

### Rutland County Council budget consultation 2024/25 and responses as at 31 January 2024

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#### Introduction

Rutland County Council must set a balanced budget each year. The amount we spend on running local services can't be more than the total amount of money we get from our three main sources of income – money given to us by national government, fees and charges and Council Tax.

Consultation around Rutland County Council's latest annual budget runs until 5.00pm on Friday 2 February 2024. All the feedback received as part of this consultation will be reported to Cabinet, Scrutiny, and Full Council at the end of February, helping to councillors to make their decision.

#### Key points

A full copy of our latest draft Integrated Budget Plan can be read and downloaded from our website. Some of the key things to note in our 2024/25 budget are:

- The total cost of funding local services in Rutland in 2024/25 is **£49.1million** (up from **£46.6million** last year)
- The latest Local Government Finance Settlement has awarded Rutland County Council more money than it did in 2023/24. However, this increase is not enough to cover the rising cost of services
- Service pressures of **£5.2m** have been included in the budget, arising from demand, market cost pressures and contracts.
- The budget includes a Council Tax increase of **2.99%**, together with **2%** precept to help fund adult social care services.
- If approved, the average Council Tax increase for a Band D equivalent property would be **£1.93** per week
- The budget also includes provisions for **£1.285m** of Council Tax Support to help people on a low income
- The draft budget for 2024/25 is balanced using **£1.3m** of the Council's General Fund reserves
- Without further planned savings, Rutland's funding gap is projected to be **£2.9m** in 2025/26, assuming **£1.8m** savings are made in the next year and Council Tax is raised by a further 5%.

#### Council Tax and fairer funding

National government uses something called Core Spending Power to measure the total resources available to councils to fund local services. Core Spending Power for councils in England has increased this year. However, this is based on a government assumption that all councils will raise Council Tax by the maximum 4.99% allowed (2.99% Council Tax and 2% just for Adult Social Care).

Under the current national funding formula, Rutland gets less government funding per household than other councils with our same responsibilities. Because of this, we rely heavily on Council Tax to fund local services – even more so than other councils. To put this in context, Rutland relies on Council Tax contributions for 77% of its funding. Nationally, other authorities rely on Council Tax for around 56% of their funding. This is a big difference.

We have recently written to the government along with other local authorities to call for fairer funding for all councils in England. [You can read more about this on our website.](#)

## Council spending

The draft Integrated Budget Plan for 2024/25 includes the follow spending plans for key frontline services:

- **£17.6million** for adult social care services, which include day care, community care, residential care, and protection
- **£7.4million** to support children’s social care services such as fostering, adoption, residential care, and support for children with disabilities
- **£3.9million** to pay for waste services. This includes recycling and disposal of waste, as well as the cost of running Rutland’s recycling centres
- **£2.7million** for school transport and school support
- **£2.6million** to fund public transport and other services such as maintenance of all roads, car parks, footpaths, bridges, and street lighting in the County, together with the cost of winter gritting, traffic management and road safety.
- **£2.4million** for public protection and environment, including street cleaning, grounds maintenance, trading standards and licensing services

## Where we’ve saved

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Rutland County Council has been working hard for many years to find savings and efficiencies that help close gaps in our budget while minimising the impact on services. This has included measures like:

- Reductions in workforce across all teams in the Council
- Changing how we manage demand for services
- Increasing income generation such as with green waste charges
- Pausing and reducing highways works available for emergency works and unplanned remediation
- Withdrawal of a carers’ grant
- Reduction in the outsourcing of children’s assessments for courts
- Reduction in the support for some parts of our learning disability day care and dementia services

For 2024/25, the budget process the Council has adopted an enhanced budget setting process that has focused on service delivery based on affordability. This has helped officers to put forward a range of savings and investments that deliver financial sustainability. It also means that services will begin to look and feel different as the Council transforms, so that it can provide services within the income it receives. The Integrated Budget Plan outlines the services we provide, together with a breakdown of the associated budgets.

Ongoing investments planned for 2024/25 include:

- Additional budget for inflationary and demand pressures of £1.2m
- Home to School transport costs following a rise in demand from SEND provision £0.3m
- Cost associated with alternative provision for waste disposal of £0.1m
- New burden costs from government for flood and biodiversity £0.2m
- Investment in technology to support customer engagement and decision making £0.1m

Savings which planned to be undertaken during 2024/25 include:

- Prevention activities where Council intervention at the right time reduces costs in the future £0.3m
- Transformation of service delivery, including efficiencies £0.9m. Examples include a new Communities Hub model, redesign of the public bus network, alternative use of key Council sites, and alternative delivery model for heritage services
- Negotiations with contractors of £0.5m
- Additional income generation of £0.2m

## Budget consultation

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### SECTION ONE: Corporate Strategy refresh

A huge amount of work goes into preparing the Council's budget each year but why?

Ultimately, Rutland County Council exists to provide local services that help people who live and work in the county, as well as visitors to our area. These services range from running libraries and caring for vulnerable adults to maintaining the county's roads and collecting Rutland's waste and recycling. We issue blue badges for people with disabilities and make decisions on planning applications. We find families for children without a home and inspect food businesses to make sure they're meeting hygiene standards. We must be financially sustainable and set a balanced budget each year so that we can keep providing the hundreds of services that people rely on.

To guide this work and make sure we are following a clear plan, the Council has just refreshed its Corporate Strategy. The Corporate Strategy has been shaped by the Future Rutland engagement exercise, so it reflects what Rutland residents have told us is most important to them. It has a total of four priority areas and everything we do will be geared towards achieving these goals:

#### 1. Tackling the Climate Emergency

We will support the County to tackle the climate crisis, helping to reduce carbon emissions and minimise the impact of climate change on the lives of residents and local businesses.

#### 2. A diverse and sustainable economy

We will play our part to build a strong rural economy with a productive, sustainable and diverse business base that provides opportunities for everyone.

#### 3. Support the most vulnerable

We will work collaboratively to improve outcomes for residents, helping those who need additional support to live their best lives.

#### 4. Provide good public services

We will deliver modern and cost-effective services that are easy to access and provide good levels of customer care.

A full version of the refresh with further information on our objectives and targets can be found on our website.

### QUESTION ONE:

To what extent do you agree with each of the four priority areas in Rutland County Council's refreshed Corporate Strategy? (*Sliding scale of 1-10, with 10 being Strongly Agree and 1 being Strongly Disagree for each priority*)

### QUESTION TWO:

Is there anything that you think is missing which should be included as a priority for the Council?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes, please use the space below to tell us more about what you think is missing:

## **SECTION TWO - Our financial health**

The financial pressure on local councils has never been greater. We often talk about the fact that councils have more responsibilities than ever before, while experiencing unprecedented demand for our services – growing numbers of people need our help, particularly when it comes to social care. When you factor in the rising cost of delivering these important services (caused by soaring energy costs, staffing costs and the rate of inflation), it’s not hard to see why councils like Birmingham and Nottingham have recently issued Section 114 notices. This is the clearest possible indication that a council is in financial crisis. According to [a recent survey by the Local Government Association](#), almost one in five councils in England think it is very or fairly likely they will need to issue a Section 114 notice this year, due to a lack of funding to keep key services running.

Rutland County Council needed to find additional funding of £1.4m to meet in-year budget demands experienced during 2022/23. This means we had to spend £1.4m more than we budgeted at the start of 2023, on top of £2.7m of increased spending that we originally forecast when setting our last budget. Looking ahead, our financial position remains extremely challenging. Once again, the amount of money we need to spend to run local services is greater than the amount of income we expect to receive, meaning we will have a gap of £1.3m in our 2024/25 budget.

