

## **Appendix 1**

### **A Core Offer for East Sussex Public Engagement Analysis**

Prepared in conjunction with



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# **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Between 14 November and 26 December 2018 the County Council undertook a public engagement on proposals for a “Core Offer” for future services in East Sussex, in light of the requirement for further cost savings over the next 3 years.
- 1.2 During the engagement, 1204 people submitted a response, with the vast majority choosing the Council’s online facility and only a handful opting to submit their responses by paper.
- 1.3 This report forms an element of the analysis and recommendations that will be presented to East Sussex County Council Cabinet on 22 January 2019.
- 1.4 MCL, a locally based research / transport consultancy, were appointed to provide data processing and analysis services in support of the engagement. This report is produced by the County Council in conjunction with MCL.
- 1.5 This report provides a complete analysis of all of the questionnaires completed, in terms of overall response to all key questions and breakdown of respondents. Some additional analysis for sub-groups of respondents has also been undertaken; full details of this have been supplied to Council officers, and some references where relevant are also included herein, relating to older people, people who consider themselves to be disabled, and people living in rural areas of the County.
- 1.6 A range of methods and media were used to publish and advertise the engagement, to try to ensure that as many people as possible were able and encouraged to give their views. These have included publicity at local public buildings, regular postings on the Council’s social media, and promotion at local events during the engagement period. The questionnaire was made available in different formats upon request.
- 1.7 The priorities and proposals are set out in the introduction to the questionnaire.
- 1.8 The questionnaire included sections as follows:
  1. Our services and value for money
  2. Living within our means
  3. The Core Offer and how it might affect you
  4. The Core Offer – changes and options
  5. Looking further into the future
  6. Charges we could make if allowed by law
  7. You, East Sussex and the County Council
  8. “About you” – questions designed to allow us to help make informed decisions that, as far as possible, ensure everyone is treated fairly and the views of different groups represented

## 2 Summary of Results

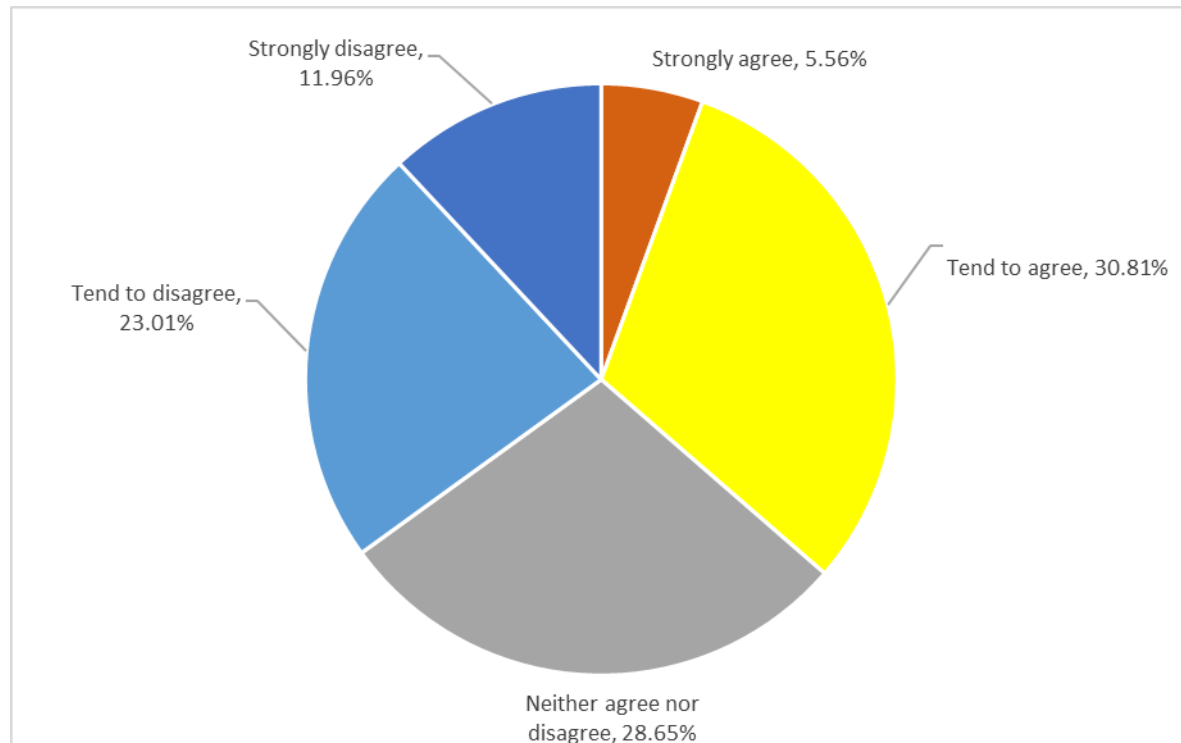
The overall responses to each of the questions asked are summarised below – questions 1 to 14 relating to the respondent's views regarding the proposals being advanced, and further “about you” questions (15 to 36) providing demographic and other personal information to assist in analysis and interpretation of the results, and in particular to inform an assessment of the impact on protected groups.

Respondents aged under 16 were directed to a slightly different set of “about you” questions, so Q16 to Q27 relate to adults and Q28 to Q35 form the equivalent section for young people.

### Our services and value for money

***Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that East Sussex County Council currently provides good value for money?***

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	67	5.56%
Tend to agree	371	30.81%
Neither agree nor disagree	345	28.65%
Tend to disagree	277	23.01%
Strongly disagree	144	11.96%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



A majority of respondents (65%) are either supportive or neutral in relation to the Council's current service provision, value for money, and by a small margin, the largest single response here was “tend to agree”. The *strongest* views at both ends of the scale form the smallest part of the overall response. Also of note, from additional analysis undertaken:

1. Older people (age 65+) expressed somewhat greater agreement here than the overall response. The same, but to a lesser extent, applied to people living in *rural* areas of the County;
2. People who classed themselves as having a disability or impairment expressed somewhat *less* agreement

## Living within our means

***Q2. Which of these options would you prefer to keep East Sussex within its financial means?***

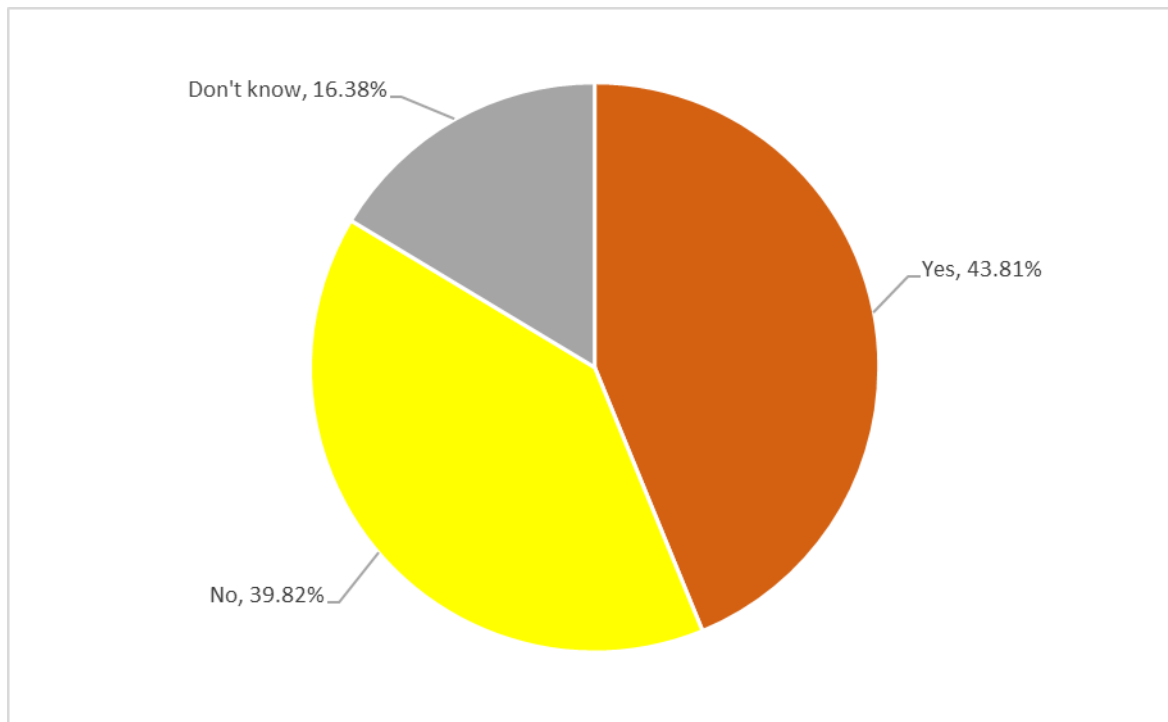
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Pay higher council tax	672	55.91%
Reduce range of public services	530	44.09%
<b><i>Total number of respondents</i></b>	<b><i>1202</i></b>	<b><i>100.00%</i></b>

Respondents are fairly divided in their view of a preferred solution to the funding issues. 56% said they would be prepared to see increases of 23% in council tax over three years to keep services at their current level, with 44% supporting a reduced package of services.

