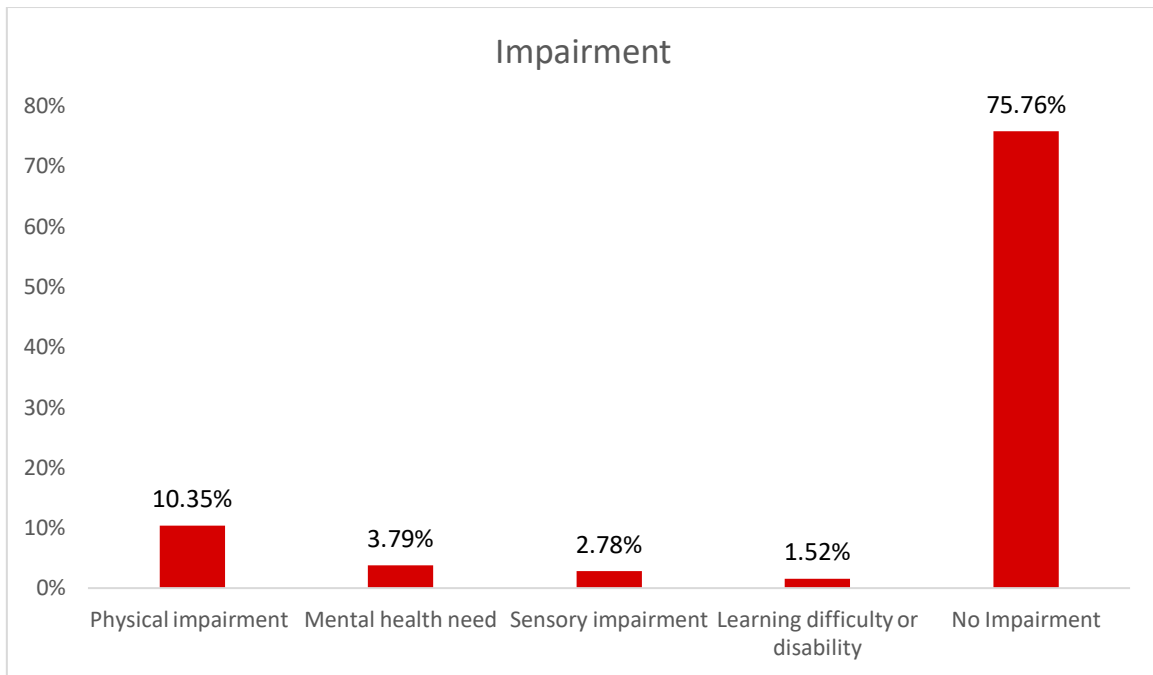
**396** responses to the online consultation. **362** responded as a Resident of Essex (91.41%), **14** responded as a councillor for parish council, district council or county council (3.54%), **11** as Someone who works in Essex but doesn't live here (2.78%), **5** as Businesses (1.26%) and **1** response from a representative of a community group (<1%). There were **3** respondents who did not answer the question (<1%) and **7** (1.77%) respondents stated their own term.

**54.55%** of respondents were **Female**, **36.87%** were **Male**, **6.82%** preferred not to say and **1.77%** did not state their gender. **1.9%** Preferred to self-describe

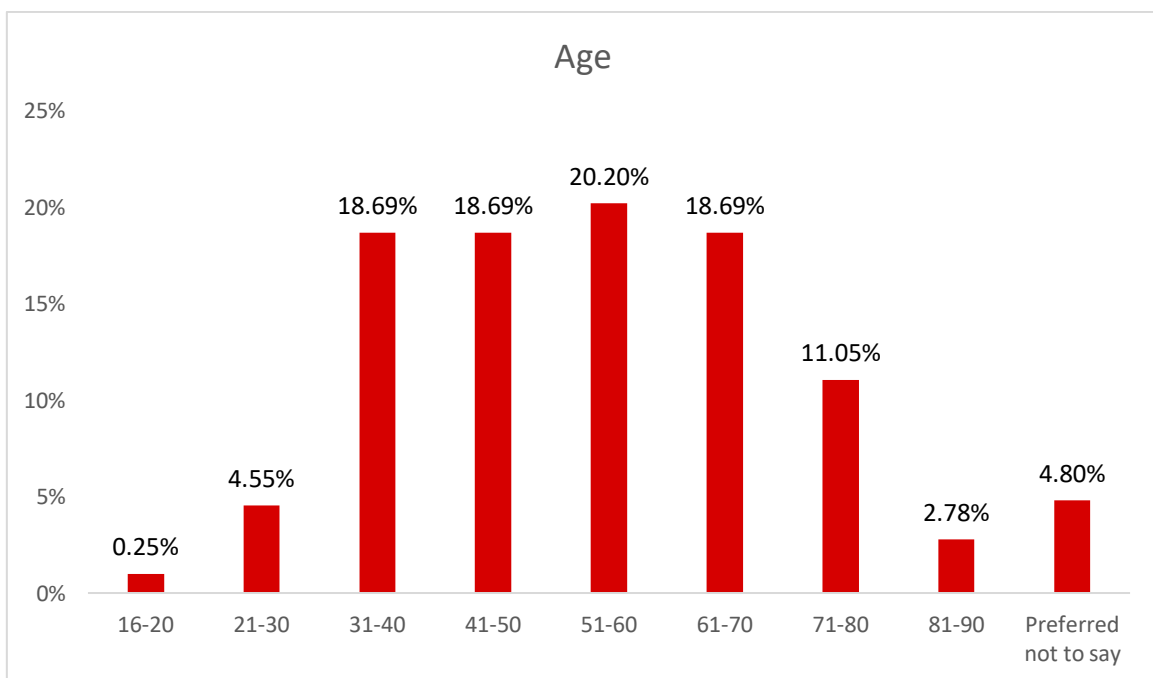


**10.35%** of respondents said that they have a **physical impairment**, **3.79%** have a **mental health need**, **2.78%** have a **Sensory impairment**, and **1.52%** have a **Learning Difficulty or Disability**. **75.76%** stated they had **no impairment** and **3.03%** **stated their own term** relating to impairment. The rest of the respondents did not answer this question