Rutland is in a better position than most councils because of the way we’ve managed our budget over many years. In response to all the pressures we’ve described, we have been looking for ways to close our funding gap. We’ve looked at ways to generate more income, alongside activities that will drive more efficiencies in service delivery. The services we provide to residents will need to look and work differently in the future. However, this change is necessary to avoid situations like Nottingham and Birmingham and we are determined to achieve similar outcomes or better, regardless of the pressures we’re facing.

**You can read more detailed information about our current financial position in Council’s draft Integrated Budget Plan for 2024/25: [www.rutland.gov.uk/budget](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/budget)**

### **QUESTION THREE:**

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about how Rutland County Council should prioritise spending on local services? *(Sliding scale of 1-10, with 10 being ‘Strongly Agree and 1 being Strongly Disagree)*

- The Council should focus on providing services that benefit the largest number of people
- The Council should focus on providing services that offer support to people who need help or care
- The Council should focus on providing statutory services (the services it is required to provide by UK law)

### **QUESTION FOUR:**

If we can only do one of these things, which do you think is most important?

- The Council should focus on providing services that benefit the largest number of people
- The Council should focus on providing services that offer support to people who need help or care

- The Council should focus on providing statutory services (the services it is required to provide by UK law)

Please use the space below to provide any further comments:

### **Our latest budget**

The Council has been clear of its number one priority, it is outlined in the Corporate Strategy and that it is to be financially sustainable. Our Integrated Budget Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (IBP & MTFS) puts the Council on a firm footing to deliver on this priority. While the plan relies on the use of £1.3m of reserves for 2024/25, future years budgets are balanced against future estimated income receipts. This is ahead of the timelines outlined in the Financial Sustainability Strategy as approved by Council in November 2022 by using less reserves to underpin the day-to-day expenditure in the future years.

This Plan and Strategy has been put forward with affordable service provision at the heart of its creation, ensuring that these services deliver the Corporate Strategy. The Council previously recognised that a transformational approach to how it delivers services was required. Previous MTFS's showed the Council was living beyond its means with reserves being used to prop up day to day expenditure.

### **QUESTION FIVE:**

To what extent do you support the following principles as a way to help the Council reduce costs while continuing to delivery local services? *(Sliding scale of 1-10, with 10 being 'Strongly Agree and 1 being Strongly Disagree)*

- We will create a smaller but functional council that spends less overall and makes better use of technology
- We will use the Council Tax flexibility given to us by national government, which assumes councils will apply maximum increases to help fund local services
- We will provide information, guidance and advice to help people serve themselves
- We will work with others, including voluntary organisations, who are in a position to deliver some services
- We will invest some of our reserve funding into the Council and services to reduce future running costs, if possible
- We will identify non-statutory services that can be charged for or run commercially (this means they make money and break even, at a minimum)

**Please use the space below to provide any additional comments:**

### **QUESTION SIX:**

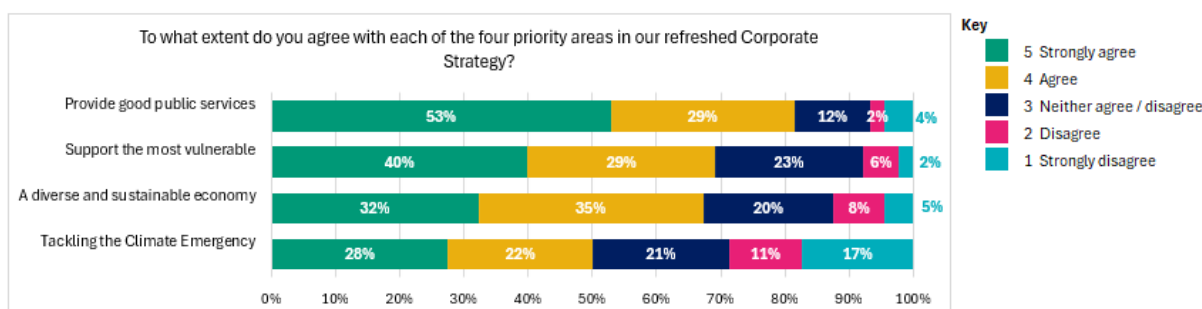
**Do you have any other suggestions on how the Council could increase income, reduce costs or make savings to help us balance the budget?**

**ENDS**

## Rutland County Council budget consultation 2024/25 responses as at 31 January 2024

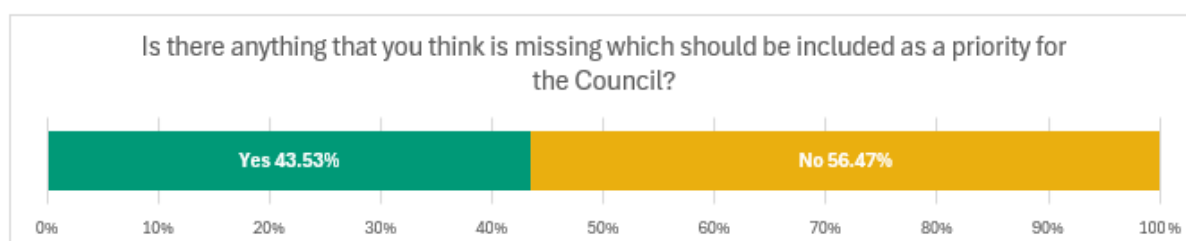
### QUESTION ONE:

To what extent do you agree with each of the four priority areas in Rutland County Council's refreshed Corporate Strategy?



### QUESTION TWO:

Is there anything that you think is missing which should be included as a priority for the Council?



If you answered yes, please use the space below to tell us more about what you think is missing:

#### Q2 - Is there anything that you think is missing which should be included as a priority for the Council?

Promoting Health and Wellbeing of the population including sports facilities, swimming & cycle paths which are accessible and affordable to all. Reviewing the quality of highways work carried out, ensuring improvement to roads.

Attracting new businesses that can provide additional employment and hopefully attracting younger workers. Or perhaps having an employment hub (sponsored by businesses that might like to have a presence in the Midlands) that allows workers who want to work remotely to have a space in which to do it.

Have you considered the overhaul of road planning to deal with increased traffic e.g. Brooke Road level crossing and the planned new housing?

Tackling administration cost and overheads.

Providing a special school in Rutland so that we aren't spending million's on independent specialist schools.

Transfer of support from the elderly to the young - we have got it the wrong way round.

Provide a cost effective, efficient and effective service for the people of Rutland

growing the local economy to provide jobs

Heritage and Culture. The planning department is not working to an acceptable standard, without heritage and cultural obligations such as the conservation and work with the built environment a lot of people are frustrated. There is no mention of the museum - which is being run down building wise yet is a valuable asset to the county - more could be made of the cultural side. Life is bad enough but the talk about sustainability when St Georges' Barracks could have been made into a solar farm which would sustain the county makes me realise that the priorities of the Council are not achievable or that the council are qualified to deliver. So I would focus on what can be delivered and heritage and culture are a small cost but achievable outcome.

More infrastructure around shopping in the area it seems Oakham has a lot of supermarkets leaving Uppingham behind with just the 1 which is why so many people shop elsewhere for example Corby. Need to encourage more shopping experiences there are alot of empty shops both in Oakham and Uppingham we need shops that are useful not anymore hairdressers/coffee shops/ Antiques or charity -shops which

**Q2 - Is there anything that you think is missing which should be included as a priority for the Council?**

you can buy normal things from I never buy in Uppingham as there isn't anything I want from what's available so end up driving over to Corby to get everything. Also somewhere to get access to your cash after 10pm without having to pay fees (market place) suitable place for the Post office from November


Address spending on public sector pay to counsellors. Waste funds of resources. Too much being raised in council tax

Better transport links

More affordable housing for local people to remain here.