Older people were more inclined towards paying higher council tax, people with disabilities or impairments less so.

***Q3. In general, do you feel the idea of a core offer is a reasonable response to the current funding pressure on our county?***

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	527	43.81%
No	479	39.82%
Don't know	197	16.38%
<b><i>Total number of respondents</i></b>	<b><i>1203</i></b>	<b><i>100.00%</i></b>



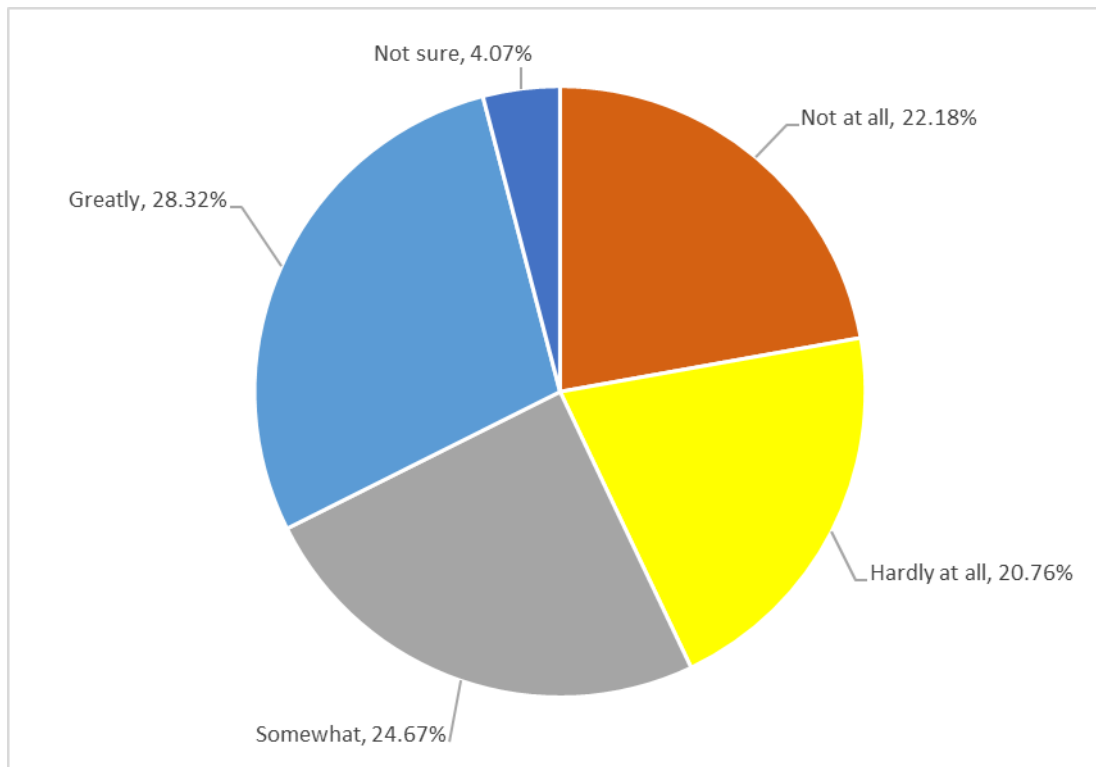
By a small margin the largest response here supports the idea of a core offer as response to the current funding pressure, in the circumstances presented. Notably, over 16% of respondents declared themselves unsure.

## The Core Offer and how it might affect you

The next series of questions asked people to consider the effect - on them personally, rather than a view of the wider effect on the community - of some of the specific changes being proposed.

### ***Q4. How would changes to services for vulnerable people affect you?***

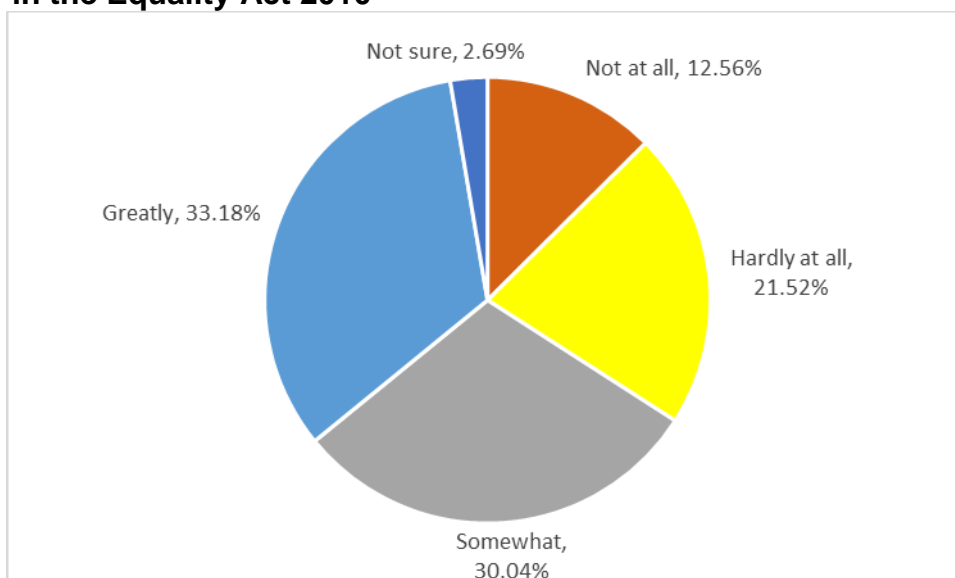
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Not at all	267	22.18%
Hardly at all	250	20.76%
Somewhat	297	24.67%
Greatly	341	28.32%
Not sure	49	4.07%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



53% of respondents indicated that they would be either somewhat or greatly affected, versus 43% indicating little or no effect likely, and 4% unsure.

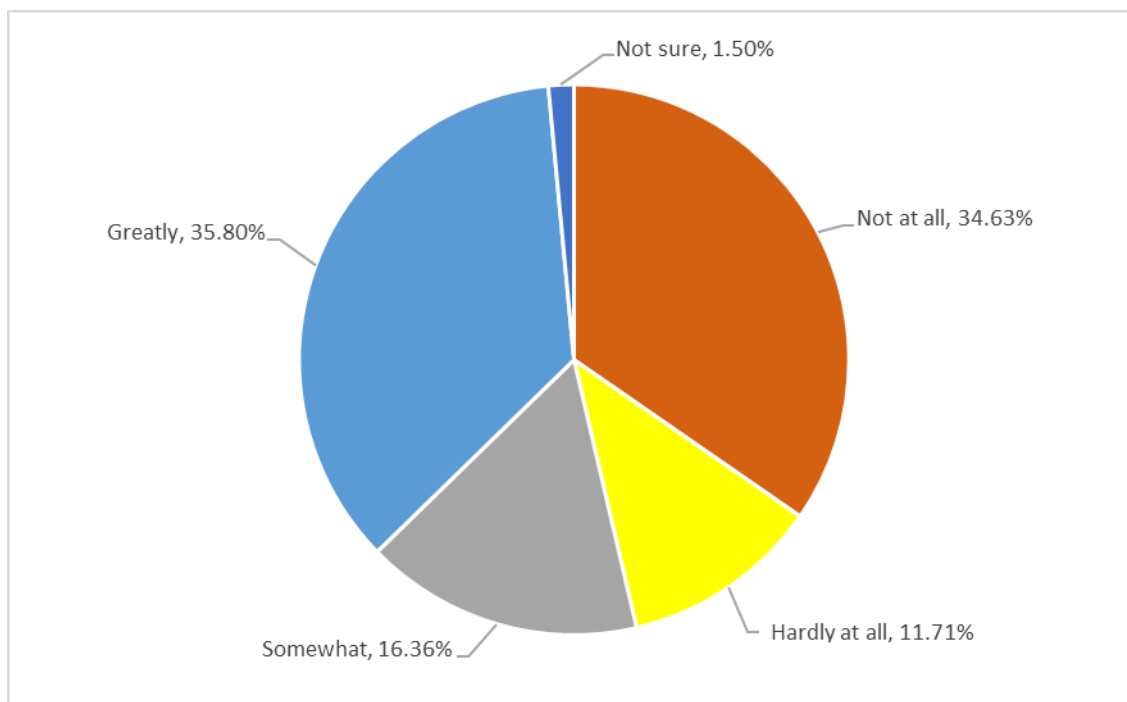
The perceived effect was less among older respondents and rural residents but, as might be expected and as shown below, greater amongst people considering themselves to be disabled.

