

Budget Consultation 2019/20 – Summary Results

1. Introduction

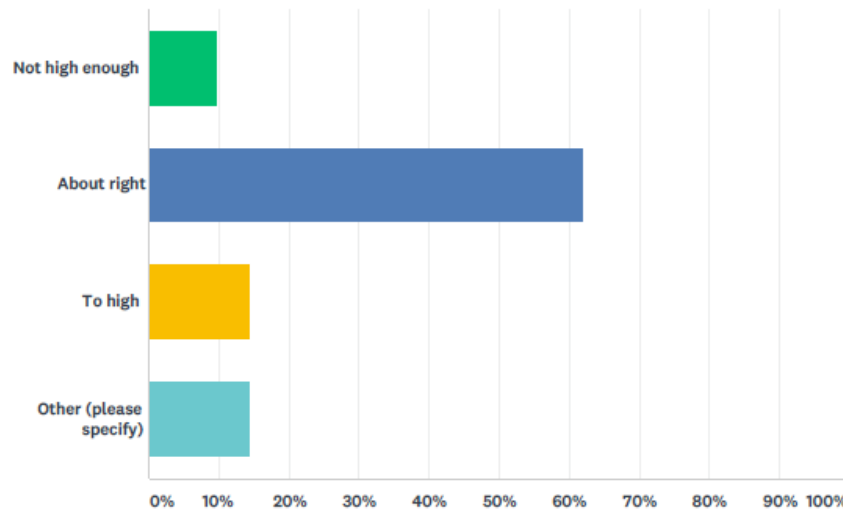
1.1. Public consultation on the 2019/20 draft budget was launched on the 21 December 2018. This included an online consultation questionnaire that was open until 1st February 2019. Paper questionnaires were also available on request. In addition a public meeting was held on 5th February 2019. The consultation period will formally close on the date the budget is approved in February 2019.

1.2. This appendix contains the summary results to the draft budget 2019/20 consultation. They will be used to by the Council as part of the process for informing priorities for the Council's Corporate Plan and for setting a balanced budget (including a capital programme).

2. Consultation questions

Q1 Northampton Borough Council is proposing a small increase in council tax in its draft budget proposals for 2019/20. This is consistent with the increase in the last year, 2018/19. We are proposing to increase council tax for all households by 2.99%. This will be the equivalent for a band D household of £6.56 per year / 12.6p per week. Doing this raises an estimated additional £448,000 in 2019/20, and this enables the Council to continue to deliver value for money services in the future. Do you think that this increase is?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



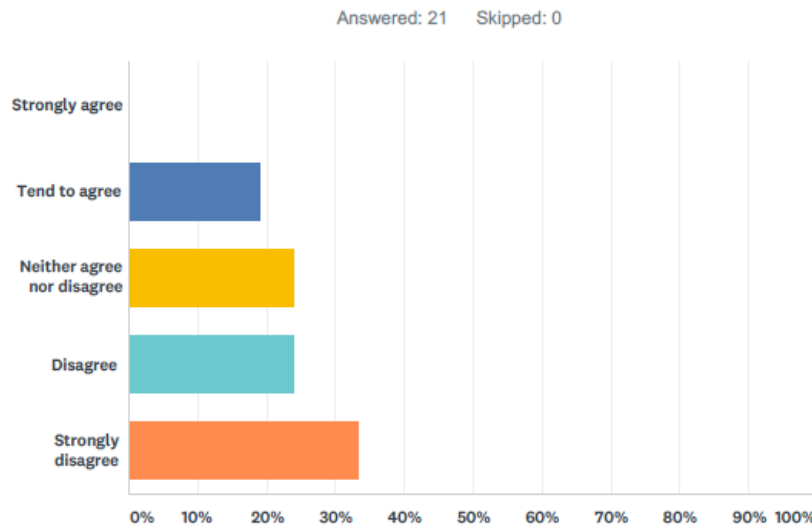
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not high enough	9.52%	2
About right	61.90%	13
To high	14.29%	3
Other (please specify)	14.29%	3
TOTAL		21

Q2 Where do you feel the Council should be spending additional funds?