All councillors too resign.

Cost reduction, cost reduction and cost reduction. Staff redundancies .

Respect to the poor public of Rutland that the horrible massively overpaid idiots running our lovely county into the ground you care about nobody but yourselves horrible horrible people, we don't stand a chance  


Leisure time activities for young people. Youth clubs and places they can become useful citizens of the future.

Our roads need looking at, pot holes need fixing and drains need cleaning and clearing to prevent flooding during heavy rain fall. This flooding has been very evident on the road through the village of Glaston. Spray from the roads is been deposited on to our boundary walls along the A47 which has causes erosion of the stone walls. This issue was raised with the council in August 2023 and so far no action has taken place, which is very disappointing considering the level of council tax we are charged.

Making sure you have sufficient staffing levels to run the services that local taxpayers are paying for. I recently received an automated reply from RCC regarding a problem I'd reported on Fix My Street. This informed me that you were short of staff and the issue would be looked at over the coming months. We pay increased council tax every year and RCC is failing to provide basic services.

Potholes Road and pavement cleaning helps with preventing flooding etc Refuse collection s better

Environmental green spaces

Potholes and road surfaces in general.

Another Doctors surgery to cope with the ever increasing population

develop interest in our libraries

More Doctors surgeries

Housing

Improve the roads, shocking, clear the road drains of mud, they are full of mud. Poor traffic management in Great Casterton. Shocking, somebody will get hurt, potentially seriously. Two schools in the village causing huge traffic issues. Haulage lorries using main street as a rat run, this is am issue you need to take very seriously. Get it sorted.

No mention of increased Police budget

Health and Wellbeing for all (enough local medical services for people to receive timely diagnosis and treatment, Doctors and dental)

Reduce the number of houses built. Only build the number required by central government. Enforce contribution to local infrastructure by developers.

Support for groups LGBT community young homelessness, Police patrol services Budget for a bigger gp to support additional housing.

Looking at rejoining Leicestershire to reduce the cost of being a unitary authority with the cost of staffing at Mose.

We pay more for services that are not carried out especially the poor maintenance of our roads,blocked rainwater drains that are not cleaned, I see this every time it rains

General environment and maintenance of the look and feel of Rutland and the towns any byways to keep to a height standard to attract tourism also to make the residents and business feel they are being supported and invested in A scruffy dirty place is not a nice place to live and work in ! Doctors surgery On cold Overton Road and medical services need investment and better management We should have travel to Leicester and Peterborough for so many minor treatments and services

With the cost of living crisis going on and with wages not going up but food and energy prices are why are we the customers footing the bill some people can't afford extra on their council tax and given an 2%.

Turning the lights off at night in the council offices - how much is that costing us? What does 2% precept mean? Is that a way to hide a potential 5% tax increase? Improving diversity in town, free parking at

## Q2 - Is there anything that you think is missing which should be included as a priority for the Council?

certain times, and encouraging companies like Waitrose to set up - what in earth did we reject their plans all those years ago. And statue of the queen. Why? All that money. Eek

Sell the Council offices and move to smaller cheaper premises

As education is our main employer, it would be beneficial to all our residents to think about how we retain and attract young families to the area. Affordability of housing and amenities that families require are currently not sustainable or necessarily available and this will in turn affect the fabulous schools we have in the area.

I don't disagree with the overall areas, but I think you have to prioritise providing good essential public services. And if there is then money left, you can have devote it things like climate change and diversity etc.

A public leisure centre. Rutland must be the only council in England without one.

We need to have more bigger named shops in the town and not just eating places and a bigger market plus the W I back again selling goods and what is happening to the old Wilko's shop ?

Address the fact black bins are hardly used any more. Could there be smaller bins and collected less often. Also I think it false economy not to prioritise drain clearing, also keeping paths clear of soggy leaves would help this and keep vulnerable adults safer from slipping.

You have to reduce the council tax bill, it is the highest in entire UK, it does not encourage people to live or stay here. Our modest new build house costs over £3500 per annum where multi million pound houses else where are less. It's despicable. We are a wealthy county the cost burden should be modest and the administration easy. Cut costs until you budget works DO NOT increase council tax. It's a racket, there is no competition, the citizens of Rutland should not be seen as a cash cow!

Attracting more people to work in the care industry To maybe have a SEND hub for ND to save some high needs budget of special out of county schools Look for cheaper RCC offices. Sell existing and maybe move out to Ashwell

Cut internal costs. Fix pot holes etc before they become major problems. Get proper guarantees from any contractors that are used so that any recurring faults are not paid for again and again. Stop wasting time, money and effort deciding on trivia, such as what branches can be cut off trees and concentrate on things that will make a difference to the budget. There is the appearance of little or no accountability, spend too much? Just put up the council tax! The residents have a finite amount of money for to pay for council tax, we are squeezed and squeezed time after time after time. Where will it end? My council tax is already over £4000 pa. I certainly don't feel like I am getting anything like value.

A bigger reduction in single occupancy due to less income for homeowner, including rented accommodation.

I trust that employee productivity will increase. Also, pensions will not increase above that received by the private sector. Fat chance.

Our bin collections are shocking never emptied on the day there meant to be always 1/2 days later. Some of the roads are horrendous, more pot holes than roads

Use the Integrated Care Partnership structure to work with the LLR NHS ICB to better utilise the Oakham Memorial Hospital and optimise delivery of Health services closer to home ( a central government objective). This will involve persuading the LLR ICB to allocate more funds and resources than is the current case.

In the upcoming budgetary considerations, it is essential that our local council prioritises the allocation of funds towards leisure facilities and amenities for young people. Such investments are not mere expenditures but vital components in fostering a vibrant, healthy community. By providing accessible and diverse recreational spaces, we not only offer our youth constructive avenues for engagement and development, but we also cultivate an environment that values and supports their growth and well-being. Integrating these facilities into our budget reflects a commitment to nurturing a balanced, dynamic community, where the needs of younger members are not just recognised, but actively catered to, laying the groundwork for a more inclusive and prosperous society.

An adequate response to the recent flooding as part of the climate emergency . The current response has been totally inadequate, untimely and you still have not properly engaged with residents to know the size and scale of the issue. There were not only 9 properties flooded. RCC really have done nothing in comparison to the response for residents in Stamford.

The council needs to stop charging so much for council tax, when there isn't enough for the young generation of Oakham. If they actually provided enough facilities for the young then maybe but there isn't enough shops or anything at all to do for the younger generation. So I personally think council tax needs to stop being increased. So maybe actually build things for the young such as a bowling alley or actually actual activities for kids.



**Q2 - Is there anything that you think is missing which should be included as a priority for the Council?**

A strategy to increase the number of council tax payers through whatever means and perhaps a rethink of heavy users to ensure greater fairness. The majority are having services sacrificed for a small minority.

TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM YOU HAVE. ESPECIALLY WITHIN CHILDRENS SOCIAL SERVICES.

My concern is about what will happen with Catmose Sports Centre in the future. As there seems to be no thought about Leisure Facilities at all and they provide an essential service to residents. I'm also concerned about the lack of basic maintenance of drains which caused many issues in the recent flooding

More work done by the community requires corresponding funding

give More money to Uppingham and not most of it to oakham

The council is responsible for providing a public service , that is all. Please stop wasting money on grants and vanity projects and provide value for money for the tax payer. Councils should run like a business and provide just the important services and councillors should be removed

Providing services for those unable to access online

Taking a more pragmatic approach towards property improvements to increase insulation. Climate change and the minimisation thereof has got to be more important than retaining the pure, aesthetic look of windows installed, say, 400 years ago or of roofing/other suitable space that would accommodate solar/pv panels.

