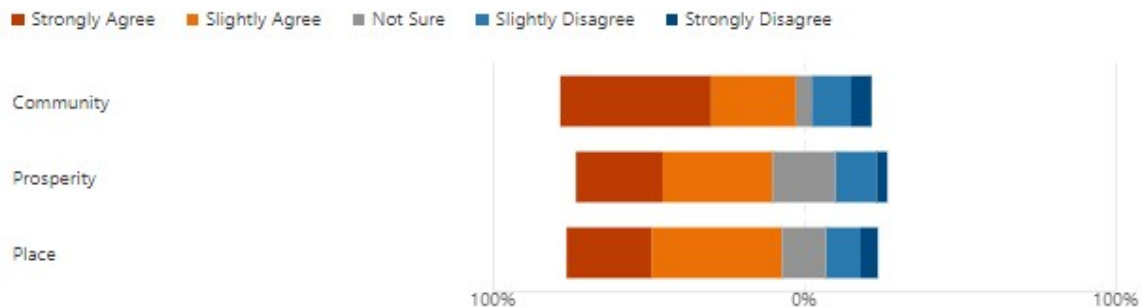


## Maldon District Council- your budget, your say survey analysis 2021

As of 7.30am, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September there are 66 responses to the budget survey

The survey closes 10<sup>th</sup> September at 11pm. Results so far are shown below.

### Q1- do you agree with the priorities set out in the three themes?



For all of the themes, less than 20% disagreed with the priorities set out and the majority slightly or strongly agreed with the priorities set out in Corporate Plan.

### Q2 - 26 respondents gave follow up comments for this

- Six of these felt that there wasn't enough detail on the actions and how things would be delivered
- Three of these felt too much housing was being built
- Three of these were about Essex County Council and a lack of value for money
- Three comments were made about being customer driven/ doing what is right for local people.

The word cloud below shows specific words that came up frequently from responses



### Q3 If there is a different priority you think the Council should focus on, please tell us here?

29 responses were given for this question

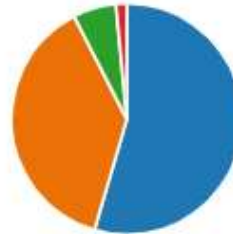
- Five talked about more infrastructure like doctors, schools and roads to go with housing
- Four said Climate/ environment should have greater importance
- Two suggested wellbeing and addressing Covid-19 impacts in this area



4. The government have set a limit to increase council tax by 2% or £5 a year (whichever is greater). Maldon has factored into the medium-term financial plan a £5 increase (10p a week) to try and maintain services, given reductions in grant funding and inflationary costs. Do you agree with this approach?

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Yes	36
No	25
Unsure	4
I do not pay Council Tax	1