A few of the responses to this question related to the services provided by the County Council, such as social care and highways. Some of the key themes of relevance to the Borough Council's budget were:

- Cleaning up the town centre as well as suburbs
- Cleaning up roadsides, hedgerows and embankments as well as parks and open spaces
- Support for vulnerable people, especially the homeless

Q3 Do you feel fully informed about NBC’s budget setting aims and goals?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	0.00%	0
Tend to agree	19.05%	4
Neither agree nor disagree	23.81%	5
Disagree	23.81%	5
Strongly disagree	33.33%	7
TOTAL		21

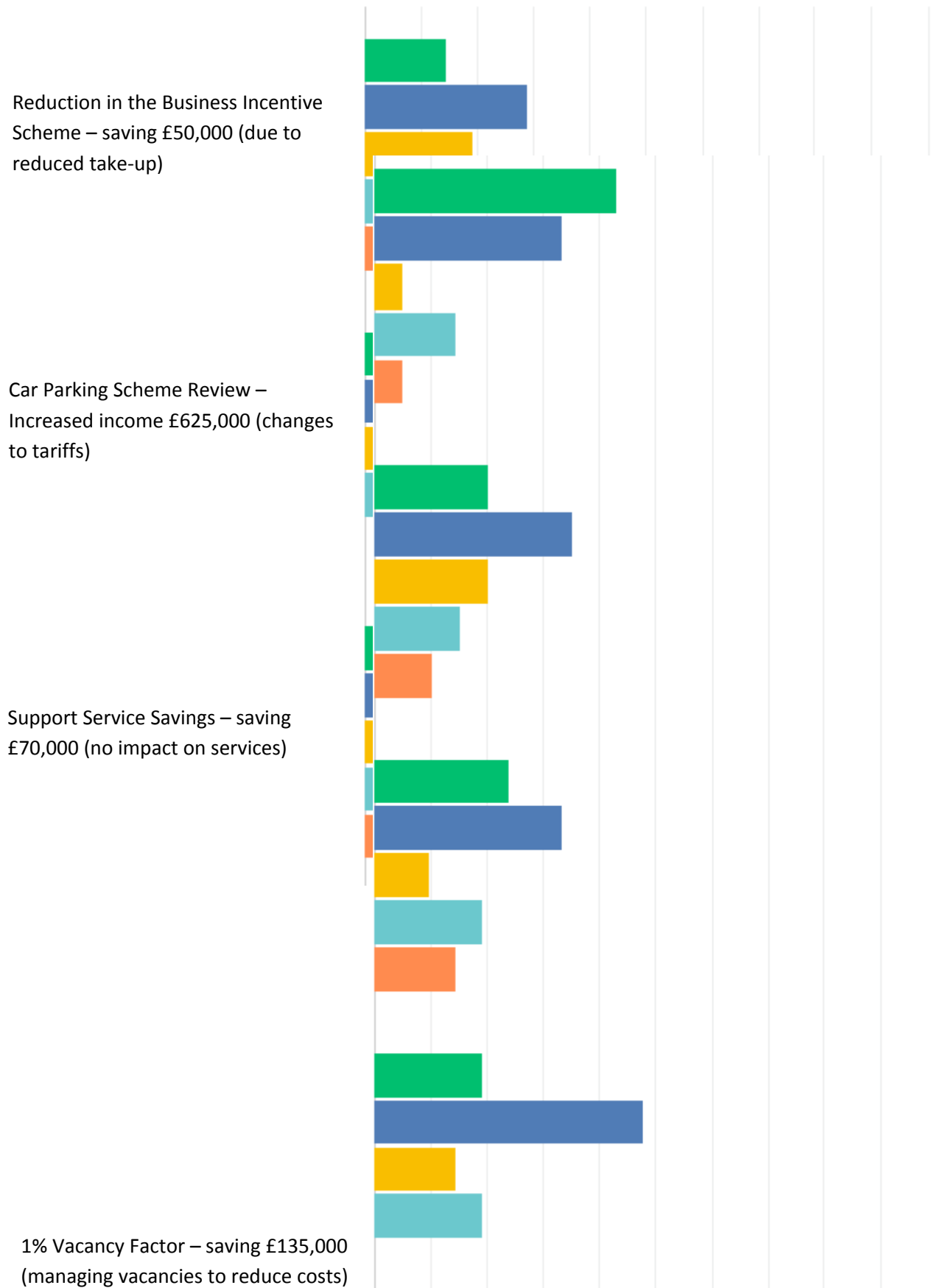
Q4 How do you think we can reduce spend, generate income or do things differently to ensure that we maintain a balanced budget? (A balanced budget means that our expenditure needs to equal our income and is required by law).

Key themes of relevance to the Borough Council were:

- Focus on core services, and avoid costs on nonessential projects, monuments and buildings.
- Review of staffing structure, bureaucracy and reduced use of consultants and interim staff
- Regeneration of the town centre to encourage greater number of shops, restaurants and bars and to make better use of the market square.