Roads are falling apart, dangerous driving all around county, poor community services and general incompetence from the council

I am a social worker in the Children with Disabilities Team at Rutland CC. I appreciate that this is the smallest local authority in England and there are many shared resources within the LLR partnership. However, overnight respite services for children and young people with disabilities are extremely poor. I understand there will be a recruitment campaign and training for respite foster carers this year as this need has been identified. However, because Rutland does not have its own residential respite provision, this raises several issues: 1. Respite services in other localities have long waiting lists and councils prioritise their own children and young people for this. 2. Using respite care facilities in neighbouring local authorities is expensive and also attracts additional transport costs. 3. Several children and young people with disabilities have been waiting over a year for a suitable respite placement and some parents are now raising this with counsellors. I am very aware of the savings the council need to make to balance the budget. However, giving consideration to an (3 -4 people) in-house respite unit as well as offering incentives for potential staff / respite foster carers should be given further consideration. This could also be undertaken in conjunction with the third party sector - such as Action for Children who run many of these services around the UK. I used to be the manager for several successful residential respite services in South Wales and strongly believe Rutland needs to provide these services to meet the needs of the children and young people with disabilities, most particularly ASD/ ADHD, as parents are currently struggling to find PA's for these families for a few hours a week due again to a shortage of workers.

I think what is missing is the importance of preventative services in order to help those who are vulnerable becoming 'more vulnerable' and costly to the council. This should be a huge priority. There is a tendency in Rutland to wait until people require more intensive costly services be it, those who may offend, those who may be homeless, those who may go on to be involved in more specialist mental health services.

To create a culture which encourages working more positively in developing partnerships with others both from within Rutland and outside .

We need more frequent and later bus services to support villages and help car owners to be able to go to local Towns for essential services such as shopping, attending GP appointments and to get to towns for work.

Health care provision Public transport Road maintenances Introduction of speed cameras More traffic control systems (Oakham) Address the decline of oakham high street Street cleaning Grounds maintenance Address the lack of facilities for the children and youths in Oakham

The Council needs to consult more widely wit( its citizens rather than relying on groups like town/parish councils which are dominated by conflicting self interested groups and who do not reflect the views of their residents. We pay the highest council tax and deserve therefore a wider say on how decisions are made: this may be a little more expensive but use of social media could be cost effective in reaching people you rarely hear from.

Health centres and Public transport.

**Q2 - Is there anything that you think is missing which should be included as a priority for the Council?**

Supporting an infrastructure for our young people, things to do and places to be. Less hairdressers, coffee and charity shops

Listen to the community. Get all employees to get back to work from the office to improve productivity

Potholes and road drains and regular road sweepers clearing the drains. Tme management at the level crossing. Youths gaving under the metal bridge.

Improved community transport. Improved road maintenance.

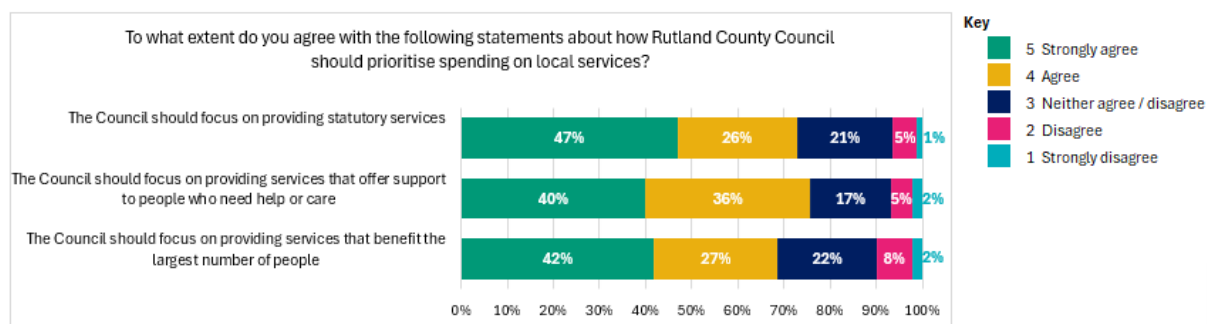
A priority should be achieving a reduction in council tax for each household. Rutland council tax is the highest in the country, even more so than Westminster and you must regard this as a priority if you wish Rutland to thrive in the long term

Monitoring local precept requests from parrish councils. Mine for instance is asking for a huge increase on oast year requests. As far as I can understand it is not justified. Some of the items they inend to spend local residents cas on is unreasonable

More funds from central government to reduce Council tax. It is by far too much

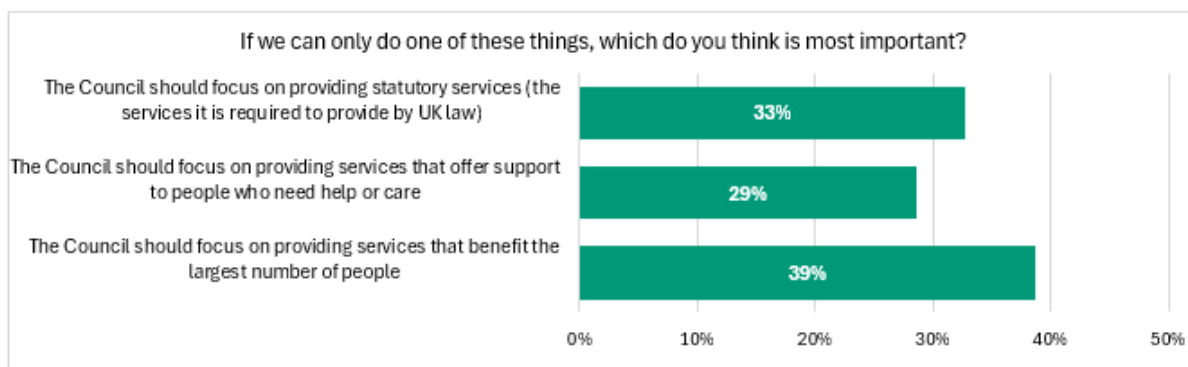
**QUESTION THREE:**

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about how Rutland County Council should prioritise spending on local services?



**QUESTION FOUR:**

If we can only do one of these things, which do you think is most important?



Please use the space below to provide any further comments:

**Q4 - If we can only do one of these things, which do you think is most important? Further comments**

These questions are loaded and bias. Of course all these areas need attention - you cannot rule out two in favour of one. You have to provide the statutory services - so that is a given. You have already stated

#### **Q4 - If we can only do one of these things, which do you think is most important? Further comments**

that the finances are in good shape and therefore the population as a whole should be benefitting from good services.

Focus should always be on the most vulnerable. But that doesn't mean you take your eye off the core services. It would be interesting to know the number split in Rutland for who pays the biggest % of the budget and do they get a perceived benefit for the contribution.

Stop taking children away from their parents and turning Rutland into a retirement county, and you might save some money.

We should focus on childcare and children. FYI, I am from a wealthy family (my wife and I together earn over £300k) and send our child to SES so this isn't about more £ for us.

If services are statutory, the Council must provide them, so this has to be the bottom line, so an odd question! Far too much profit is made by private providers concerning care for the elderly. Businesses are subsidised by the tax payer and standards are not always good. The tax payer also subsidises private waste and green energy companies, who make large profits at the tax payer's expense. RCC should undertake in depth scrutiny of any contract issued in these areas to ensure quality and value for money.