#### **Q4 responses, people who consider themselves to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010**



**Q5. How would changes to services for schools affect you?**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Not at all	417	34.63%
Hardly at all	141	11.71%
Somewhat	197	16.36%
Greatly	431	35.80%
Not sure	18	1.50%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



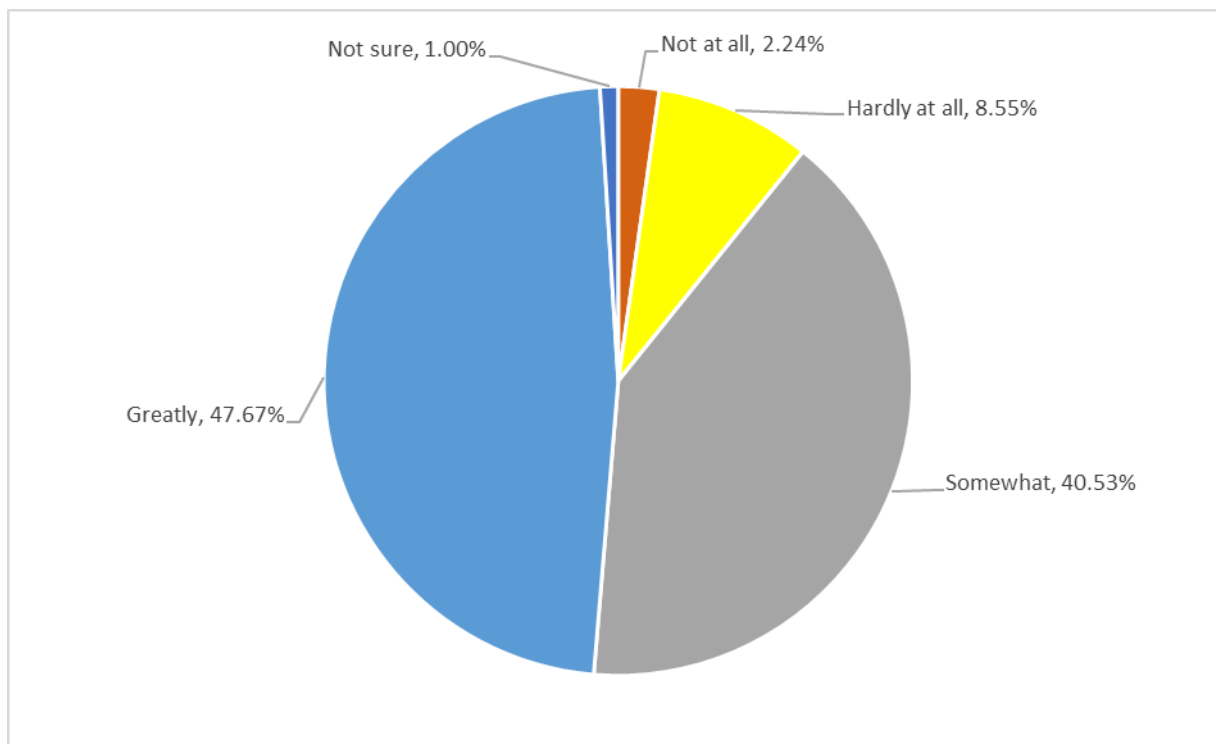
In relation to services for schools, 52% think they would be somewhat or greatly affected, just over 46% hardly or not at all.

The perceived effect was less among older respondents, people in rural areas and those with disabilities.

**Q6. How would changes to universal services (including libraries & archives, economy & trading standards, waste management, highways) affect you?**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Not at all	27	2.24%
Hardly at all	103	8.55%
Somewhat	488	40.53%
Greatly	574	47.67%
Not sure	12	1.00%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>





In relation to this group of universal services, a *much* higher percentage of respondents (over 88%) said they would be somewhat or greatly affected, with under 11% saying the proposals here would have little or no effect on them. This group of services is therefore, clearly, that over which concerns are most widespread, though this in large part follows given that these services affect more people.

The perceived effect was more in this case among older respondents, but not significantly different for the other groups that we have highlighted.

## The Core Offer – changes and options

### ***Q7. Are there any services in the core offer which you think should NOT be included?***

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	302	25.08%
No	902	74.92%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Most respondents are clear that the core offer does not include any elements that are non-essential. This view is almost certainly more emphatic than is shown in the table here. A number of people (potentially 167 in our view) are almost certainly, either by accident or design, actually flagging up services NOT in the core offer that they think ought to be preserved, i.e. comments that would be more correctly delivered in response to question 8.

To note also, in relation to this and other questions where free text comments were invited, a small number of people selected “No” as their response but then did proceed to comment. All comments have been included in the analysis which follows.

The suggestions made here have been analysed and grouped using a gazetteer that has developed as responses were added week by week, and those that emerged as popular themes are shown in the table below.

Ranking	Coding Label	Quantity
1	Maintenance of gypsy sites	19
2	Library service	15
3	Services for schools	9
4	Unnecessary road safety improvements	7
5	Some services should be kept but outsourced by council	6
6	National Child Weight Programme	6
7	Stop economic development e.g Newhaven Port Access Road	5
8	Maintenance of public spaces/parks/environment	5
9	Services for vulnerable people	5
10	Highways Maintenance	4
11	Work to improve health & well-being	4
12	Deliver local community safety priorities	4
13	Reduction in household waste collections	3
14	CCGs	3
15	Sexual health services	3
16	Drug and alcohol treatment	3
17	Promote Post 16 education and training	3
18	Services for housing	3
19	Trading Standards	3
20	Parking enforcement	3

No other relevant comments have so far appeared more than twice in the overall response. In addition to these comments, a number of others not directly relevant to this specific question have been noted, broadly falling into two separate groups:

1. Code 998 – Concerns regarding reductions in services, effectively the 137 referred to above. Common themes here related to *schools/education services, social care, children's services, libraries, waste management and archive services*;
2. Code 999 – Miscellaneous comments, fairly wide-ranging and unthemed, including comments about the costs around Councillors and management in local government, the need for more information around the core service offer, and disagreeing with any further cuts in services. Some people used this space to express concerns about the questionnaire, and question 2 in particular (the binary choice offered between higher taxes and reductions in services).

**Q8. Are there services not in the core offer which you think *SHOULD* be included?**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	399	33.17%
No	241	20.03%
Not sure	528	43.89%
Not answered	35	2.91%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1203</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Uncertainty was the most common response overall, quite reasonably given the complexity of the issues, options and constraints that the Council is faced with. The *suggestions* made have been analysed and grouped in the same way as for Q7, and those that emerged as popular themes are shown in the table below.