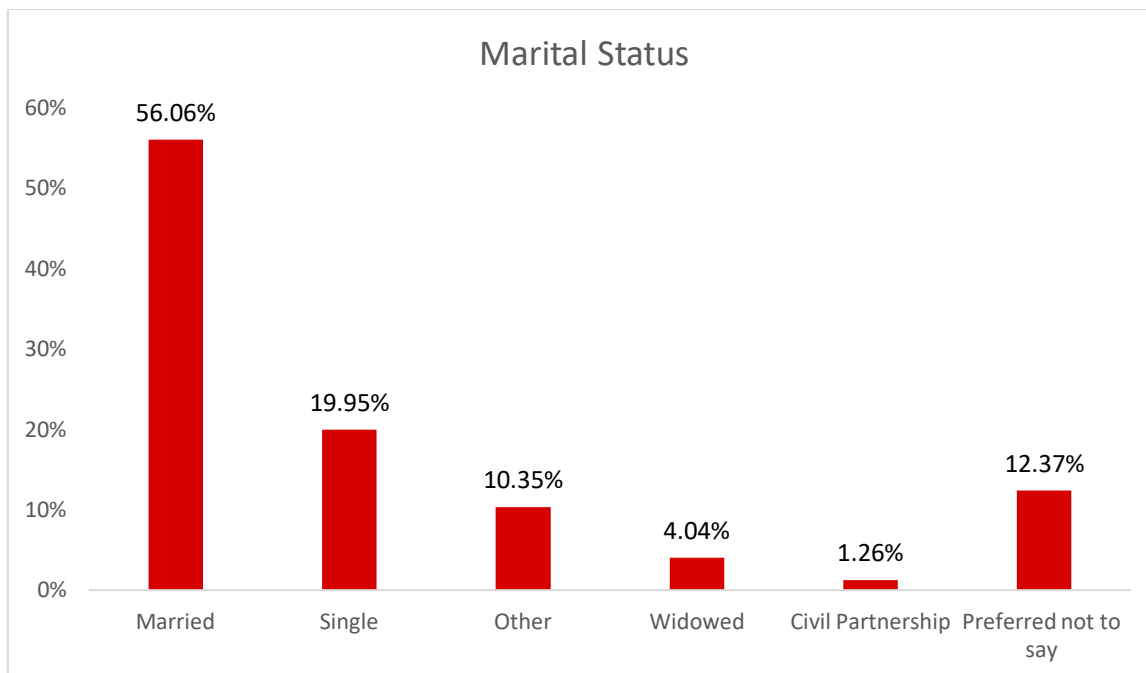




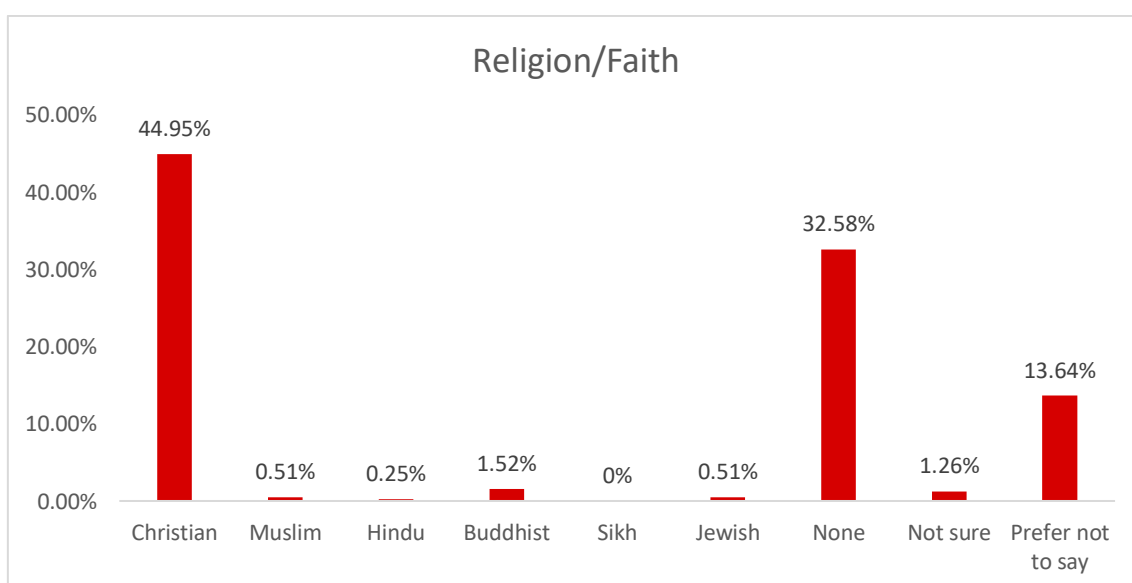
**20.20%** were aged between **51 – 60**, **18.69%** of respondents were aged **61 - 70**, **18.69%** were aged between **41 – 50**, **18.69%** were aged **31 - 40**, **11.05%** were aged **71 - 80** years old, **4.55%** were **21 – 30**, **2.78%** were **81 – 90**, (**<1%**) were aged **16 - 20** and **4.80%** of respondents **preferred not to say**



**56.06%** of respondents were aged **Married**, **19.95%** were **Single**, **10.35%** of respondents stated **Other**, **4.04%** were **widowed**, **1.26%** were **in a civil partnership** and **12.37%** of respondents **preferred not to say**



**44.95%** of respondents stated they were **Christian**, **32.58%** respondents said they had **No religion**, **1.52%** of respondents stated **Buddhist**, **3.54%** stated **Other** and **13.64%** of respondents **preferred not to say**. All other stated religions were below 0.5% responses. **4.79%** of respondents did not answer this question



**81.57%** of respondents stated they were **White British**, **3.54%** respondents said they were **White other**, **3.53%** stated **White Other**, **1.01%** were **White Irish** and **8.59%** of respondents **preferred not to say**. All other stated ethnicities were below 0.5% responses

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
White British	323	81.57%
White Irish	4	1.01%
White Other	14	3.54%

Gypsy / Roma	1	0.25%
Traveller of Irish Heritage	0	0%
Black or Black British African	2	0.51%
Black or Black British Caribbean	0	0%
Mixed White/Black African	2	0.51%
Mixed White/Black Caribbean	1	0.25%
Black Other	0	0%
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	0	0%
Asian or Asian British Indian	1	0.25%
Asian or Asian British Other	1	0.25%
Mixed White/Asian	0	0%
Asian Other	0	0%
Chinese	0	0%
Mixed Other	0	0%
Not Known	0	0%
Prefer not to say	34	8.59%
Not Answered	13	3.28%

The district breakdown number of respondents completing is shown in the table below:

District questionnaires	Number completed	Percentage
Basildon	26	6.56%
Braintree	49	12.37%
Brentwood	22	5.56%
Castle Point	12	3.03%
Chelmsford	100	25.25%
Colchester	53	13.38%
Epping Forest	11	2.78%
Harlow	18	4.54%
Maldon	24	6.06%
Rochford	16	4.04%
Tendring	25	6.31%
Uttlesford	20	5.05%
Other*	15	3.84%
Total	389	100%

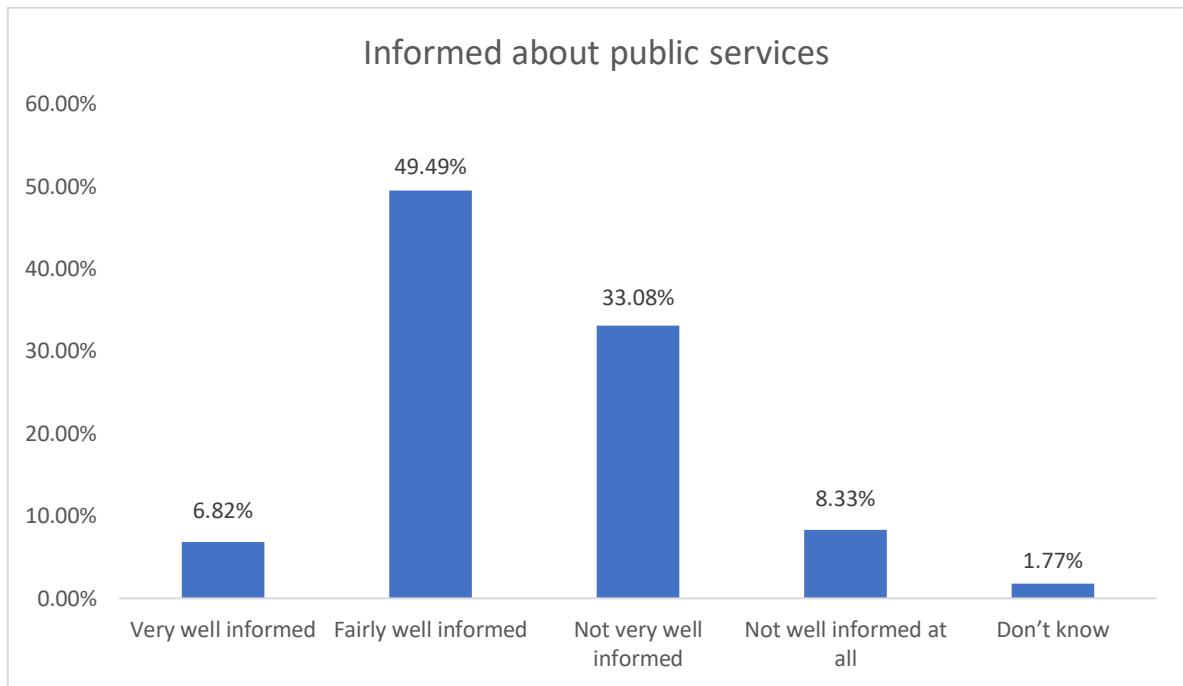
\*Please note, respondents who had stated other are classified because they gave answers covering multiple districts or self-described. The remaining respondents did not complete the answer

## Detailed findings

### Views on how informed respondents are about public services.

The consultation asked respondents to provide their views on how well informed do they feel about local public services.