Train the staff to deliver better statutory services, the planning department for one.

Does the medium term planning cover the potential increased costs when the savings limit for Council paid Social Care rises from £25000 to £100,000?

This has to be done. I do not see that the Council has any choice but to provide mandatory services.

Can the Highways budget please be enough to make sure storm drains are kept unblocked as we have been waiting nearly 18 months for blocked drains in front of our property which overflow every time it rains, even without storms and are causing flooding and damage to our properties to be resolved.

This would ensure everyone felt that they were getting value for their money. Not sure that is currently the case.

This action has the most cascade to relieving pressure on other services. Rutland is a relatively rich county and this objective would have the most social impact/value.

Managing the budget better.

Stop wasting money on trivial projects.

Doesn't matter what we say the tiny few narrow minded horrible people will do as they please you massively over charge the people of Rutland Council tax but we have to pay people far too much that should go to the people who need it not horrible corrupt idiots in the council.

It seems you are bound by law to provide statutory services so that is irrelevant as you have to budget for that anyway. If there is money left after that then you should deliver services fairly to include everyone.

Good roads, Drainage well looked after and good transport facilities.

Too large a proportion of our council tax is spent on social care, particularly adult social care.

While attempting to be fair to ALL of our residents, we should still adopt a humanitarian attitude to those who genuinely need care.

Although the law may sometimes be an Ass, it is not correct for local government to break the law (rules). We have all witnessed the chaos over the whole world (including Westminster) when that happens.

At some stage everyone needs help and care, therefore this point 1 can cover both points 1 and 2.

Unless you want to break the law then there is no other answer is there?

Albeit, point 3 is statutory. Expected. When the council focuses on the minority, which does consistently, the cost of our services increase due to the bespoke nature of the service, hence increases in cost.

The largest part of the budget is adult social care. This is not benefitting the majority ie one person in a flat requiring 24/7 care costing over £2000 per WEEK to the tax payer could be in a group facility costing substantially less. Meanwhile there is no swimming pool so all local children have to go out of county to learn to swim. Adult social care needs the cost savings and the issue is net migration to Rutland of over 70s who have never paid tax into our area.

more access to doctors

#### **Q4 - If we can only do one of these things, which do you think is most important? Further comments**

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Your questions are weighted and push a responder to answer differently to how they might if they were more open. Not even sure what you hope to gain with this question. I would say focus more on healthcare - doctors surgeries, urgent care centres. Does that fit into help and care? Who knows.

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With continued increase in cost of living it is inevitable that low income households need support. They and the elderly must be supported

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Statutory service

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I feel Oakham is below UK standards in treating the vulnerable with extra respect and care. When the weather forecast was seriously bad and risky for the above groups there was a sad lack in consideration and help for the vulnerables. For example I am 83 yet since living here I have noticed no one has checked if I am coping alone

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Need a better Doctors surgery in a bigger place and parking not good enough for people trying to get there or even park

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Cut costs.

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It does not help if the Council fails to provide statutory services and is declared bankrupt

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Those services should be given as basic care for everyone!

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Why are we underfunded by government? We have a Conservative government and a Conservative MP. Someone isn't trying hard enough.

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Focusing on providing services that benefit the largest number of people in our county is crucial for several compelling reasons. Foremost, it ensures the efficient and equitable allocation of public resources, maximizing the positive impact on the community at large. This approach not only addresses the immediate needs of the majority, fostering a sense of inclusivity and communal welfare, but also lays a strong foundation for the future. By enhancing the overall quality and reach of these services, we reduce the likelihood of individuals requiring intensive help or care in the long term. In essence, better services for more people today mean fewer individuals in need of assistance tomorrow. Such foresight in planning promotes fairness and is indicative of responsible governance. It stimulates broader economic and social benefits, like improved public health and increased productivity, enhancing the quality of life for all.

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Priority should be given to the local economy. Get this right and other objectives will be easier to achieve.

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Do more for the younger generation. Bring entertainment.

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With bills at the level they are, the majority of payers need to feel some kind of benefit otherwise it is just a general tax

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The question is asked in "black and white" terms. The answer is more nuanced. Of course we must meet our statutory duties, but there may well be cost flexibility in how we do it. Equally broad services and supporting those in need cannot be excluded, and the debate is more about how much and to whom.

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This is a strange question - obviously the council has to focus on statutory services as there would be consequences if it's not providing what it is required to by law so this is the priority. However, whilst a service can be statutory that doesn't necessarily mean the council has to provide that service in the way it has been doing up until now - there may be elements that aren't actually statutory - for example it may be statutory to have an 'offer' of XXX but the council may have been going above and beyond in how it provides XXX - either through an attempt to provide the best service or a lack of understanding about what the statutory requirements actually are. I do believe the most vulnerable should be supported (especially children/young people) but Rutland is such a small county that often this means a few individual cases monopolising the resource - it has to be balanced. Overall I think I believe that decisions should be made that benefit the most people - the problem is how do we determine what benefits the most people? Often the most vocal residents will be those with time and resources to do so or the educational background/confidence to come forward/challenge decisions - so this can be skewed. Rutland has a large proportion of older people within the population which means there are additional pressures and these needs should be taken into consideration but a county cannot function solely on the needs and wishes of the older population. Basically I don't think you can choose any one single priority from this list - it's about balance.

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help people afford things like the Gym in Uppingham. help lower payed people attend the Uppingham school gym £38 a month is too much to pay.

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The council should only provide statutory services

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You have to provide statutory services so it makes no sense to say you are concentrating on something that HAS to be provided

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**Q4 - If we can only do one of these things, which do you think is most important? Further comments**

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Common sense would suggest emphasis on services that benefit the largest number of people, statutory services notwithstanding, because the majority should then be in a better position to help the vulnerable minority. However, keeping grass mown regularly would not be a priority unless vision is impaired on roads. Looking at the budget, I now understand why social housing is so low on the priority list in new developments! May common sense prevail rather than verbiage for its own sake!

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There should be no option for providing statutory services. As their provision is required by UK law then unless RCC makes those provisions as a core service they are in breach of the law.

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Just because someone claims to be in financial trouble etc does not mean they are. People milk the system and know how to play it.

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As stated previously there is a desperate need for residential respite care and respite foster care within Rutland and many of the families with disabled children and young people are really struggling to meet the high care need demands of their children. Other local authorities providing residential respite care prioritise the children and young people in their area, the costs are high and there are not enough staff / foster carers willing or available to provide this support. An in house residential respite provision would provide a cheaper, local alternative in the long term and would meet the needs of the families in this area who are desperate for residential short breaks to recharge their batteries.

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As per previous question / answer we have an opportunity in Rutland to prevent people from escalating into more expensive statutory services if we focus on providing preventative interventions earlier. This will save the council money in the long run.

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The culture of the authority should move towards enablement rather than just providing for. The county has a large untapped resource within its people that could be harnessed more to meet the wider community needs.

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Of course, you have to do what is required by law. By providing services to the majority you have more support. The terms help or care are somewhat vague. I agree in helping those who cannot access extra benefits to cope with their situation but some on benefits have a greater income than some of us who are not. The balance must be fair.