Ranking	Coding Label	Quantity
1	Services for those with an impairment	102
2	Schools / Education	83
3	Services for families	79
4	Funding Suggestion - Increase Council Tax	53
5	Library Services	47
6	Social care	32
7	Archive Services	26
8	Funding Suggestion - Obtain more money from the Government to fund services	25
9	Mental health facilities	22
10	Waste Management Services	22
11	Highway maintenance/road safety awareness	21
12	Support for the elderly	20
13	Support for carers	17
14	Maintenance of public rights of way	16
15	Prevention and Support in Trading Standards	15
16	Funding Suggestion - Suggestions of reductions/cuts to specified services to create savings	12
17	Community Meals	10
18	Services for the homeless	8
19	Emergency response units	7
20	Funding Suggestion - Create charges for services	7
21	Music lessons	6
22	Childcare services	5
23	Funding Suggestion - Cancel the Newhaven Port project to create savings	5
24	Funding Suggestion - Improve efficiency in services to create savings	5

No other relevant comments have so far appeared more than four times in the overall response. Again, a number of other comments not directly relevant to this specific question have been noted, broadly falling into two separate groups:

1. Code 23 – Miscellaneous suggestions around funding and revenue-raising or cost-saving, principally themed around potential savings in councillors' allowances and expenses, and management staff within the Council;
2. Code 999 – Miscellaneous comments, fairly wide-ranging and unthemed but notable views including concerns at the effect/wisdom of cutting services (overall and in effects on vulnerable people).

***Q9. Are there any services which volunteers and communities could do more to provide, or work with us to provide?***

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Respondent answered question	508	42.19%
Respondent didn't answer question	696	57.81%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Again, suggestions have been analysed and the themes emerging are summarised below. No other relevant comments have so far appeared more than twice in the overall response.

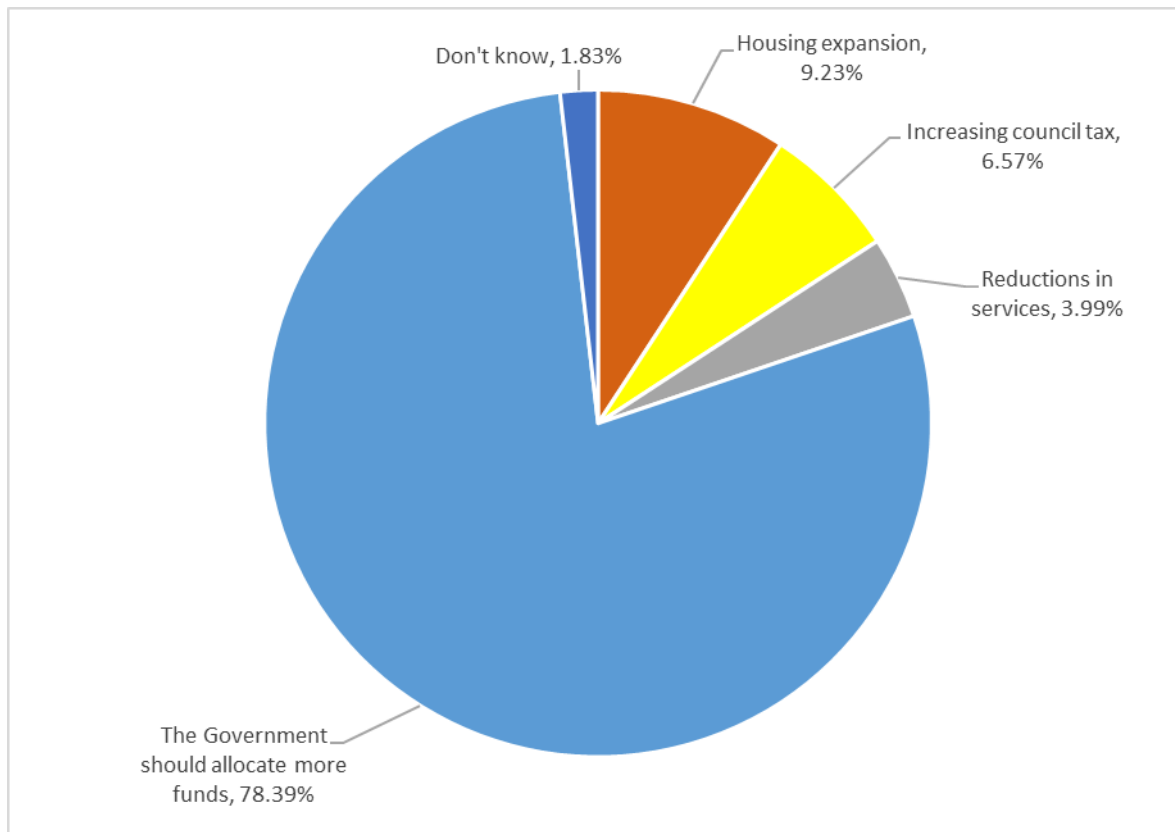
In this case, 79 of a total of 610 comments have been classified as miscellaneous, and generally not directly relevant to the specific question. Comments here were very wide-ranging, and without reproducing them in full it is not practical to pick out common themes within them.

Ranking	Coding Label	Quantity
1	Volunteers shouldn't be relied on / volunteers already do too much	95
2	Library Services	83
3	Maintenance of public spaces/parks/environment	73
4	Care of the elderly or those with an impairment	44
5	Schools/support for children	33
6	"No"	30
7	I would prefer trained professionals to run services	26
8	Information services	19
9	Volunteers are not a cost free option	18
10	General agreement volunteers should be used	18
11	Grassroot projects/groups for young people	11
12	Don't know	11
13	Social Care	8
14	Community services/working with groups within the community	8
15	Parishes should get involved	7
16	Emergency Response units	7
17	Subsidised meal service	6
18	Waste Management Services	5
19	Community Transport	4
20	Mental health services	4
21	Concerns regarding safeguarding issues/there will need to be safeguarding put into place	4
22	Support/Care for carers	4
23	Roadway Maintenance	3

## Looking Further into the Future

**Q10. In the longer term what is the best way of meeting the financial gap faced by East Sussex?**

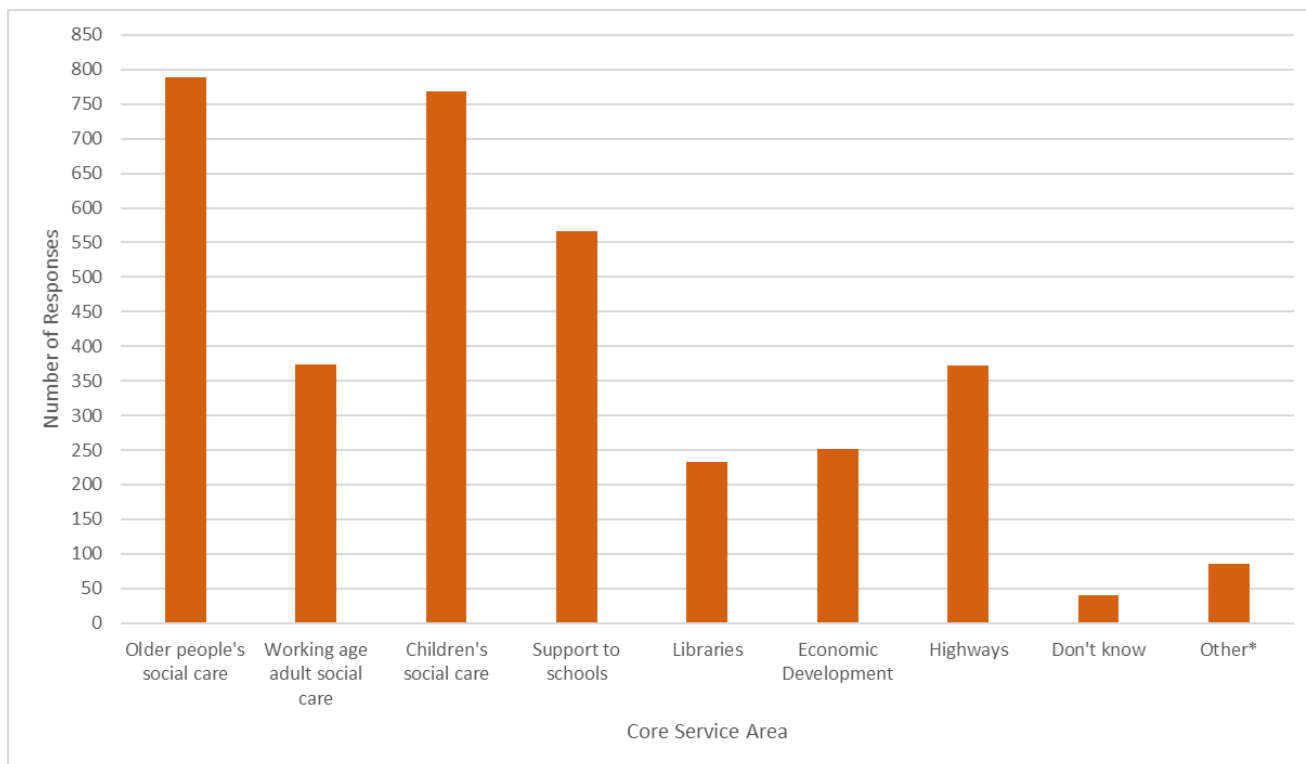
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Housing expansion	111	9.23%
Increasing council tax	79	6.57%
Reductions in services	48	3.99%
The Government should allocate more funds	943	78.39%
Don't know	22	1.83%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1203</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Whilst there remains some support here for the options presented at question 2, increases in council tax or reductions in services, the very clear message here is a view that Government should be allocating more funding to the Council in the longer term, to reduce the pressure that has built and brought about the need for the actions now being considered.