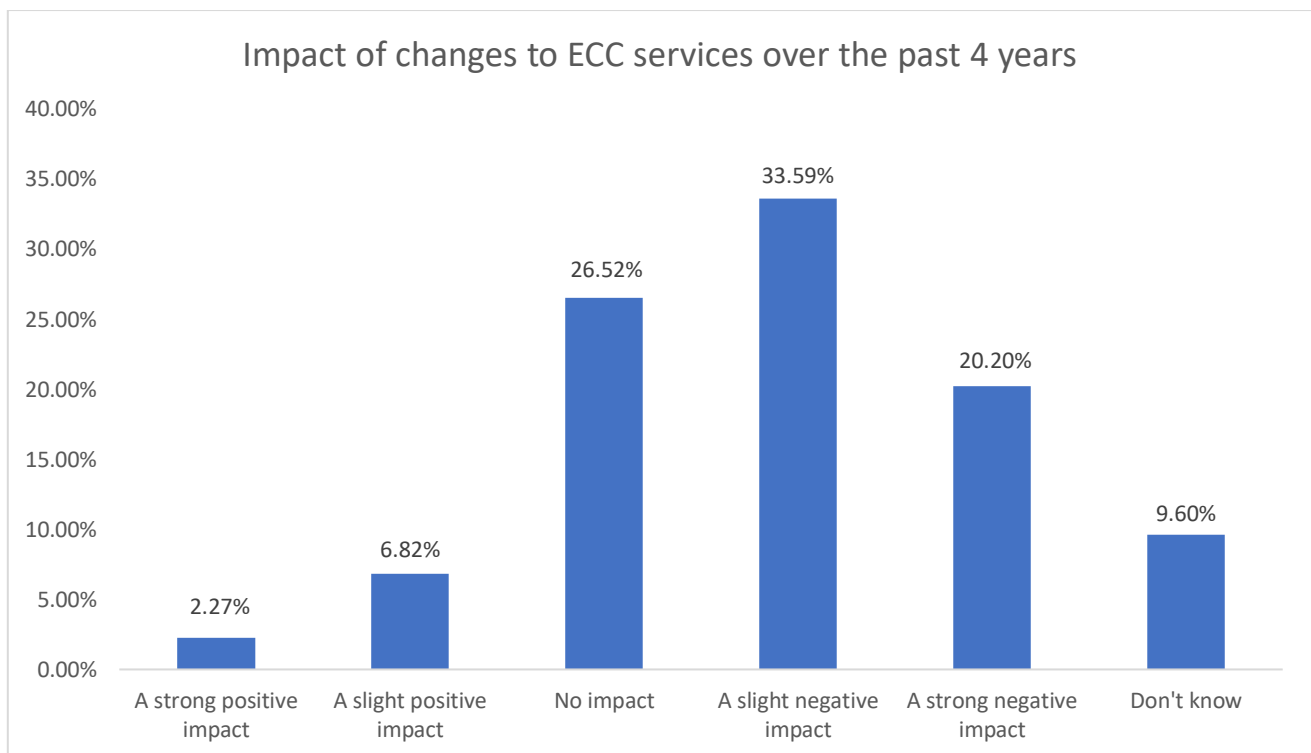
Out of the 396 respondents to this question **6.86% (n=27)** felt **very well informed**, **49.49% (n=196)** felt **fairly well informed**, **33.08% (n=131)** **not very well informed**, **8.33% (n=33)** **not well informed at all** and **1.77% did not know (n=7)** and **<1% did not answer the question (n=2)**.



## Views on impact of changes to ECC services to respondents over the past 4 years.

The consultation asked respondents to provide their views on the impact of changes to ECC services on respondent's household or business over the last 4 years.

Out of the 396 respondents to this question 2.27% (n=9) felt a strong positive impact from the changes, 6.81% (n=27) felt a slight positive impact, 26.52% (n=105) felt No impact, 33.59% (n=133) felt a slight negative impact, 20.20% felt a strong negative impact (n=80), 9.60% Did not know the impact of changes (n=38) and 1.01% did not answer the question (n=4)



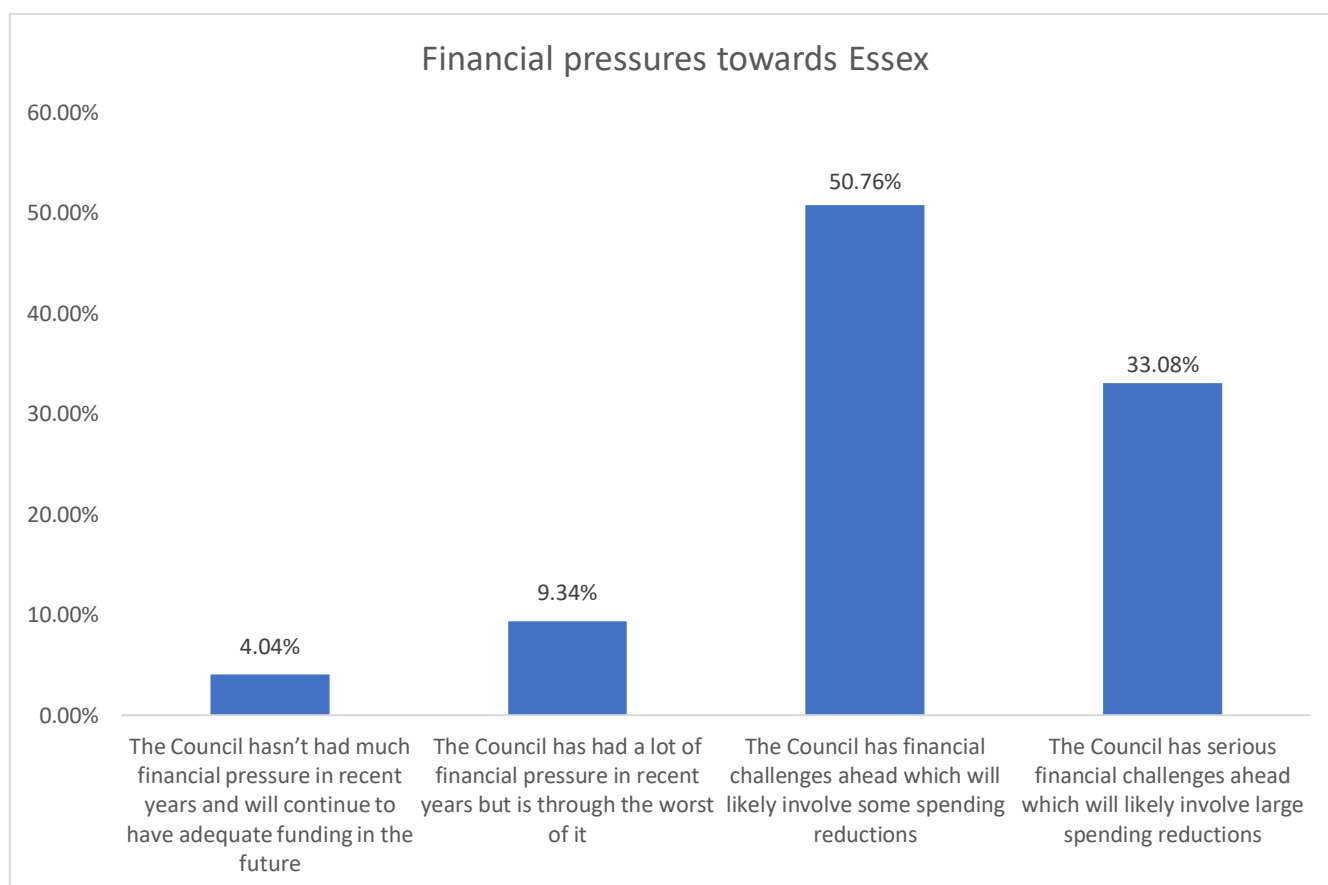
***In regard to the free text comments box relating to responses from respondents describing the impact of these changes have been themed, coded and quantified below***

Theme	Count	Percentage
Services provided have got worse during the time period	184	63.89%
Local community affected in a negative way	53	18.40%
Services have improved during the time period	19	6.60%
Increase of Council tax is too expensive	13	4.51%
No impact or change felt	8	2.78%
Comment not related to consultation	7	2.43%
Negative change to workers within the council	3	1.04%
Inadequate changes for the council tax paid	1	<1%

## Views around financial pressures towards Essex

The consultation asked respondents to provide what statement is closest to your view around financial pressure.

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, 4.04% (n=16) felt *The Council hasn't had much financial pressure in recent years and will continue to have adequate funding in the future*, 9.34% (n=37) felt *The Council has had a lot of financial pressure in recent years but is through the worst of it*, 50.76% (n=201) felt *The Council has financial challenges ahead which will likely involve some spending reductions* and 33.08% (n=131) felt *The Council has serious financial challenges ahead which will likely involve large spending reductions*. 2.78% of respondents *did not answer the question* (n=11)