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More funding for young people

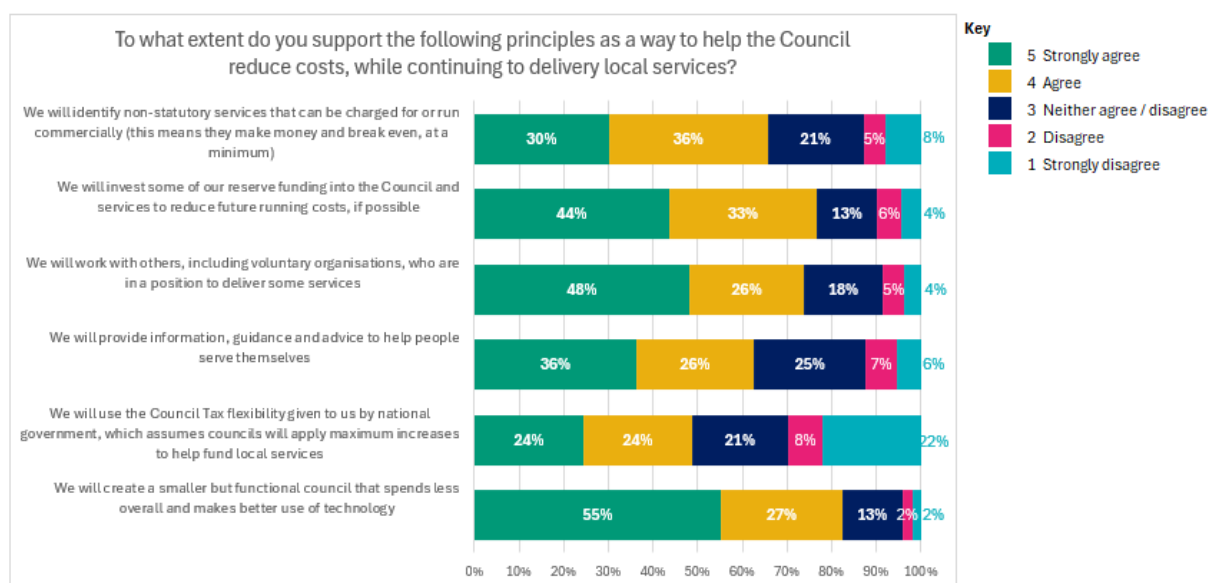
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the council like any household you can only spend what you have in the bank. Therefore do less of the things you may want to do but can't afford. If you don't have to do it then consider ensuring money means statutory services are the best they can be.

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## QUESTION FIVE:

To what extent do you support the following principles as a way to help the Council reduce costs while continuing to delivery local services?



### Q5 - To what extent do you support the following principles as a way to help the Council reduce costs while continuing to delivery local services? Further comments

Again very bias questions So are finances is a good state or not. This conflicts with previous statement.

Charging for services is okay but has to be not for profit or a controlled SLA so that tax payers get value for money and it's not a get rich system for the old boys network.

Heritage and educational spaces have been an integral part of Rutland County for many years. They create pride and a sense of belonging. Feeling a part of something even if your not a Rutlander is as important as being able to catch a bus or get to see a GP. Having knowledge of the area and what has happened to previous generations makes people proud to live work or play here. This in turn creates a welcoming caring community. Adding an entry fee to our museum or increasing parking charges just means those who need engaging the most are already disadvantaged. It creates a bigger device for the haves and have not.

You cannot "employ" volunteers to do your job.

The use of non-statutory services is only viable if they can be sustained at a cost below which the Council would previously have operated such services, and to the same or better standards. There must be genuine savings without loss of quality.

Can the Highways budget please be enough to clear blocked storm drains. We have been waiting nearly 18 months for the storm drains in front of our property which overflow every time it rains, even before the storms, overflowing and causing flooding and damage to our property being resolved.

Services that are valuable but nevertheless do not provide wholly for less able and older residents should not be prioritised above cost neutral, however emotive.

We need to be looking into again joining another authority, as we did with leicestershire, we are too small.

Volunteers rarely provide a full or reliable service. We pay some of the highest council tax in the country so we should have stable and efficient public services. All services that can be provided by commercial enterprises should be.

Selection 3 is of concern. There are many examples where provided information for people to "help themselves" is unclear or inadequate in both the public and private sector. The information interface needs to be tested with either focus groups or batches of users to ensure it is as easy to use as possible. This applies especially for the elderly who struggle with technology. App based parking is a good exmple of how bad this can be.

**Q5 - To what extent do you support the following principles as a way to help the Council reduce costs while continuing to delivery local services? Further comments**

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The council assumes everyone's has the capacity to obtain the information and guidance to help themselves. This is not the case. Not everyone has technology or family. When they come into the council office they have been found to find nobody present to request help, or, given short sharp thrift. ( No reception facility) Having an individual on a reception /approach is important, whether this has been put back into force I can not say! Verbal face to face direction good old values makes the council approachable and services directed effectively

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Public pool should be council funded. The health of the community is important. The council building is massively under used and could either be sold or parts of it let to increase funds. Individuals receiving council funded social care are the biggest expense- the private providers used making huge profits are the main drain on funds to Rutland.

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I will be glad to see the back of this appalling Tory government who have messed our economy up causing the severe cut backs we have to endure

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Were the additional properties that have been build in Rutland there must be a substantial additional income from council tax fees - it would good to a summary of the additional income being received and a visability of additional services and facilities being provided for the additional residents Eg more schools more doctors and medical more sports and leisure where the plan for a swimming pool .....

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Don't know what non statutory services are so a shot in the dark here.

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The Council is making little effort to work with other voluntary organisations!

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I certainly do not agree with the lack of availability at council office to speak to a person. Spending money on technology is a cop out and used to the detriment of good manners and helpfulness

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You can charge for services so long as they are optional and work towards reducing council tax burden!

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It is hard to answer the last question properly, without knowing what type of services you will charge for. For example, if you are going to charge for a children's SEND support group which was previously free, then I would be against this; alternatively, if the library started offering hot drinks at a cost, then I would support this. Basically more information is required.

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Do not recruit any more well paid posts for Woke,green/climate,'inclusive' reasons.

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RCC needs to make it clear what is its level of debt; the annual interest payments needed to service this debt and what is the strategy to fully discharge this debt and by what date it will be completely repaid.

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The Council has land and other assets which, with some creative thinking and entrepreneurial management, could yield large annual profits for the organisation. You created Oakham Enterprise Park and The King Centre which were fantastic projects but that was a few years ago now. Nothing new seems to have been brought online. And St Georges Barrack, another great project which suddenly disappeared off the radar. We need more of this commercialism but it seemed to end after Mrs Briggs' departure. Why? Furthermore, like most organisations, you have deadwood in staffing terms which needs a robust and efficient clear out. Scrutinise every single position within the Council mercilessly and optimise staffing efficiency. So much commercial potential within the Council but held back and suffocated by risk aversion and lack of entrepreneurial spirit. Get the right people into the Council to address this and your budget problems will reduce. Senior management team need to give the staff in relevant areas a really good shake up. Bring in some new blood.

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Voluntary organisations become less accountable, are more politicised and can follow their own agenda. Supervising them then takes on a level of management and hence cost.

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When working with the voluntary sector to deliver some of the services, it will be important to ensure that they have Full Cost Recovery and are not seen as a cheap option.

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All possible efficiency savings should be identified and made before council tax is increased and statutory services cut. The Council should still be there to serve all residents not just those in greatest need. People's council tax is a payment for these services after all.

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I do agree with the idea of charging for some non-statutory services but this must be done with thought and care - especially if going down the route of outsourcing to a commercial provider. I do agree in investment to save in the future - especially with regards to IT and infrastructure this often means that once these systems are in place or data has been digitised then council processes are more efficient and take less staff resource. I definitely strongly agree with investing in the website and tools to help

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**Q5 - To what extent do you support the following principles as a way to help the Council reduce costs while continuing to delivery local services? Further comments**

customers self serve - residents with young families will welcome this approach - they do not have time to visit the council offices, post forms or hang on the telephone. I do support the idea of a smaller council and utilising the voluntary sector (and better use of technology) if this is done sensibly. There has to be staff within the council that co-ordinate and support this work - sometimes hybrid approaches can work.