**Q11. If we had to reduce spending below the core service we have set out, which areas should be a priority for funding in future? (Choose up to three)**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Older people's social care	789	22.67%
Working age adult social care	374	10.75%
Children's social care	769	22.10%
Support to schools	566	16.26%
Libraries	232	6.67%
Economic Development	252	7.24%
Highways	372	10.69%
Don't know	40	1.15%
Other*	86	2.47%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>3480</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Social care is seen as the highest priority here, services for the young and the elderly at least. The next highest priority was for support to schools and highways spend.

Although people were asked to choose up to three of the options, it became apparent that this limit was not *enforced* by the online survey system. Whilst the majority of respondents did as asked, some (167 in total) made *more* than three choices. As we cannot rank/select choices in these cases, all have been included for analysis. We do not have any concerns about the effect of this on the overall analysis or conclusions that may be drawn.

Additional analysis here suggests, comparing the responses for particular groups of respondents with the overall response:

1. Older people prioritised older people's social care and highways services more highly;
2. People with disabilities also gave slightly higher priority to (adults and older people's) social care and to highways;
3. Those in rural areas prioritised highways and economic development more highly.

Respondents were also asked under Q11 to *name any other service they thought should be a priority for future funding*. Our analysis of relevant comments made to this question is set out below.

Ranking	Coding Labels	Quantity
1	Social Care services	40
2	Schools/education	33
3	Funding for those with an impairment	26
4	All areas are priorities and need funding, you shouldn't be making any cuts	24
5	Highways, the maintenance of roads & road safety	24
6	Environmental management/protection	16
7	Mental Health Care Services	16
8	Healthcare Services	15
9	Library Services	15
10	Children need to be made a priority, they will be disadvantaged if cuts happen	13
11	Vulnerable people need to be made a priority, they will be disadvantaged if cuts happen	13
12	Public Transport	12
13	Early Help Services	11
14	Archives	11
15	Economic Development	9
16	Waste Management Sites & rubbish collections	8
17	Respite Care	8
18	Families need to be made a priority, they will be disadvantaged if cuts happen	7
19	Trading Standards	6
20	None/None of the above	6
21	Children's Centres	5
22	Emergency Response units	4
23	Housing	4
24	Care for the homeless	3

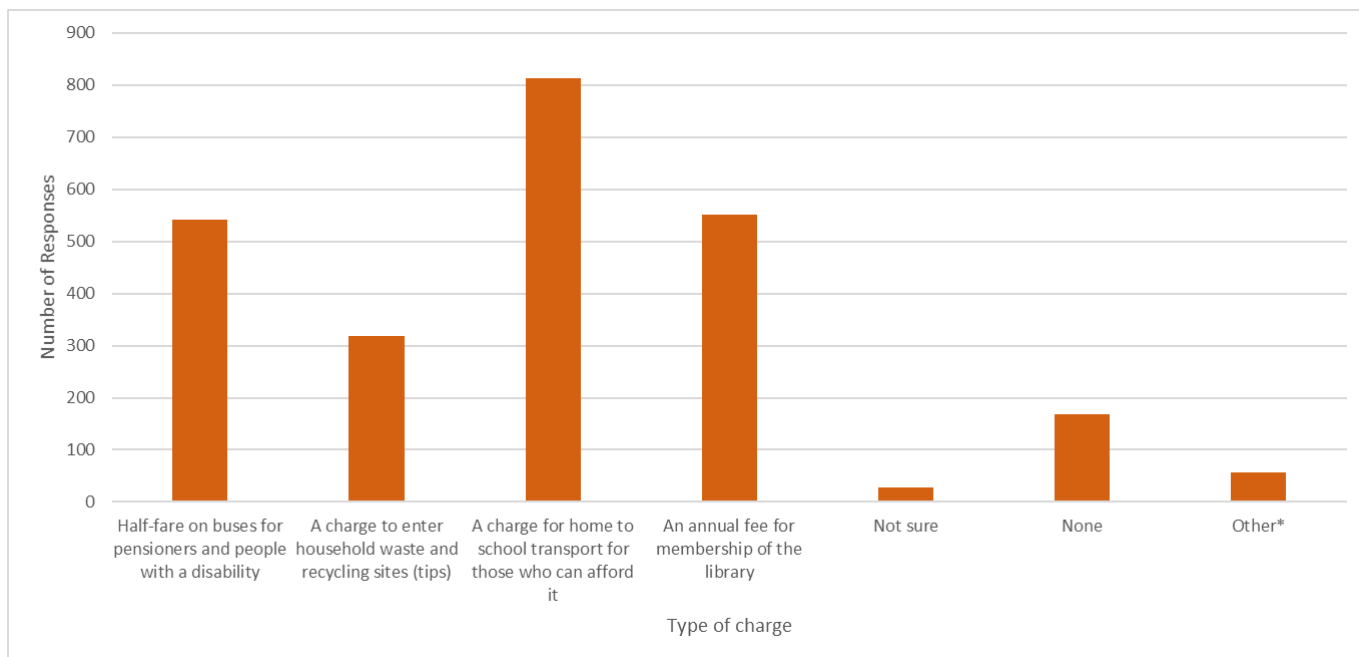
No other relevant comments have so far appeared more than twice in the overall response. In addition to these comments, a number of others not directly relevant to this specific question have been noted, broadly falling into two separate groups:

1. Code 998 – Suggestions of ways to save money / increase revenue, including statements expressing concern at the prospect of further service reductions when revenue raising or efficiencies would be more appropriate;
2. Code 999 – Miscellaneous comments, fairly wide-ranging and unthemed.

## Charges we could make if allowed by law

**Q12. Which of these charges might we reasonably ask people to pay if we were legally allowed to? (choose as many as apply)**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Half-fare on buses for pensioners and people with a disability	541	21.84%
A charge to enter household waste and recycling sites (tips)	318	12.84%
A charge for home to school transport for those who can afford it	812	32.78%
An annual fee for membership of the library	552	22.29%
Not sure	28	1.13%
None	169	6.82%
Other*	57	2.30%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>2477</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Respondents were also asked to give details of any other charges they thought would be reasonable *if allowed by law* – to be clear, these are generally not options open to the Council under existing legislation - and a summary of the response is shown in the table below. No other relevant comments have so far appeared more than four times in the overall response.

A further 38 miscellaneous comments, not directly relevant, were made, mostly too wide-ranging to allow themes to be picked out, other than potential for efficiencies in terms of payments to Councillors and staff, and the fact that most people are already personally responsible for school travel costs.