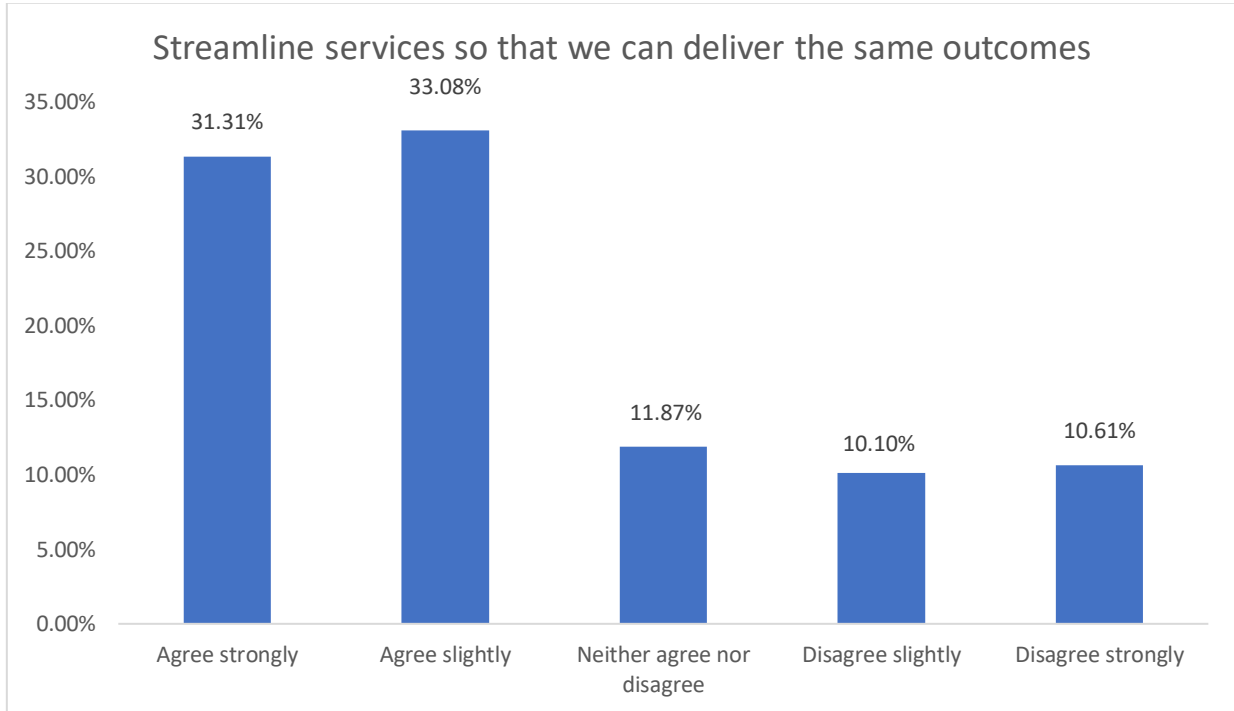


**The consultation asked what Essex County Council should do with each of the following when faced with financial pressures and outlined 7 priorities of which respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the statement related to this**

**Prioritise - Streamline services so that we can deliver the same outcomes**

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **31.34% (n=124) Agreed Strongly, 33.31% (n=131) Agreed Slightly, 11.87% (n=47) Neither Agreed nor Disagreed, 10.10% (n=40) Disagreed slightly and 10.61% Disagreed strongly (n=42).**

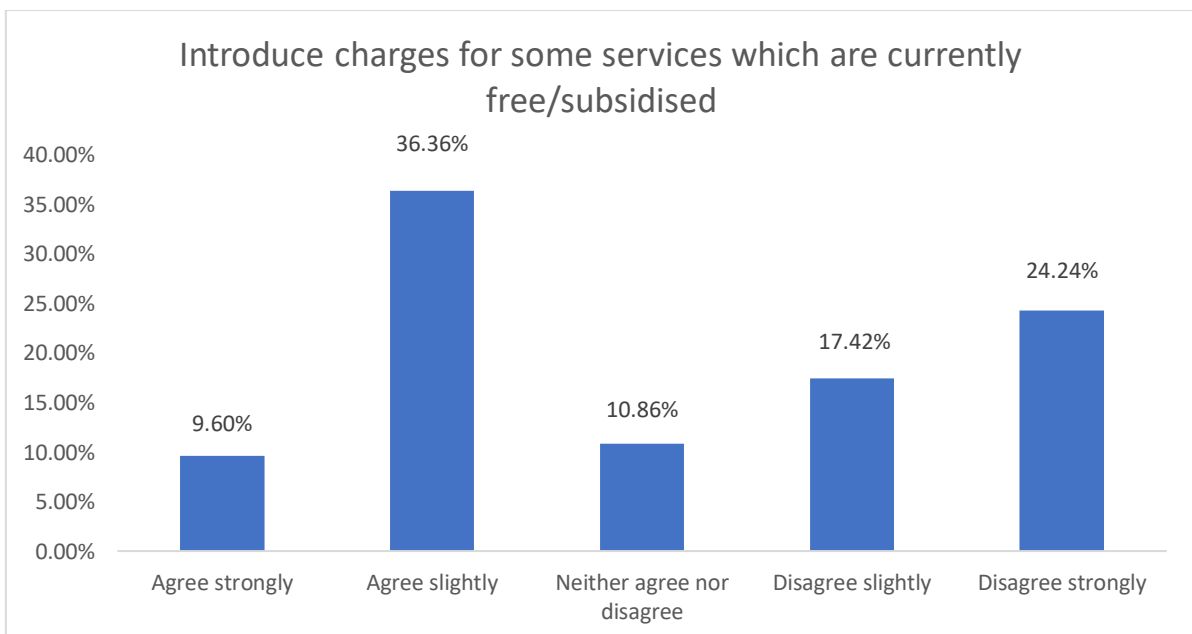
**3.03% of respondents did not answer the question (n=12)**



**Prioritise - Introduce charges for some services which are currently free/subsidised**

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **9.60% (n=38) Agreed Strongly, 36.36% (n=144) Agreed Slightly, 10.86% (n=43) Neither Agreed nor Disagreed, 17.42% (n=69) Disagreed slightly and 24.42% Disagreed strongly (n=96).**

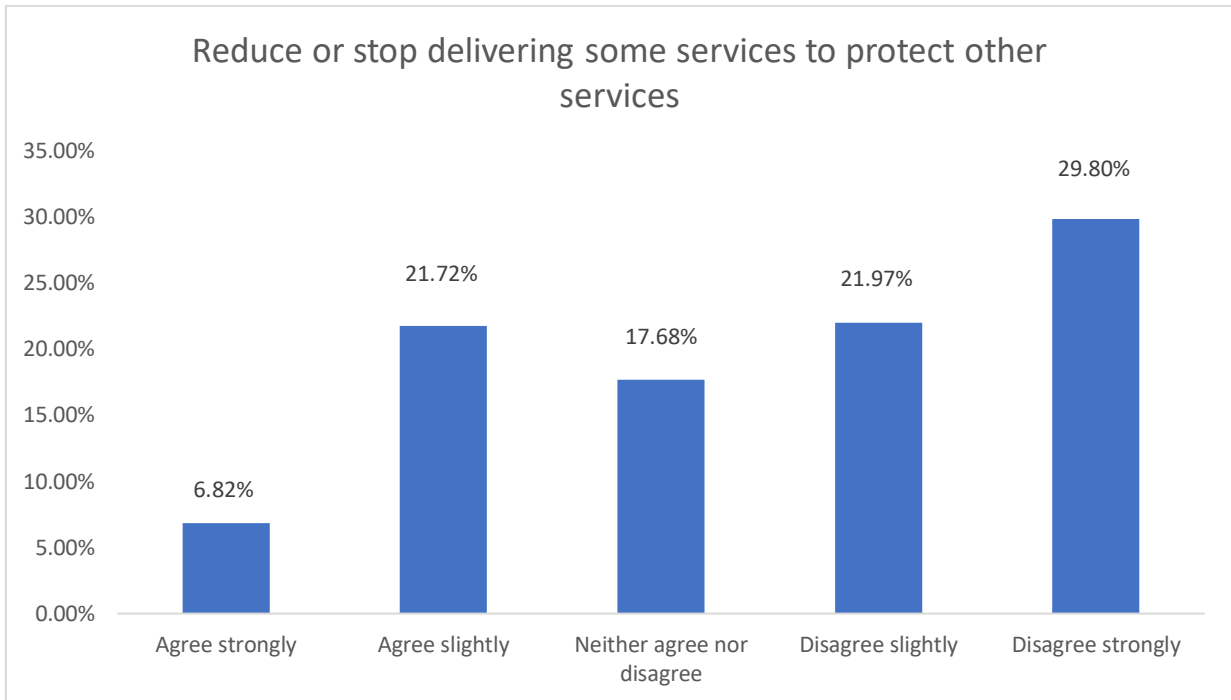
**1.51% of respondents did not answer the question (n=6)**



**Prioritise - Reduce or stop delivering some services to protect other services**

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **6.82% (n=27) Agreed Strongly, 21.72% (n=86) Agreed Slightly, 17.68% (n=70) Neither Agreed nor Disagreed, 21.97% (n=87) Disagreed slightly and 29.80% Disagreed strongly (n=118).**

