

Teignbridge District Council - Budget Consultation Report

Date: 25 February 2025

From: Communications Team

Subject: Consultation feedback to Executive Committee

Methodology

The Communications Team was tasked to consult with the public, businesses, on the website, about the budget proposals. The consultation ran from 20th December 2024 to 3rd February 2025 and below you will find a short summary of the results so that full Council on 25th February has the opportunity to take into account residents' feedback when considering the final budget recommendations from Executive.

The survey

841 people responded to the survey.

The following budget questions were put to Teignbridge residents:

1. Do you agree with the current recommendation to increase council tax by 2.99%, which equates to £5.87 per year for a Band D property, (taking the council tax to £202.28) to help maintain essential services?
2. Please rank in priority order, those non statutory services that you think are important (1 top priority – 7 least important).
3. Do you agree we should continue to focus our remaining budget on supporting our priorities of affordable housing, good local jobs and the local economy?
4. Is there anything else we should be prioritising?
5. To Balance the Council's budget in the future, please indicate which of these measures we should be considering? – residents could tick more than one option.

Q1	Increase council Tax.	
	Yes	No
	78 % agree	22 %
Q2	Ranking in priority order.	
	Toilets	Ranked 1 st Top Priority
	Open Space	Ranked 2 nd
	Beaches and Resorts	Ranked 3 rd
	Leisure Centres and Swimming pools	Ranked 4 th
	Community Transport	Ranked 5 th
	Play parks	Ranked 6 th
	Markets	Ranked 7 th Least important
Q3	Continue supporting priorities- affordable housing, tackling climate change, and supporting good quality jobs and the local economy.	
	Yes	No
	85% agree	15%

Q4	See comments below this table	
Q5	Other measures to consider.	
	Increasing Council Tax	39%
Residents could tick more than one measure.	Making more budget savings	51%
	Generate more income through charging for services	26%
	Reducing the discretionary services, we provide	35%

Q4 Comments – Is there anything else we should be prioritising:

Here's a summary of the comments:

Public Amenities and

1. Infrastructure:

- Nominal charge for public toilets.
- Safe cycle routes to encourage exercise and improve mental health.
- Free public toilets as a mark of a civilized society.
- Maintenance of grass verges and road surfaces, including pothole repairs.
- Street cleaning – dog poo and maintaining communal flower beds.
- Annual maintenance of streams and council properties.

2. Local Transport and Traffic:

- Improving local transport.
- Stop parking on verges and pavements.
- Avoid wasting money on ineffective traffic schemes.

3. Community and Social Issues:

- Provision of homes for the homeless.
- Support for pensioners.
- Encouraging walking, cycling, and carbon reduction.

4. Law and Order:

- Policing and staffing levels.

5. Housing and Development:

- Local jobs over housing.

- More affordable housing with necessary amenities like doctor's surgeries.
- Training for councillors to avoid wasting money on planning applications.

6. **Miscellaneous:**

- Support for businesses.
- Measures to reduce roadside weeds and litter.
- Introduce a visitor or booking tax on all holidays, after all it's the tourists that contribute to water shortages, litter, dog fouling etc.