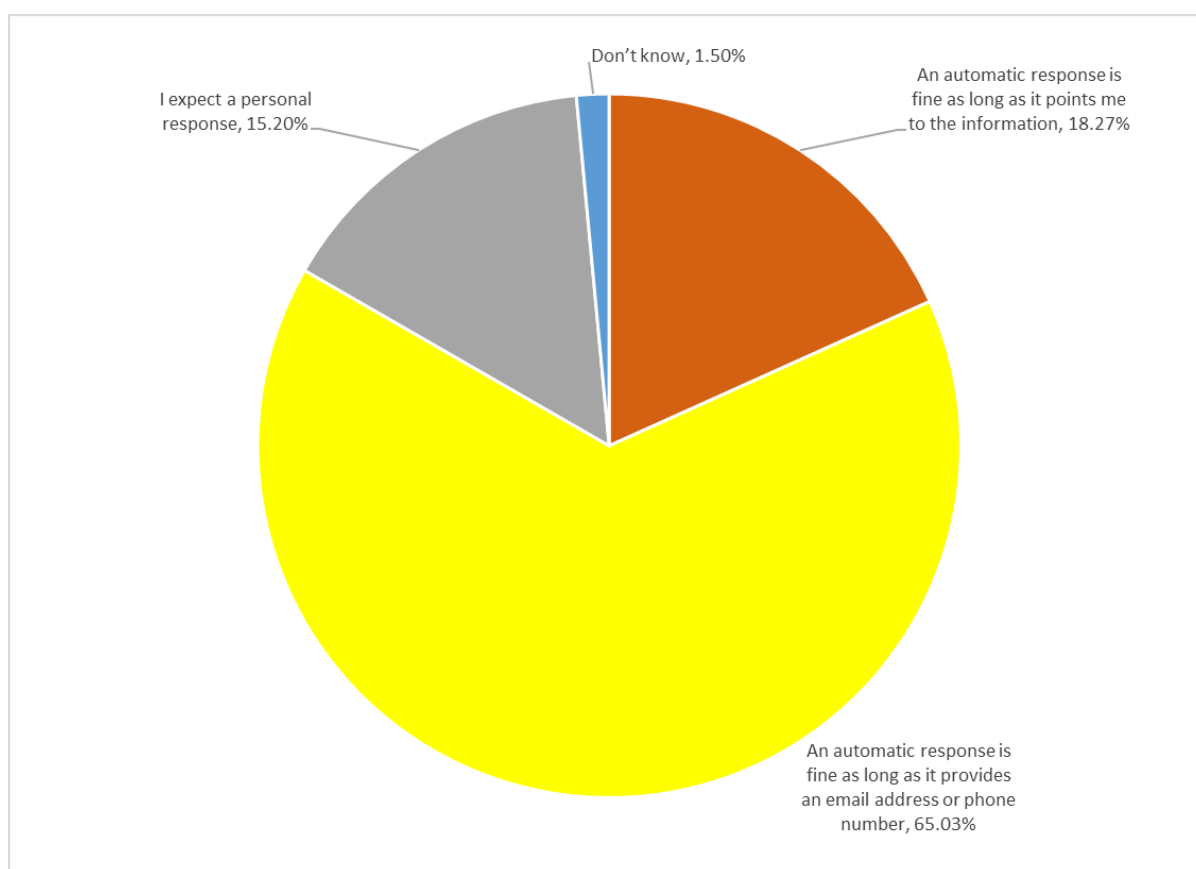
Ranking	Coding Label	Quantity
1	Charge those who can afford the charges / Means testing for services	74
2	Suggestions of other uncommon charges/fines	51
3	Disagrees with charges for tip entry	34
4	Agrees with charging an annual fee for library	22
5	Start charging for parking where it is currently free / charge for blue badge parking	20
6	Agrees with charging half-fare tickets on buses	20
7	Suggestions of ways to save money / Uncommon ways to increase revenue	17
8	Disagrees with half-fare tickets on buses	15
9	Agrees with charging for school transport	13
10	Suggestions of other waste disposal charges (e.g. household waste, garden waste, commercial waste)	12
11	Increase council tax for those who can afford it/own expensive houses	11
12	Vulnerable people will be disadvantaged if charges are applied	10
13	Disagrees with any charges in general	9
14	Charge for bus passes	9
15	Increase penalties for illegal/antisocial behaviour (e.g. flytipping, speeding)	9
16	Charges won't bring in enough/much revenue	8
17	Disagrees with library membership fees	8
18	Road usage charges / tolls	8
19	Charges for GP and other NHS services/penalties for missing appointments	7
20	Agrees with charges for Tip entry	6
21	We already pay enough in taxes	5
22	Reduce costs/make spending more efficient	5



## You, East Sussex and the County Council

**Q13. What do you think is a reasonable response when you get in touch with us to ask for general information?**

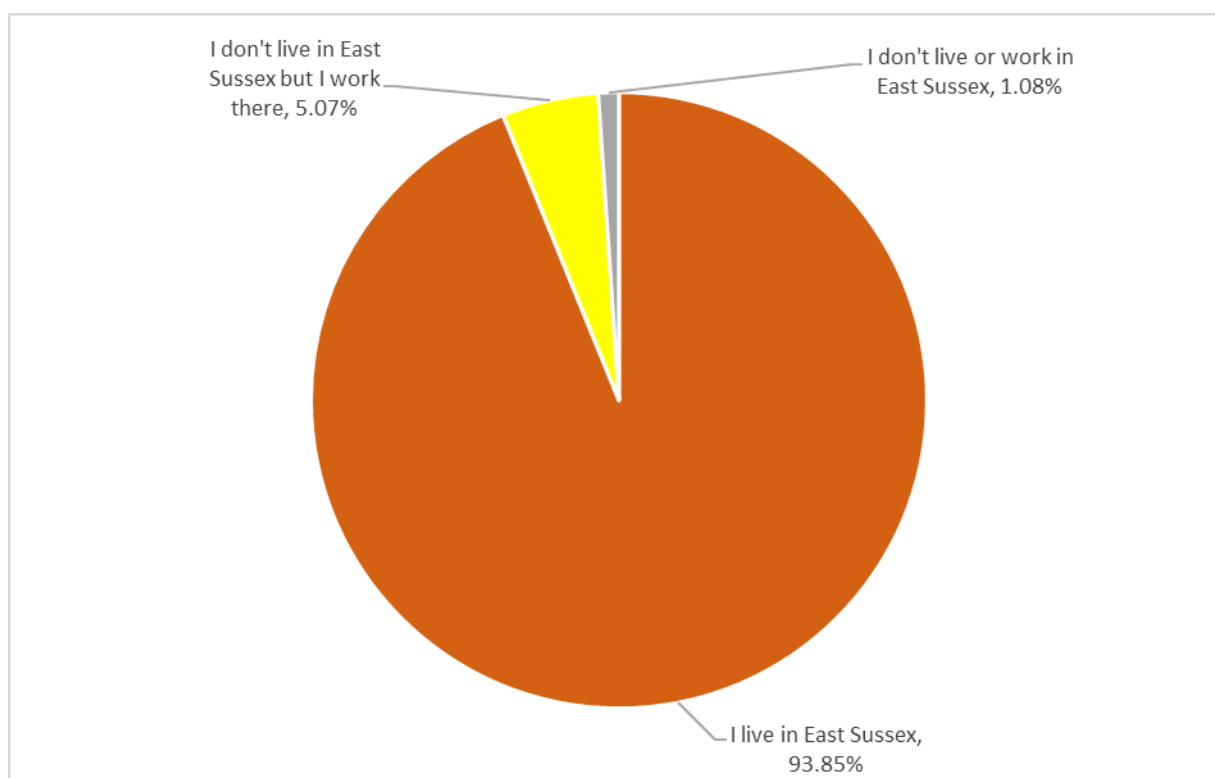
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
An automatic response is fine as long as it points me to the information	220	18.27%
An automatic response is fine as long as it provides an email address or phone number	783	65.03%
I expect a personal response	183	15.20%
Don't know	18	1.50%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



83% of all respondents indicated they are satisfied with automated responses to enquiries, as long as this is configured to effectively provide the required information or a relevant point of contact.

**Q14. Which best describes you?**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
I live in East Sussex	1130	93.85%
I don't live in East Sussex but I work there	61	5.07%
I don't live or work in East Sussex	13	1.08%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



This provides reassurance that the response is overwhelmingly from those people directly affected by the Council's spending decisions. The number of responses from people neither living nor working in the County is not sufficient to be a concern in interpreting results.

### 3 About You - Classification of Respondents

An initial screening question here (Q15) was inserted mainly to allow questions and responses to be split between adults and children, but also to identify anyone answering on behalf of an organisation. Only 4 children responded to the engagement, and 10 responses in total came from organisations rather than individuals. In neither case does the level of response mean that there is anything to be gained from separating responses for analysis.

Analysis below relates to questions as directed to respondents *of all ages* unless otherwise stated. Those answering on behalf of an organisation, and those choosing *not to answer* the screening question 15 are not included, as the subsequent questions were not asked in these cases.