Q5 The key proposals for budgetary savings and growth are set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet budget report published on our website. Please indicate your views on these proposals

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0

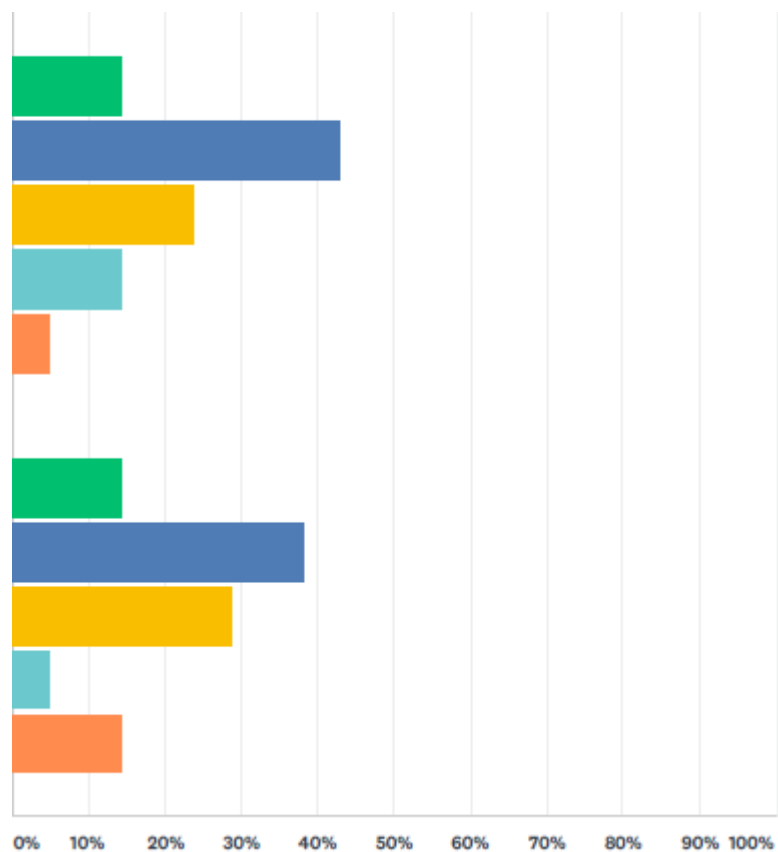


Environmental Services Contract
Review – saving/income £75,000

Continuation of Northampton's
Nightshelter – growth of £135,000
(provision of core budget, previously
Restructure of Housing Options &
Advice team – growth of £583,000 (to
improve Housing and Homeless
services)

Digital Officer to Support Move to
Paperless – cost £30,000

Reduction in Shop Income – cost
£100,000 (As a result of disposal of
shops to capital fund new priorities,
such as housing)



■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Tend to agree
 ■ Tend disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
■ Don't know

	STRONGLY AGREE	TEND TO AGREE	TEND DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Reduction in the Business Incentive Scheme – saving £50,000 (due to reduced take-up)	14.29% 3	28.57% 6	19.05% 4	23.81% 5	14.29% 3	21
Car Parking Scheme Review – Increased income £625,000 (changes to tariffs)	14.29% 3	33.33% 7	28.57% 6	23.81% 5	0.00% 0	21
Support Service Savings – saving £70,000 (no impact on services)	14.29% 3	38.10% 8	19.05% 4	14.29% 3	14.29% 3	21
1% Vacancy Factor – saving £135,000 (managing vacancies to reduce costs)	42.86% 9	33.33% 7	4.76% 1	14.29% 3	4.76% 1	21
Environmental Services Contract Review – saving/income £75,000	20.00% 4	35.00% 7	20.00% 4	15.00% 3	10.00% 2	20
Continuation of Northampton's Nightshelter – growth of £135,000 (provision of core budget, previously funded as a trial)	23.81% 5	33.33% 7	9.52% 2	19.05% 4	14.29% 3	21
Restructure of Housing Options & Advice team – growth of £583,000 (to improve Housing and Homeless services)	19.05% 4	47.62% 10	14.29% 3	19.05% 4	0.00% 0	21
Digital Officer to Support Move to Paperless – cost £30,000	14.29% 3	42.86% 9	23.81% 5	14.29% 3	4.76% 1	21
Reduction in Shop Income – cost £100,000 (As a result of disposal of shops to capital fund new priorities, such as housing)	14.29% 3	38.10% 8	28.57% 6	4.76% 1	14.29% 3	21

Q6 Please give us your comments on any of the proposals above and include any concerns you may have about how our specific proposals may impact on yourself or any sector of the community and if appropriate, suggest how you feel we can minimise any such impact.

Key messages:

- Focus should be on cleanliness and improving image and attractiveness of the town
- Support for local businesses
- Fear that any increase in parking charges may in fact decrease footfall in the town centre
- Support for the Homeless