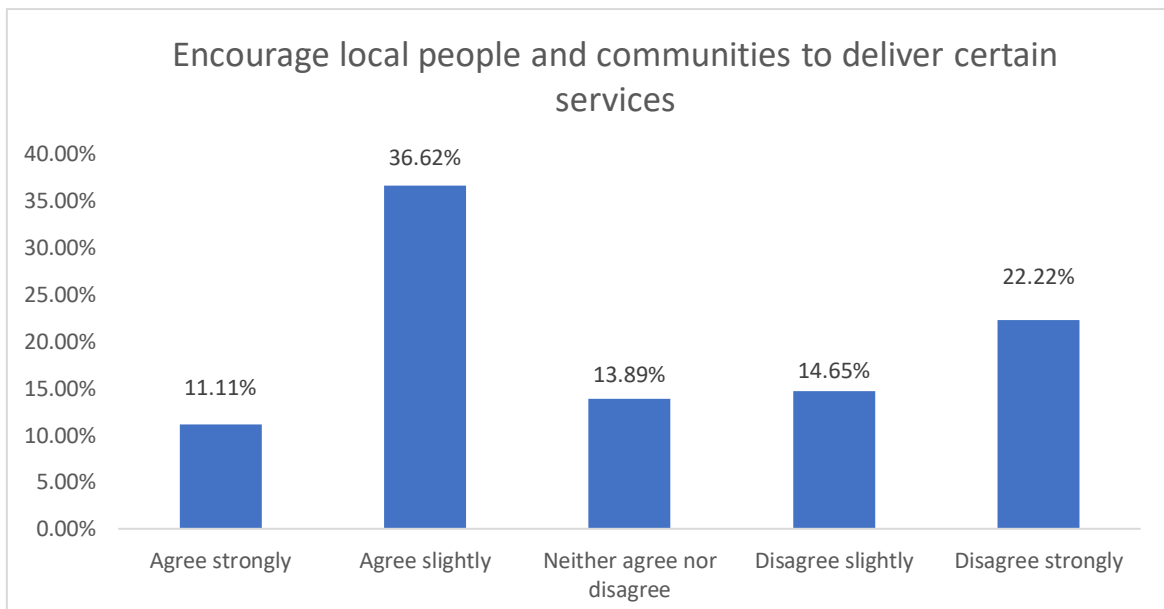
**2.02% of respondents did not answer the question (n=8)**



**Prioritise - Encourage local people and communities to deliver certain services**

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **11.11% (n=44) Agreed Strongly, 36.62% (n=145) Agreed Slightly, 13.89% (n=55) Neither Agreed nor Disagreed, 14.65% (n=58) Disagreed slightly and 22.22% Disagreed strongly (n=88).**

**1.51% of respondents did not answer the question (n=6)**

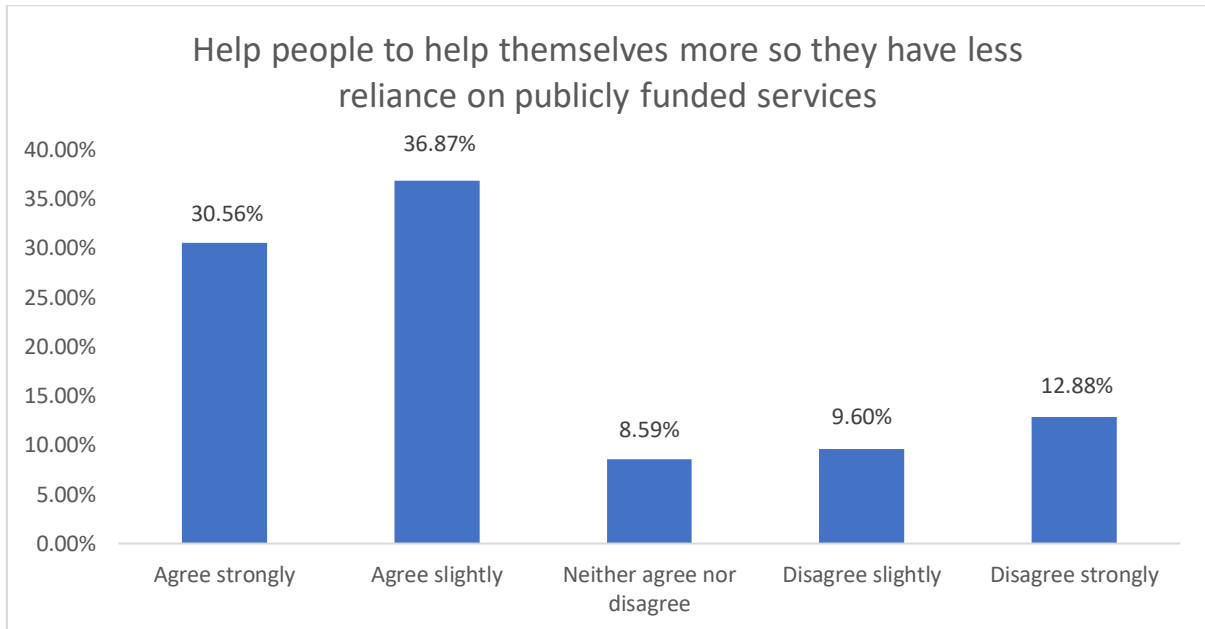




**Prioritise - Help people to help themselves more so they have less reliance on publicly funded services**

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **30.56% (n=121) Agreed Strongly, 36.87% (n=146) Agreed Slightly, 8.59% (n=34) Neither Agreed nor Disagreed, 9.60% (n=38) Disagreed slightly and 12.88% Disagreed strongly (n=51).**

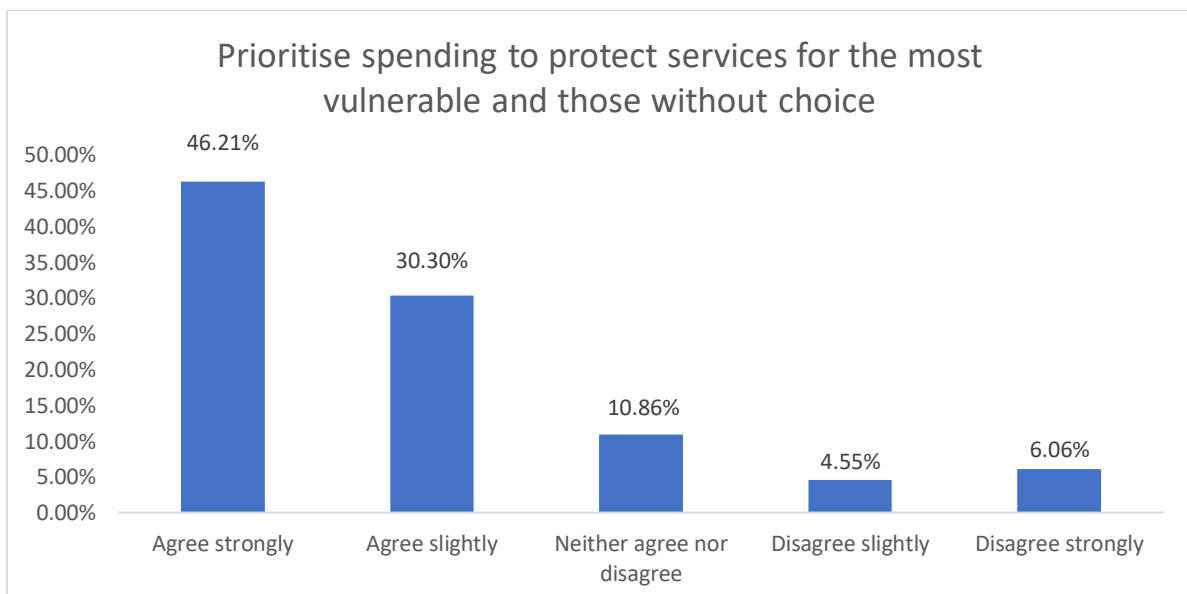
**1.51% of respondents did not answer the question (n=6)**



**Prioritise - Prioritise spending to protect services for the most vulnerable and those without choice**

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **46.21% (n=183) Agreed Strongly, 30.30% (n=120) Agreed Slightly, 10.86% (n=43) Neither Agreed nor Disagreed, 4.55% (n=18) Disagreed slightly and 6.06% Disagreed strongly (n=24).**

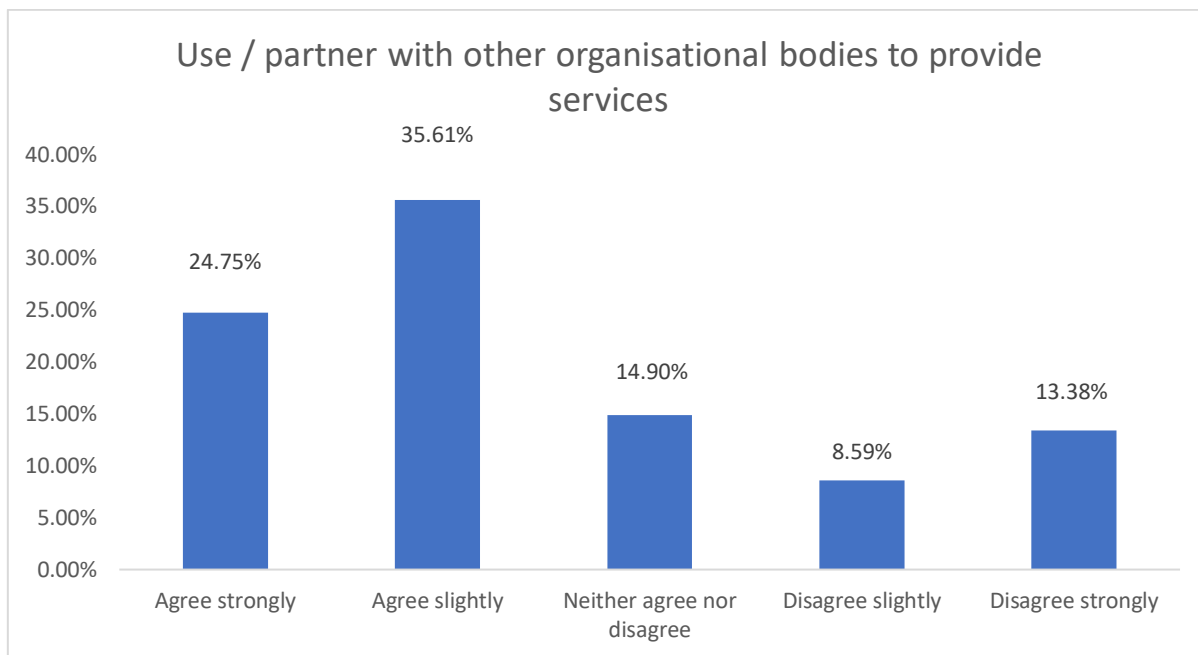
**2.02% of respondents did not answer the question (n=8)**