People aged under 16 were not asked questions 17, 25, 26 and 27, and were given a different response format to question 18.

**Q16. Which gender are you?**

**A (respondents aged 16 and over)**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Male	405	35.62%
Female	671	59.01%
Prefer not to say	52	4.57%
Not answered	9	0.79%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**B (respondents aged up to 16, Q28)**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Male	0	0.00%
Female	3	75.00%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not answered	1	25.00%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

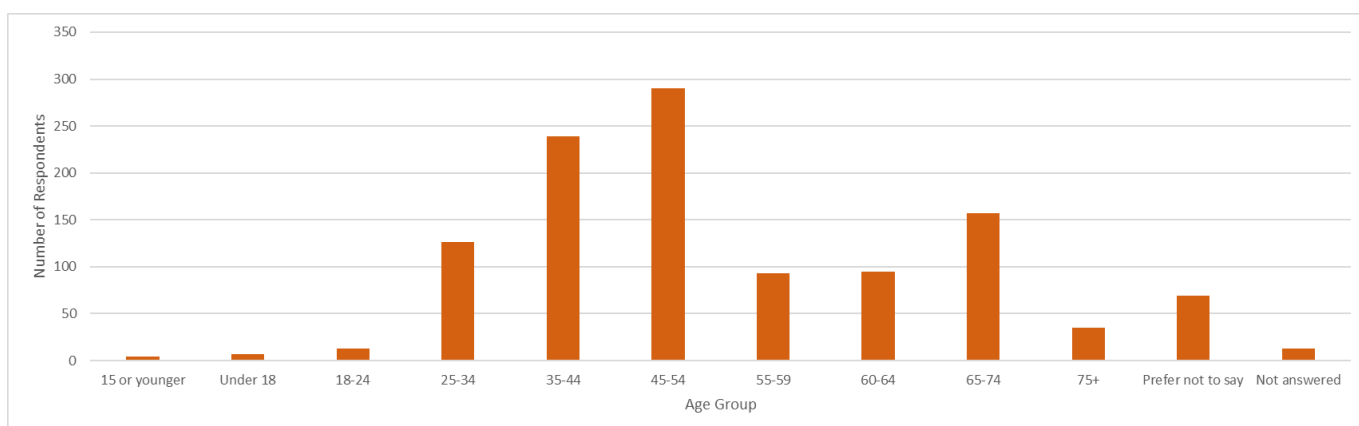
The response has been significantly stronger from women than from men – over 60% of those that chose to answer were women - and very limited from young people as already noted.

**Q17. Do you identify as a transgender or trans person?**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	2	0.18%
No	1034	90.94%
Prefer not to say	67	5.89%
Not answered	34	2.99%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Q18. Which of these age groups do you belong to?**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
15 or younger	4	0.35%
Under 18	7	0.61%
18-24	13	1.14%
25-34	126	11.04%
35-44	239	20.95%
45-54	290	25.42%
55-59	93	8.15%
60-64	95	8.33%
65-74	157	13.76%
75+	35	3.07%
Prefer not to say	69	6.05%
Not answered	13	1.14%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Almost exactly 50% of the respondents *who gave their age group* were in the range 35-54, and just over 80% may be defined as being of working age (18 to 64). We understand the population aged 16-64 in the County is around 62% of the overall population, so the sample slightly over-represents this age range.

Conversely, the sample for age 65 and over is just over 18%, again, of those that provided an age group, where this group is currently 21.3% of the total population of the County.

### **Postcode analysis (Q19)**

Respondents were asked to provide a postcode, so that some analysis of the pattern of response could be undertaken. Some respondents did not complete this question or provided only a partial postcode, but from the responses to date we can see the broad breakdown of response between urban and rural residents, which is as follows.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Rural	211	18.49%
Urban	526	46.10%
Outside East Sussex/Incomplete Postcode Given	246	21.56%
Postcode not given	158	13.85%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Where the information was complete and clear, therefore, over twice as many respondents were resident in postcodes defined by the Council as urban, 71.4% urban and 28.6% rural.

Urban areas are defined as being those forming / within settlements with a population of over 10,000, which we would understand to be:

Eastbourne  
Hastings  
Bexhill-on-Sea  
Seaford  
Crowborough  
Hailsham  
Peacehaven  
Lewes  
Uckfield  
Newhaven

These having, at 2011, a total population of just over 383,000 – at that point, 73% of the total population of the County. From this it may be concluded that the response to this engagement very slightly over-represents residents in rural areas. That could represent a feeling that residents in these areas consider themselves more directly impacted under the proposals, but in truth the variation is not statistically significant.

**Q20. To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong? (source: 2011 census)**  
**Please select one answer**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
White British	951	83.35%
White Irish	9	0.79%
White Gypsy/Roma	3	0.26%
White Irish Traveller	1	0.09%
White Other	44	3.86%
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	5	0.44%
Mixed White and Black African	2	0.18%
Mixed White and Asian	4	0.35%
Mixed Other	4	0.35%
Asian or Asian British Indian	2	0.18%
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British Other	2	0.18%
Black or Black British Caribbean	3	0.26%
Black or Black British African	0	0.00%
Black or Black British Other	0	0.00%
Arab	1	0.09%
Chinese	1	0.09%
Prefer not to say	61	5.35%
Other ethnic group	2	0.18%
Not answered	46	4.03%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

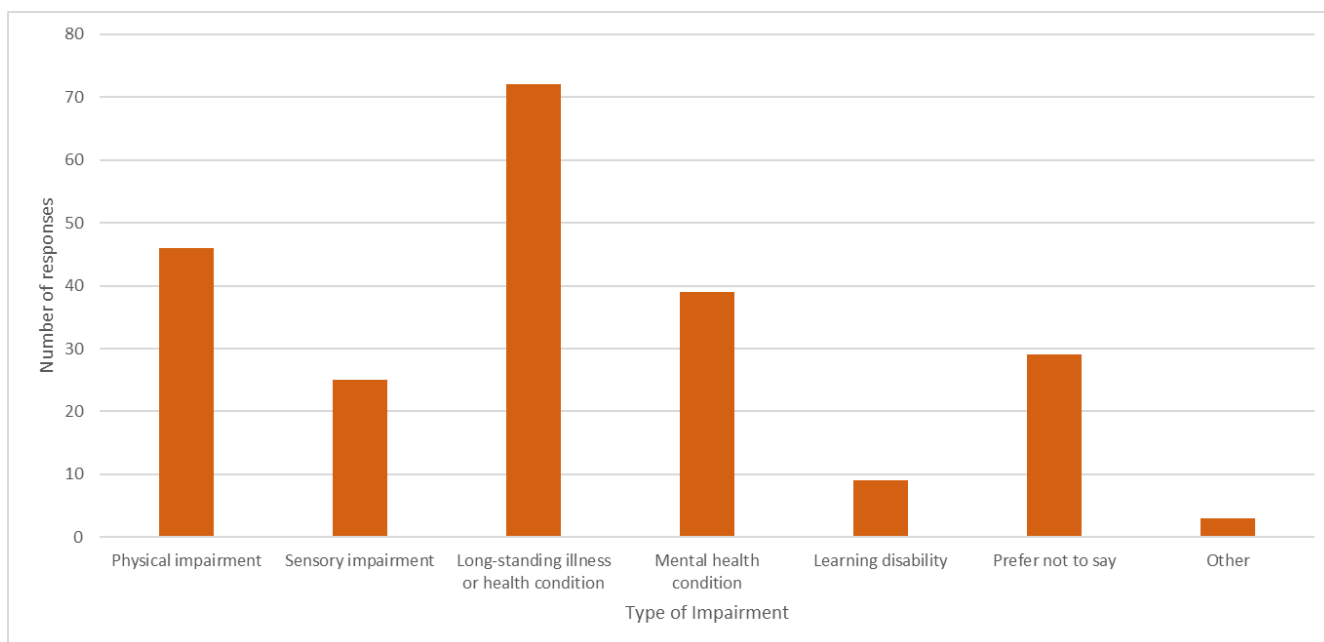
Of those that gave a definite response here, 92% identified as “White British”, the only other substantial response being from those identifying as “White Other”. In total, 106 people (9.35% of respondents to this question) chose not to answer, either by selecting the “prefer not to say” option or by making no response.