Rutland residents should be charged for essential services they use. Non essential services should be on a PAYG basis. I do not agree that Rutland council tax supports Leics police as an example. Leics residents should pay.

Continuing to inflate council tax to meet the financial gap with risk Rutland's Independence as residence tolerance decreases. Already the most expensive county, in the end the only solution will be to amalgamate with Leicestershire to achieve efficiency rather than take continued hikes to council tax

Vulnerable people can't always help themselves and trying to get people to self-serve is alright in theory but what about people with learning difficulties, illiteracy and who can't use technology. You should provide courses to teach people how to use these technologies because otherwise some people have no idea where to start and so the most vulnerable lose out

Typical tory!

Feels very frustrating that our council tax is being raised again to cover services whilst services are being reduced. Price increase once again for green bin collections whilst increasing council tax at the same time. Issues reported on fix my street take a good while to be rectified or aren't rectified at all until there is an accident.

Smaller does not mean better - be more efficient. Sending two staff to clean a bus stop hut which has no glass etc seems excessive.

If the authority moves to a situation where it just provides. Statutory services then the quality of life of Rutland will suffer. Demise of libraries, sports centres, youth provision the arts etc etc etc

Technology never to be used to replace people, the elderly and those without access to Computers are not able to avail themselves of services online.

Sell off unused parts of the council buildings and move to smaller premises. ie empty shops on the high street, giving residents access to departments. At the moment it is very difficult to speak face to face with any one from the council

Rutland council should be more business like in how it operates. If it isn't statutory unless the returns are absolutely clear why are you doing it. Stick to what you have to do and do that well. The county has many assets - castle is a great example - surely an income generator right there?

**QUESTION SIX:**

**Do you have any other suggestions on how the Council could increase income, reduce costs or make savings to help us balance the budget?**

**Q6 Do you have any other suggestions on how the Council could increase income, reduce costs or make savings to help us balance the budget?**

Promote footfall into the county. Take advantage of the opportunities to increase tourism - cycle paths etc

Do you really question waste or value for money? It's always easy to spend someone else's money.

Sell the Council building to a company that creates jobs, wellbeing and enterprise to our town. Engage with local businesses to ensure a vibrant diverse high Street with 2 hour free parking in all car parks creating a pedestrian people focused high street that has multi purpose spaces. Creating a tourist destination right on the doorstep of our fabulous Rutland water. Our open spaces and social hubs are so under utilised. They should have investment not cuts so they can bring in more revenue to Rutland by increased foot fall.

Try creating fewer new ridiculous posts, and spending vast amounts putting kids into care. Build a special school and properly invest in mainstream, so that kids don't have to travel hundreds of miles to private special schools.

Reduce the cost of the Local Plan. £1.7m is far too high and is more than the £1.3m that will be taken from reserves. Why was the rejected Local Plan not re-drafted? If it does cost £1.7m to produce the



**Q6 Do you have any other suggestions on how the Council could increase income, reduce costs or make savings to help us balance the budget?**

Local Plan, central Government need to be made aware, as this is a waste of tax payers money and the Plan is probably too complex to be meaningful. RCC appears to be reliant on consultants regarding the production of the Local Plan. This should be reviewed

Get the right staff in place who are dynamic and not just sitting there moving paper. By all means use volunteers but they must be managed by competent paid employees and it must benefit both the volunteer and the council. Some people can't afford to volunteer, ensure that they are given all the upskilling in order to do this, that way you get a great reputation and garner goodwill. Also do not hide behind digital means, planners who use google earth rather than visiting sites cause a lot of stress for the public for example

Regrettably, no.

Invest in infrastructure and private sector partners. Levy more on developers and wealthy

I'm sure you will know where efficiencies can be made - this is a basic function of all public offices.

Streamline comms with other emergency services and make use of community sharing facilities - e.g. community radio to reduce repetitive outdated info (e.g. during the floods). Put contracted jobs together across disciplines to give more lasting effects even if it takes a bit longer to achieve. i.e. fixing a road edge is quickly negated if the drains are not cleared to prevent it re-eroding.

Reduce costs by stopping jobs that do not interface directly with residents. Eg equality officers, diversity training. Stop spending money on nice to have things.

NO pay rise for councils.

Reduce staff levels , eliminate most managerial posts .

Cut pay of the idiots not doing their jobs stop wasting money on all things council and look after the people your ment to and not just your horrible rich friends who give the council big brown envelopes full of money to ruin our town, oh no wait a minute your doing it anyway

Reduce the number of contractors and outsourcing used by RCC

stop allowing more housing estates to be built so that you can deliver services and infrastructure properly to the thousands that now live here.

Sell Catmose. Open offices on the enterprise park with good parking. Catmose is not fit for purpose , old and run down. Get RCC employees back in offices, not working from home. Service provision has deteriorated since home working was introduced. Emails are not answered by many departments and nobody deals with the public's problems. Open up the customer services counter and let taxpayers speak to staff face to face.

People in general do not value the services they receive which cost nothing, as much as those for which they have to pay at least something. I suggest the Council consider seriously which services this could reasonably apply to, and introduce modest charges where appropriate on a gradual basis. Also, we should consider where outside providers could provide such services on a fair commercial basis.

Can the council ask for voluntary additional contributions (is that legal)? Can the council be sponsored in some way? This may be contentious due to the motives of some sponsors, but may be worth considering. Cutting costs really comes down to limiting pay, cutting posts or deploying technology more effectively as already suggested. Does AI have a role?

No

Illegal parking fines Reduction in housing developments which increase extra pressure on the old sewage, water and Utilities as current structures were not designed to take on these extra pressures which overload causing disruption then increase road, structural damage and a knock on to current residents

Lease with other local authorities so that the expertise that they have is used in Rutland ie have them oversea Rutland services and have a flatter management structure so get rid of top managers

Yes, put till road on main street great Casterton for non residential persons using the roads. Therefore kids would have to walk to school, haulage companies would either pay or find an alternate route.

Lobby for Fair funding from government Ensure council staff are competent to fulfill there responsibilities efficiently Hold service providers / contractors to account to make sure their services are deployed right first time

**Q6 Do you have any other suggestions on how the Council could increase income, reduce costs or make savings to help us balance the budget?**

Sell the council building. Employer carers directly by council. Put those needing 24/7 care into group facilities not 1:1 or 2:1 individually. Provide SEN places in Rutland schools so the children aren't driven out of county for education. Le Wilds lodge could be a SEN school for Rutland children only.

Rejoin Leicestershire and stop the vanity of being a unitary authority

Get more funding from the government, don't just accept it

reduce funding for police and use the money that council tax bring in the pay for other stuff as not to make people pay more for

Stop going along with the climate lies and stop the incessant chemtrailing of Rutland. You have not done your due diligence if you believe there is a climate emergency. Also revert the car parks to accepting cash - you are discriminating against people by making them card only.

Yes, sell council offices and downsize. Make sure all lights are turned off at the end of the day.

Stop wastage and duplication. Ensure contracts get the best value for money.

The planning dept have full information through planning applications and follow up building control inspections for large house extensions, to enable RE- BANDING OF THESE HOMES, once the extensions are complete. This would bring in much needed cash through additional council tax, which is fully justified and considering how many of these extended homes exist in Rutland, it is an easy way to raise funds.