**Prioritise - Use / partner with other organisational bodies to provide services**

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **24.75% (n=98) Agreed Strongly, 35.61% (n=141) Agreed Slightly, 14.90% (n=59) Neither Agreed nor Disagreed, 8.59% (n=34) Disagreed slightly and 13.38% Disagreed strongly (n=53).**

**2.78% of respondents did not answer the question (n=11)**



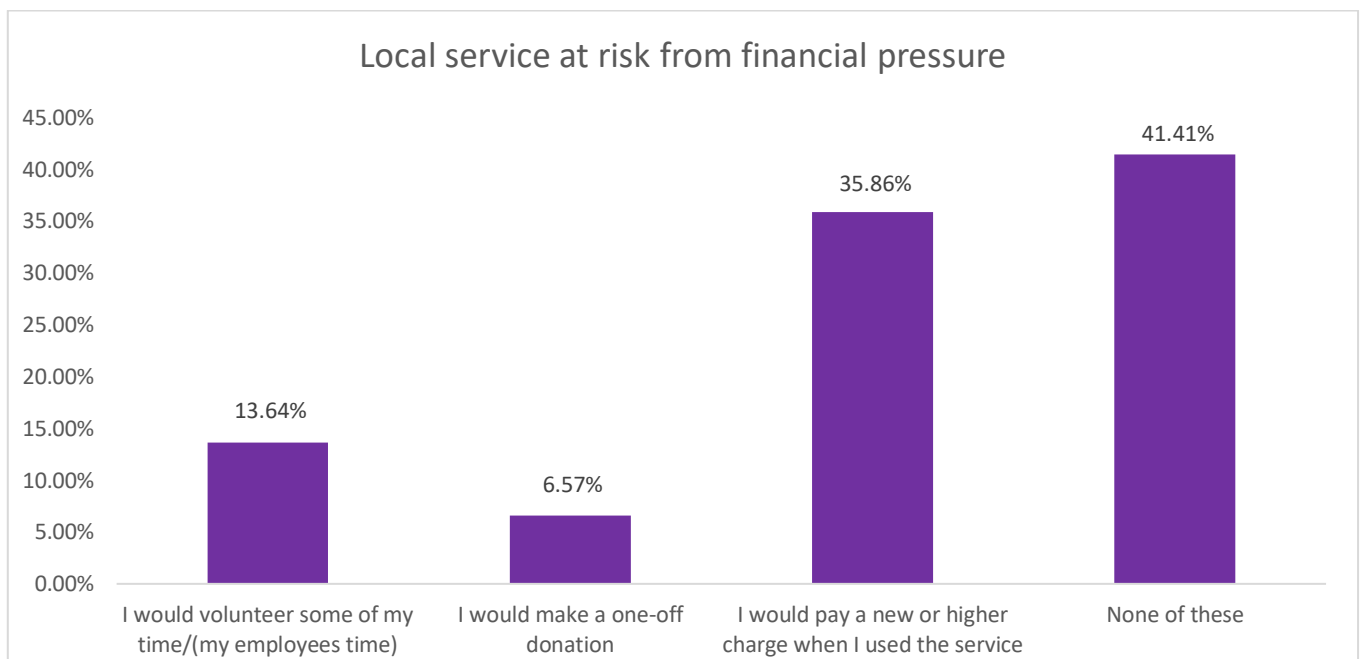
## Views around involvement with services in your local area if at risk from financial pressure

The consultation asked respondents to provide answers to understand involvement within local community if financial constraints were placed on them.

### Local Service

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **13.64% (n=54)** felt they would **volunteer some of my time/(my employees time)** to help with a local service under financial restraint, **6.57% (n=37)** felt **Would make a one off donation**, **35.86% (n=142)** stated they **would pay a new or higher charge when I used the service** and **41.41% (n=164)** said They would do **none of these**.

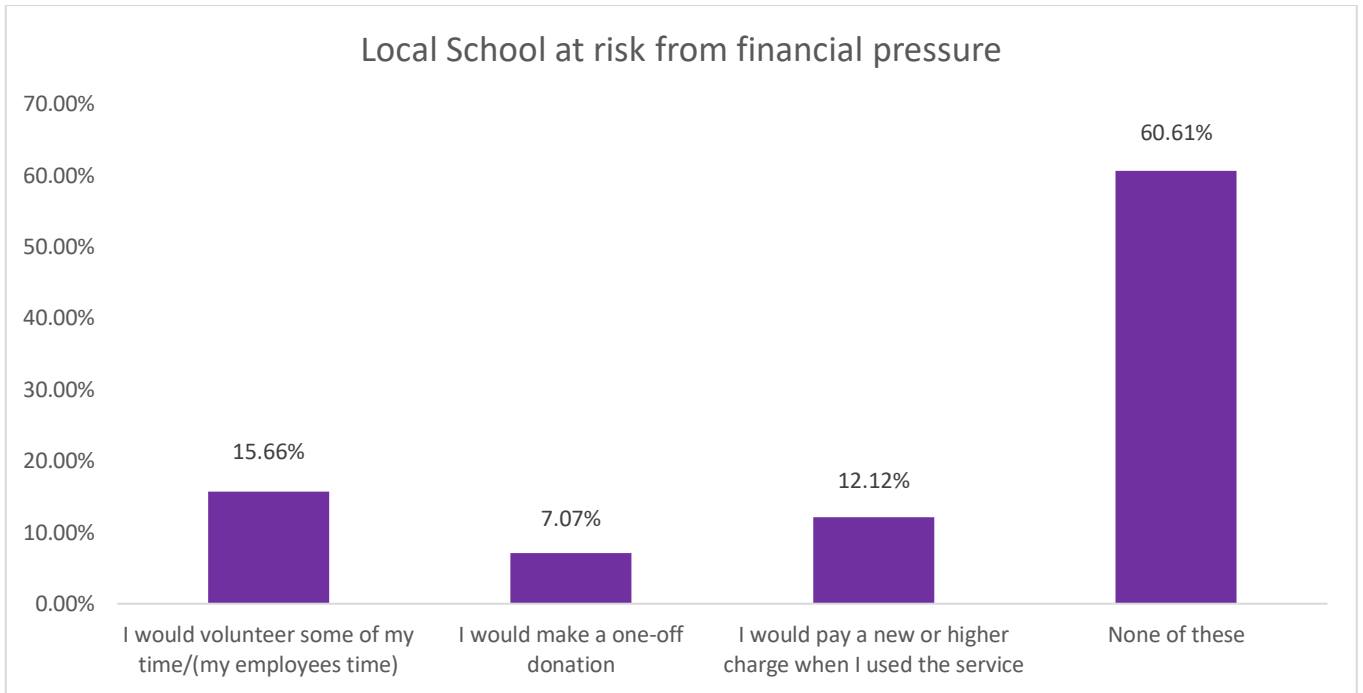
**2.52%** of respondents **did not answer the question (n=10)**