**Q21. Do you consider yourself disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	167	14.64%
No	904	79.23%
Prefer not to say	46	4.03%
Not answered	24	2.10%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Q22. If you answered yes to Q21, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you**  
(total number of respondents here was 167)

Response	Number of Responses	Percentage
Physical impairment	46	20.63%
Sensory impairment	25	11.21%
Long-standing illness or health condition	72	32.29%
Mental health condition	39	17.49%
Learning disability	9	4.04%
Prefer not to say	29	13.00%
Other	3	1.35%
<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Respondents were invited to describe their disability or condition if they felt it was not listed as an option on the questionnaire. Only a small number of clarifications were given here, one related to dementia and three to physical conditions.

In 2016/17 nationally, 19% of adults of working age and 45% of adults over State Pension age reported a disability under the terms of Equality Act 2010, with mobility being the most prevalent impairment reported (Source: Family Resources Survey 2016/17). Somewhat fewer are represented in the engagement here, 12.7% identifying themselves as such (of those providing a definite answer).

On the same basis, more than 15%, 167 respondents, went on to specify an impairment / condition in question 22, so we infer that this includes some people who may not consider their reported health issue to constitute a disability in the terms of the Act. In reporting, for consistency, we have shown all of these people as having reported a disability

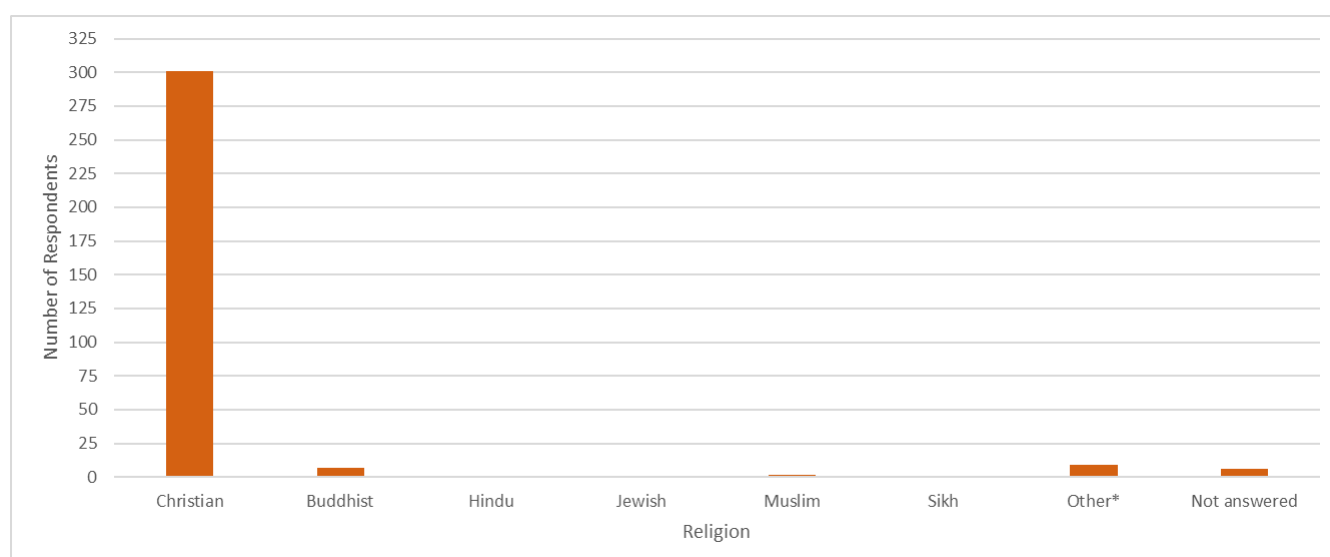
The final group of questions related to religion, sexuality, relationship status and establishing pregnancy rates among respondents. There was a clear increase for these questions in the “prefer not to say” response, where some respondents may have considered these issues of limited relevance to the engagement.

**Q23. Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion or belief?**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	328	28.75%
No	667	58.46%
Prefer not to say	114	9.99%
Not answered	32	2.80%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Q24. If you have answered yes to Q23, which one?**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Christian	301	91.77%
Buddhist	7	2.13%
Hindu	1	0.30%
Jewish	1	0.30%
Muslim	2	0.61%
Sikh	1	0.30%
Other	9	2.74%
Not answered	6	1.83%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Not all those that indicated they belonged to a religious or belief group went on to specify which. Of those that did, clearly the very large majority are Christian.

**Q25. Are you...? (Respondents aged 16 and over)**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Bi/Bisexual	22	1.93%
Heterosexual/straight	866	76.17%
Gay woman/Lesbian	14	1.23%
Gay man	22	1.93%
Other	5	0.44%
Prefer not to say	149	13.10%
Not answered	59	5.19%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Q26. Are you currently pregnant or have you been pregnant in the last year? (Respondents aged 16 and over)**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	22	1.93%
No	975	85.75%
Prefer not to say	86	7.56%
Not answered	54	4.75%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Q27. Are you married or in a civil partnership? (Respondents aged 16 and over)**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	675	59.37%
No	324	28.50%
Prefer not to say	104	9.15%
Not answered	34	2.99%
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



## 4 Conclusions

The engagement has produced a response from 1204 people, which provides a robust sample of the population of East Sussex. Statistically, we can be confident that the overall analyses of the sample produce answers that are within 3% of the answers that the whole population would provide if it were possible to ask them, *if we can assume that the respondents are a true cross-section of the population.*

It is not possible to make this assumption as the sample was self-selecting, in other words it was made up of people who, for a range of reasons, *wanted* to respond, often but not always on the basis that they had a particular point of view to express.

We can, however, say that the response provides a robust view of the overall response of those people, and of the range of views that residents and others have in relation to the key questions.

For particular *groups* of respondents, conclusions may be more or less robust depending on the numbers of responses from those groups. Broadly speaking, we can say that:

- if the group includes more than 380 respondents, for example people of working age, the conclusions in relation to any key question should be accurate to within 5%;
- if it includes more than 95 respondents, for example people aged 65 and over or people with disabilities as defined in the 2010 Equality Act, then results will be accurate to within 10%.

The response to key questions may be summarised as follows:

1. Views concerning the current performance of the Council were mixed, but with overall greater support than dissent;
2. Similarly, in relation to a “core offer” views are mixed, but the concept is supported by more than oppose it;
3. Over half of respondents felt they would be affected by potential changes to services for vulnerable people (28% greatly affected) and to schools (36% greatly affected);
4. Almost 90% felt they would be affected by potential changes to universal services (48% greatly affected);
5. Few people identified services likely to be included in a core offer that they felt should not be included;
6. Additional services that people felt should be *added* to the core offer included services (presumably additional to core) for people with impairments, schools/education and families, and a reasonably common theme that council tax should be raised / Government funding secured, in order to provide service levels beyond the proposed core;
7. In the longer term there was a very clear indication that more support should come from Government rather than further pressure being placed on local services or taxes;
8. Nevertheless, should further economies be required, respondents’ priorities (in order) were for social care – particularly for the elderly and for young people - education, highways, economic development and libraries;
9. Were legislation to change, there was some indication that people would be prepared to pay for some services currently provided without charge by statute. Among these, the greatest support - 33% of respondents – was for charges for (entitled pupils’) home to school transport. It should be stressed that these options are *not* open to the Council without changes to primary legislation.

10. Respondents were also asked about the sort of response they would consider reasonable when *contacting* the Council for information. Over 80% said that an automated response of some sort would be acceptable as long as this was effective in providing either the information needed, or a clear pointer to an email or phone contact point where the information would be found.

Further questions were asked in order to establish the groups of people making up the response. Amongst the information given here:

- Responses came mainly from people living in East Sussex – 94% of all respondents. A further 5% *work* in the County, and 1% neither live nor work in East Sussex;
- The engagement was open to people of all ages, but very few (4 in total) respondents were aged under 16. Adult responses gave good coverage from all age groups;
- Women responded more than men (at least 60% of all respondents);
- The response from urban and rural parts of the County was broadly in line with the overall split of population between these areas;
- Just over 15% of respondents assessed themselves as having a disability, most frequently a long-term illness or health condition where the detail was given.