Employ less staff who just fob people off. Make it more user friendly and compassionate. Be there when needed and answer the phone at the very least. The public want to get value for the money they pay in rates out of your services.

I can't think of anyway to increase income per see, but I am sure there are ways to cut costs or increase efficiency, take the best ideas from the private sector, but don't pay for a consultant to do so.

At the moment it feels like we're paying a significant amount of council tax and not actually gaining much benefit for doing so. For example the roads are full of pot holes, the bins are broken and not replaced, the town centre looks tired and is lacking in substance, there is little to nothing for children age 8+ to actually do here (aside from a trip to Rutland Water which loses its attraction after multiple trips), there's no public swimming pool, no play area for older kids, no council provided club to go to to make friends and learn new skills. Nor is there proper provision for children with additional needs that cannot attend mainstream school ie the school you're about to close. So yes you may be spending lots of money, but it doesn't feel like it's going on the right things.

No

No

Scrap ALL consultants. They offer no benefit

Sell under-utilised land for commercial development.

Get a fair deal from the government and spend every pound as if it were your own

Increase productivity and bring benefits in line with the private sector

Reduce headcount. Go back to Leicestershire.

1.Clear debt and reduce interest payable. 2. Explore greater partnership working with all neighbouring Local authorities to lever economies of scale.

Enhanced Digital Services: Implementing or upgrading digital platforms for public services can improve efficiency and reduce operational costs. This can include online payment systems, digital submission of forms, and virtual consultations. Energy Efficiency Initiatives: Investing in energy-efficient infrastructure and practices can significantly reduce utility costs. This could include LED street lighting, solar panel installations on government buildings, and promoting green initiatives within the community. Property Asset Management: Optimizing the use of local authority-owned properties, such as renting out unused spaces or selling underutilized assets, can generate significant income. Local Tourism and Cultural Promotion: Developing and promoting local tourism and cultural events can increase revenue through tourism. This includes enhancing local attractions, hosting events, and improving tourism-related infrastructure. Community Volunteering Programs: Encouraging community volunteer programs for maintaining public spaces, such as parks and community centers, can reduce labor costs while fostering community engagement.

Reduce the ridiculous salaries paid to your top executive team. You are not in the private sector and so do not have the job insecurity that goes with that. Your pension schemes should be reduced as most firms have done as they are totally unaffordable. Given your recent complete lack of response to the flooding I think reducing your head count would have no impact whatsoever. We didn't need someone coming round to check our mental health was ok after we got flooded, we needed the council to do their job properly to prevent flooding by clearing drains, ensuring planning doesn't cause more issues and

**Q6 Do you have any other suggestions on how the Council could increase income, reduce costs or make savings to help us balance the budget?**

securing gov. funding to help households build their own defences - none of which you are going to do for years.

As per previous comment, the holy grail is commercial investment. Ditch the naysayers in your Property team & start developing & release the financial potential in your property portfolio.

For a county of 41000 to spend half of the budget on social and children services seems huge. How many people are accessing this service ?

Actually stop charging so high for council tax many people can't afford it.

Increase charges for non locals - eg at Rutland Water (I know it is Anglian Water) who use the leisure and tourist facilities.

Stop pretending to be a 'County Council' and seek savings as part of Leicestershire or Lincs. Current RCC is not 'fit for purpose'.

Oakham, as the County Town of Rutland, should be a major national and international tourist destination, but everything currently works against this. Business rates and rents are too high, so businesses fail, traffic wardens prowl the streets and stop people wanting to come here. If Stamford can have 2 hours of on street parking, why not here? The easier it is to park, the more affordable the shops, the more vibrant the town would become. How can a County Town not have a leisure centre, a pool, a cinema, an arts centre? All these things would bring in income. There has to be a long-term vision of investment in partnership with the private sector to bring life to our county town. Stamford has all those things, it's time Rutland matched this. The quickest and best saving would be to get rid of the traffic wardens who are a complete drain and are detrimental to the local economy.

Departments need to become more efficient

Rent out or use underused council buildings for commercial gains. Identify any efficiencies that can be made in council workforce. Share certain services across other councils where possible. Allow staff to buy additional leave which could allow some salary savings.

Get rid of unpleasant traffic wardens who discourage visitors and affect the local economy negatively. The town is dying as it is without this .

Your leaflet details a budget of £49.1 million. Spending on key frontline services add up to £36.6 million. No mention is made of the £12.5 million of spend that could be subject to savings especially around Staffing and efficiency working where you suggest under £2m less than 10% and no mention of staff cuts.

Rutland is small in terms of population. Where we can gain efficiency by sharing and partnering other and larger authorities, we must do so. "Leicester" is not a dirty word

Make more of the tourism opportunities within the county and consider charging for museum/castle etc entry for non-rutland residents - this will only work if the attractions warrant the fee which I'm not convinced they do currently. Drive the regeneration of the town centre to bring in more tourism/make people spend longer in the town. Make better use of council owned sites/sell off certain sites.

Consolidate office space at Catmose. Allow working from home more often. Reduce the number of agency workers who cost more. Focus on retention of existing staff. Consider the Parking levy for workers who drive to work.

INVESTIGATE THE RUNNING OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES. THERE IS NO CONSISTENCY IN STAFFING AND ARE VERY LIMITED WITH INCOMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC.

Stop using council tax to fund pensions

Each household should be charged the same council tax £ amount regardless of size or value. Non essential services should be PAYG. Care and support services should be centrally funded or self funded.

Stamford becomes part of a Rutland County Council Unitary Authority. ie Rutland and Stamford County Council -Stamford becomes part of Rutland

Work more collaboratively with the big businesses in the county. Be proactive in exploiting Rutland's assets - welcome tourism.

Sack all councillors and run like a proper business

Charge more for services that aren't statutory, stop discount on green bins, have more staff who actually help people and do the work, rather than employing senior staff on excessive money who haven't got a clue, have more courses for residents to go on and generate revenue from these, use the museum and castle more for courses/events to generate income, stop bowing down to popularity votes - you couldn't afford the gym at Harrington until the Press got involved and then you suddenly found the money - charge more for the gym and childcare services so it's profitable and tax payers who don't

**Q6 Do you have any other suggestions on how the Council could increase income, reduce costs or make savings to help us balance the budget?**

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want to subsidise the gym or childcare don't have to. Fine new build estates who ruin the local area by flooding it and messing up the roads - Brooke Road is going to be a nightmare and the houses won't be affordable to everyday people.

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Let tradespeople use the recycling facilities so as to minimise fly tipping and maximise onward usage of the items

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Residential respite unit or respite foster carers could help increase income by offering services to other local authorities but prioritising Rutland children and young people.

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By identifying those young people who will end up costing the council more if they go on to escalate into more expensive statutory services. There seems a reluctance / recognition that we have these families that if we don't provide intensive preventative work then they will go on to cost the authority a lot more money.

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The authority is I feel long term not viable it has the population of many town councils less than most districts and tries to punch the weight of a county. We can stay Rutland with its lord lieutenants xx number deputies 2 mayors sheriffs etc without say a wage bill of £500,000 + for senior officials. We have not got the economies of scale to survive and provide the quality of service deserved.

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Share more services with Leicestershire

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Sell off council buildings! As they are under used. Also this would save on energy costs as energy is being used for empty rooms

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Review contracting procedures to focus on value for money. Ensure recruitment procedures focus on getting the best candidates but streamline procedures to reduce costs - do you need such extensive testing etc.

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Retain your staff and stop spending on agency

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Maybe a more cost effective Council building

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Increase productivity. Reduce pensions and benefits to bring in line with private sector

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Cut local precepts

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