### Local School

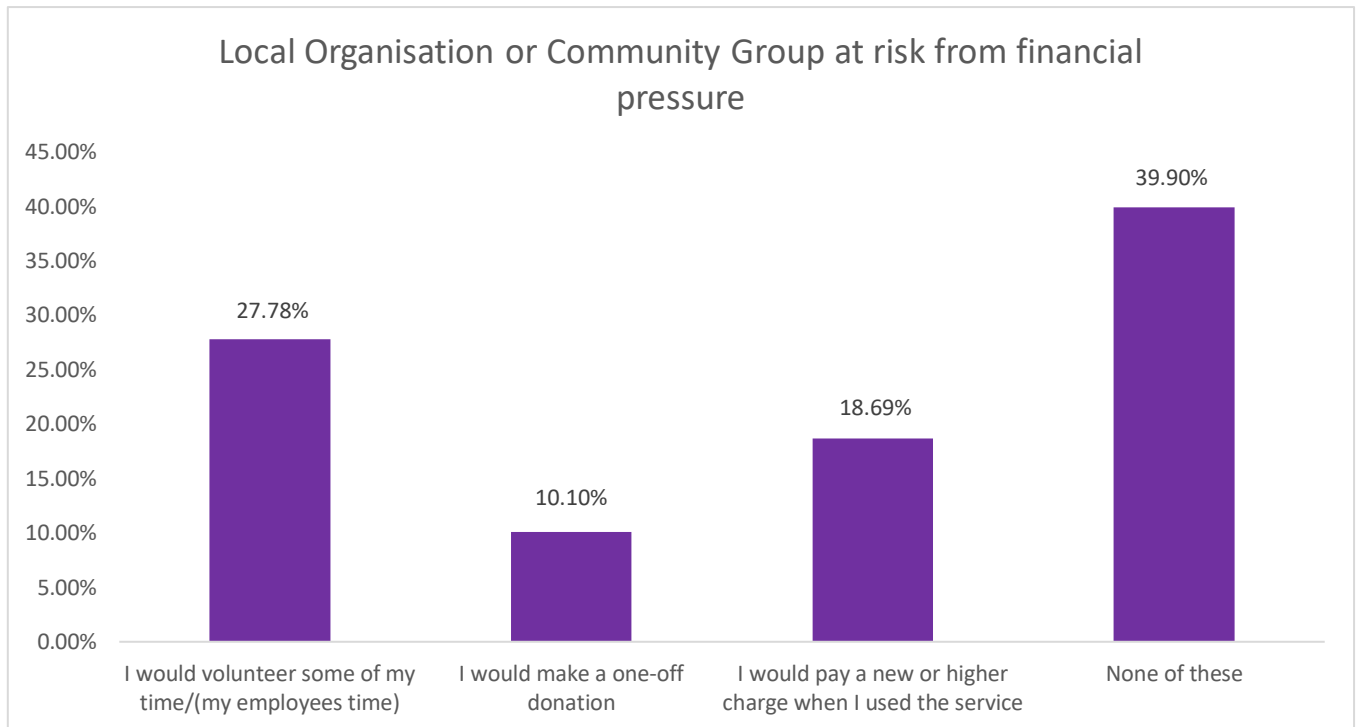
Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **15.66% (n=62)** felt they would **volunteer some of my time/(my employees time)** to help with a local service under financial restraint, **7.07% (n=28)** felt **Would make a one off donation**, **12.12% (n=48)** stated they **would pay a new or higher charge when I used the service** and **60.61% (n=240)** said They would do **none of these**.

**4.55%** of respondents **did not answer the question (n=18)**



### Local Organisation or Community Group

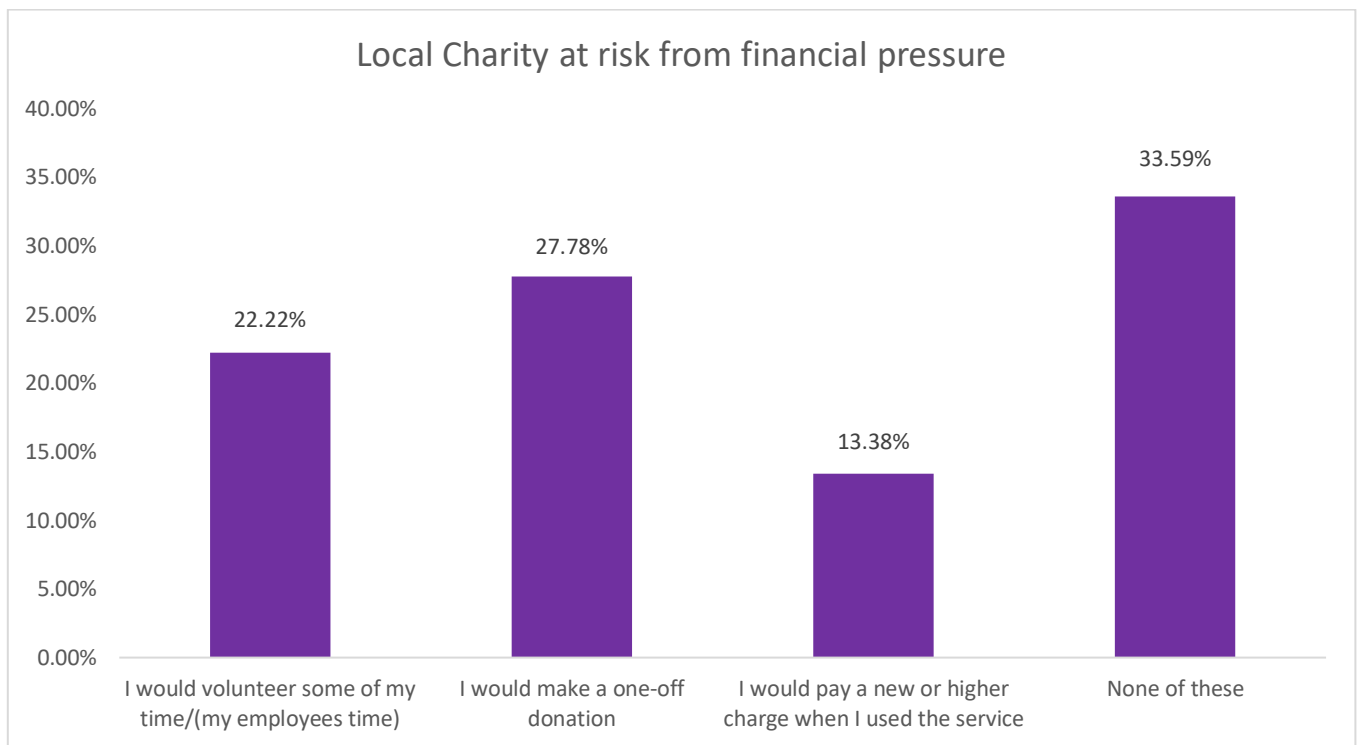
*Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **27.78%** (n=110) felt they would **volunteer some of my time/(my employees time)** to help with a local service under financial restraint, **10.10%** (n=40) felt **Would make a one off donation**, **18.69%** (n=74) stated they **would pay a new or higher charge when I used the service** and **39.90%** (n=158) said They would do **none of these**. **3.54%** of respondents **did not answer the question** (n=14)*



## Local Charity

Out of the 396 respondents to this question, **22.22% (n=88)** felt they would **volunteer some of my time/(my employees time)** to help with a local service under financial restraint, **27.78% (n=110)** felt **Would make a one off donation**, **13.38% (n=53)** stated they **would pay a new or higher charge when I used the service** and **33.60% (n=133)** said They would do **none of these**.

**3.03%** of respondents **did not answer the question (n=12)**



## Views around services protected from funding reductions.

The consultation asked respondents to choose as many services as possible that they felt should be protected from any funding reductions.

The services were listed under there functions

- Education
- C&FS
- Adult services
- Highways
- Environmental services
- Economic growth
- Public health
- Cultural services

The statistical breakdown of the responses have been combined together to show the most common responses on a service by service basis.

Service	Count	Percentage
Care and support for vulnerable older people	345	87.12%
Maintenance of roads, footways and bridges	325	82.07%
Care and support for people with mental health needs	318	80.30%
Child Protection	314	79.29%
Waste Management & Recycling	314	79.29%
Children's mental health services	306	77.27%
Secondary Schools*	300	75.76%
Primary Schools*	295	74.49%
Care and support for people with learning disabilities	287	72.47%
Care and support for people with physical and sensory disabilities	287	72.47%
Libraries	274	69.19%
Support for learners with special educational needs	273	68.94%
County Parks	249	62.88%
Flood protection	248	62.63%
Investing in Essex's Transport Infrastructure	234	59.09%
Fostering & adoption Services	222	56.06%
Youth Offending Support	219	55.30%
Funding for early years and childcare	206	52.02%
Subsidised transport (e.g. rural busses and concessionary fares)	205	51.77%
Health Checks	195	49.24%
Drug and Alcohol Treatment	187	47.22%
Trading Standards	184	46.46%
Street Lighting	183	46.21%
Sports and leisure provision	172	43.43%
Attracting inward investment	163	41.16%
Economic Regeneration	163	41.16%
Home to school transport	154	38.89%
Adult Education	141	35.61%
Investing in Essex's Digital Infrastructure	125	31.57%
Obesity programmes	103	26.01%
Tourism	103	26.01%

Smoking cessation	83	20.96%
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***In regard to the free text comments box relating to responses from respondents describing why they felt that these services should be protected from funding restrictions have been themed, coded and quantified below.***

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Essential services to the most vulnerable people in Essex	98	19.56%
All essential services that should be protected	76	15.17%
Health services are essential to people of Essex	48	9.58%
Roads and travel infrastructure essential for people of Essex	44	8.78%
All services are beneficial to all people of Essex	37	7.39%
Financial Prioritisation needed within ECC	35	6.99%
Schools/Education services essential for people of Essex	35	6.99%
Protected investment needed for services	22	4.39%
Environmental services are essential	17	3.39%
Library services essential for people of Essex	16	3.19%
Future budgets are set by central government and are out of ECC control	14	2.79%
Insufficient investment currently to continue to deliver the services	11	2.20%
Adult and children services essential	10	2.00%
Waste and Recycling services essential to people of Essex	10	2.00%
Green spaces are essential for people in Essex	7	1.40%
Other comments non-related to the consultation	6	1.20%
Trading standards services essential to people on Essex	3	<1%
Businesses need to help ECC with financial pressures	2	<1%
Public health should be the responsibility of the NHS	2	<1%
Over reliance on services delivered by ECC	2	<1%
Residents pay too much tax already	2	<1%
Small funding cuts to all so all services remain	2	<1%
Climate control funding needed	1	<1%
Residents should pay more tax	1	<1%

## Views around services prioritised for any increase in spending.

The consultation asked respondents to choose up to 3 services that should be prioritised for any increase in spending.

The services were listed under there functions

- Education
- C&FS
- Adult services
- Highways
- Environmental services
- Economic growth
- Public health
- Cultural services

The statistical breakdown of the responses have been combined together to show the most common responses on a service by service basis.

Service	Count	Percentage
Care and support for vulnerable older people	234	59.09%
Maintenance of roads, footways and bridges	204	51.52%
Children's mental health services	174	43.94%
Care and support for people with mental health needs	169	42.68%
Child Protection	163	41.16%
Primary Schools	154	38.89%
Secondary Schools	153	38.64%
Libraries	149	37.63%
Waste Management & Recycling	140	35.35%
Support for learners with special educational needs	134	33.84%
Investing in Essex's Transport Infrastructure	127	32.07%
Care and support for people with learning disabilities	121	30.56%
Care and support for people with physical and sensory disabilities	121	30.56%
County Parks	112	28.28%
Health Checks	106	26.77%
Flood protection	104	26.26%
Funding for early years and childcare	98	24.75%
Subsidised transport (e.g. rural busses and concessionary fares)	92	23.23%
Drug and Alcohol Treatment	90	22.73%
Street Lighting	80	20.20%
Economic Regeneration	76	19.19%
Sports and leisure provision	75	18.94%
Youth Offending Support	73	18.43%
Attracting inward investment	70	17.68%
Trading Standards	69	17.42%
Fostering & adoption Services	67	16.92%
Investing in Essex's Digital Infrastructure	60	15.15%
Obesity programmes	55	13.89%
Home to school transport	54	13.64%
Adult Education	45	11.36%
Tourism	35	8.84%



Smoking cessation	34	8.59%
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***In regard to the free text comments box relating to responses from respondents describing why they felt that these services should be prioritised for increase in spending have been themed, coded and quantified below.***

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Funding for education/schools needed	48	11.91%
Service(s) Improve life experience for residents of Essex	45	11.17%
Improved funding needed for Mental Health services	42	10.42%
Funding needed for vulnerable adults	37	9.18%
Funding needed to sustain travel infrastructure	35	8.68%
Funding is needed for all ECC services	33	8.19%
Funding needed prevent going into future usage of services	28	6.95%
Lack of funding for these services currently	19	4.71%
Library services are essential to the people of Essex	16	3.97%
Funding is needed to promote sustainable travel	10	2.48%
Environmental services key to people of Essex	9	2.23%
Economic growth key to sustaining services	8	1.99%
Funding is needed for the selected services of the respondent(s)	8	1.99%
Funding needed for health services	8	1.99%
Funding needed for social care services	8	1.99%
Funding needed to deal with increased population of Essex	8	1.99%
Funding for Climate Change	7	1.74%
Service(s) selected provides most value for money	7	1.74%
Funding needed towards additional needs	4	<1%
Comments not related to the consultation	4	<1%
Funding for employment opportunities throughout the county	3	<1%
Comment relating to Consultation layout	3	<1%
ECC need to build on current service offers	2	<1%
Funding needed to Improve digital infrastructure	2	<1%
Trading standards is an Essential service	2	<1%
ECC should streamline services and make staff savings	1	<1%

## Views around services that should be considered for funding reductions in order to allow investment and protection in other areas.

The consultation asked respondents to choose a maximum of 3 services that should be considered for funding reductions to allow investment and protection of other areas of spend.

The services were listed under there functions

- Education
- C&FS
- Adult services
- Highways
- Environmental services
- Economic growth
- Public health
- Cultural services

The statistical breakdown of the responses has been combined to show the most common responses on a service by service basis.

Service	Count	Percentage
Smoking cessation	168	42.42%
Obesity programmes	151	38.13%
Adult Education	118	29.80%
Tourism	111	28.03%
Home to school transport	110	27.78%
Subsidised transport (e.g. rural busses and concessionary fares)	94	23.74%
Investing in Essex's Digital Infrastructure	86	21.72%
Street Lighting	76	19.19%
Sports and leisure provision	74	18.69%
Drug and Alcohol Treatment	69	17.42%
Attracting inward investment	68	17.17%
Health Checks	67	16.92%
Trading Standards	58	14.65%
Funding for early years and childcare	57	14.39%
Economic Regeneration	55	13.89%
Libraries	50	12.63%
Youth Offending Support	39	9.85%
Fostering & adoption Services	36	9.09%
Flood protection	35	8.84%
Investing in Essex's Transport Infrastructure	30	7.58%
Support for learners with special educational needs	28	7.07%
County Parks	28	7.07%
Care and support for people with learning disabilities	23	5.81%
Maintenance of roads, footways and bridges	23	5.81%
Waste Management & Recycling	18	4.55%
Care and support for people with physical and sensory disabilities	17	4.29%
Care and support for people with mental health needs	17	4.29%

Secondary Schools	16	4.04%
Children's mental health services	14	3.54%
Primary Schools	12	3.03%
Care and support for vulnerable older people	12	3.03%
Child Protection	9	2.27%

***Please note that there were 77 respondents who did not answer any of the options within this question. (Sample = 319)***

***Regarding the free text comments box relating to responses from respondents describing why respondents felt that these services should be considered for funding restrictions have been themed, coded and quantified below.***

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Other services are more important than selected services	62	21.23%
Should be the responsibility of the people/organisations not ECC services	62	21.23%
Selected services are Non-essential	46	15.75%
All services ECC are responsible for are essential	43	14.73%
Services should be self-run/income generated	38	13.01%
Better value for money on other services than those selected	17	5.82%
National Government Issues	10	3.42%
More detailed proposals required to comment	5	1.71%
Comments not relating to the consultation	4	1.37%
Cannot comment as not aware of all services provided	3	1.03%
Improvement on current service delivery needed	2	<1%

## Views around anything else ECC should consider regarding the Budget Consultation.

The consultation asked respondents if there was anything else to consider regarding the consultation within a free-text box comments box.

*Regarding the free text comments box relating to responses from respondents describing anything else ECC should consider have been themed, coded and quantified below*

Theme	Count	Percentage
Clearer evidence that council is providing value for money	31	16.49%
Council to budget for emerging themes and impact to county	21	11.17%
Environment/climate change needs to be addressed	19	10.11%
Comments not related to the consultation	14	7.45%
Review of internally ECC salaries	11	5.85%
ECC should campaign to central government for more money	10	5.32%
Encourage more diverse ways of income generation	10	5.32%
Council should ensure safety of residents when considering spending cuts	9	4.79%
ECC should spend money on services that benefit everyone	9	4.79%
Stop closing services	9	4.79%
Residents to be more involved with council budget setting	8	4.26%
Council should increase council tax	7	3.72%
Encourage more communities to provide services themselves	7	3.72%
More communication with residents needed to understand financial position	6	3.19%
Invest in sustainable travel is needed	5	2.66%
Not enough money provided for communities	3	1.60%
Questioned impact of consultation	3	1.60%
Council should cut council tax	2	1.06%
Encourage intergenerational support	2	1.06%
Encourage volunteering opportunities to help deliver services	2	1.06%

## Appendix

### Appendix A – Consultation Questionnaire



Print Survey - Essex  
County Council - Citiz

### Appendix B – Essex County Council - Council Tax Information



2019-20\_Council\_Tax  
\_Leaflet\_3\_.pdf

Report authors: Sean Marks (Research), Research and Citizen Insight

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