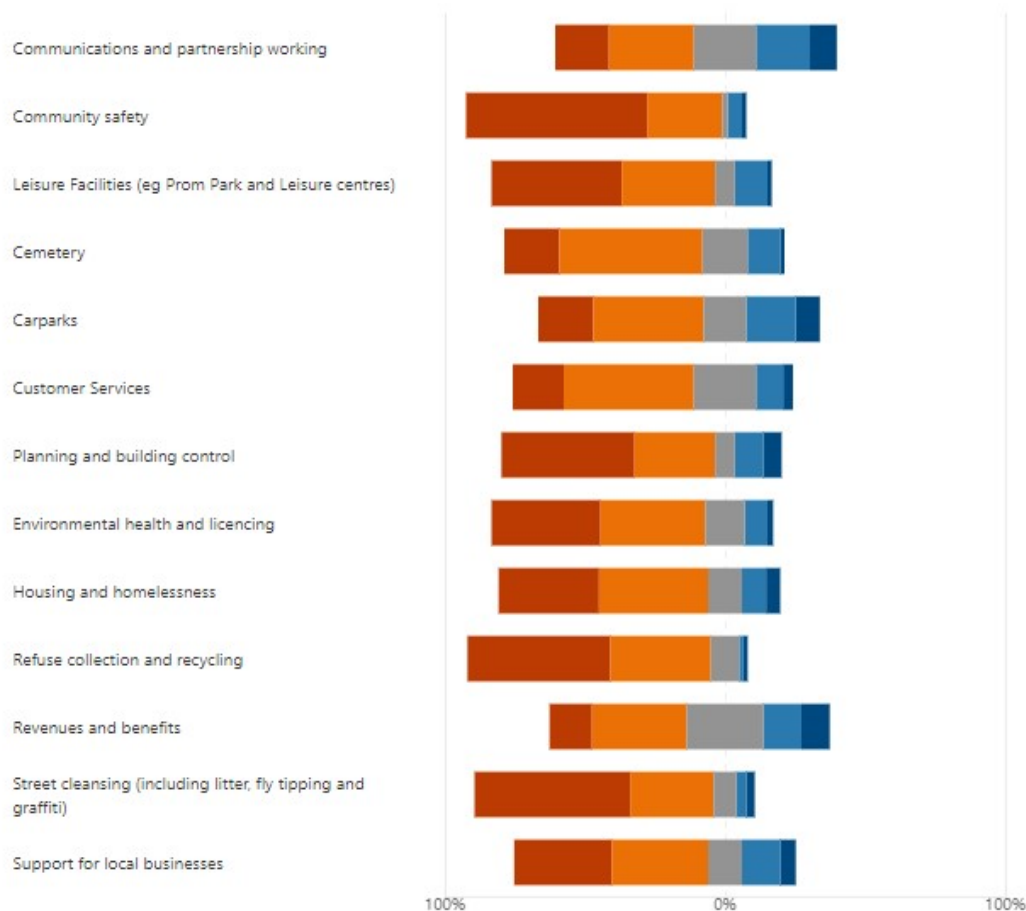


55% said yes to this question, while 38% said no. A further 7% either weren't sure or didn't pay Council Tax.

5. To what extent do you agree that the following should be a top priority for Council funding?

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Strongly Agree Slightly Agree Not Sure Slightly Disagree Strongly Disagree



Community safety (64%) and street cleansing (56%) had the most respondents strongly agree they should be a priority.

Communications and partnership working (28%) car parks (26%) and revenues and benefits (24%) had the higher numbers where respondents either slightly disagreed or strongly disagreed that they should be a priority for Council funding

**Q6 - Suggestions given for saving or making money are listed below:**

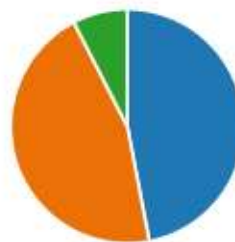
ID	Responses
1	If a perceived good service is delivered there are no complaints .... reducing services because they are not revenue generating will undoubtedly lead to complaints and dissatisfaction with respect to Council Tax . The fact that they have been cut to reduce the tax will not be considered by residents only that they have seen a decline or want a better service.
2	I think using the Prom park for events as you have begun to do again, and really utilising what is a jewel in the crown of Maldon as a district is something which really should be built on
3	Charge higher fees for new housing applications with a multiple based on number of units covered by the application
4	Reduce the overall numbers of District Councillors and Council Directors.
5	Stop building housing and making the town overcrowded and full of pollution also don't be so greedy! Recognition that council tax is actually too high for a household to be able to pay especially after Covid.
6	Up car parking to non maldon residents
7	Provide more chargeable public car parking spaces to encourage more people to the area
8	The Friary Fields car park is hardly ever used at a weekend so the pre-pay should be Monday to Friday with a pay and display at weekend. Only need about 6 weekend permits that could be purchased by residents who live in the immediate area only.
9	Cost cut within and be 100% more efficient in how you run things!
10	Planning applications is expensive cost why?
11	Difficult to answer those questions above, without further detail being provided (I am not an expert). My view is that council tax should increase for those who can afford, so I don't agree with the government imposed limit of £5. I could easily be in a minority of one person in that view.
12	Stop building more houses taking away what's left of our green spaces and fund a better high street, more varied shops, another doctors surgery, dentists, schools etc.
13	Parking people who do not like to pay like taking advantage of the single yellow line from 4.30 pm every night
14	Please could you put double yellow lines in at white horse car park, to ensure those parking use the car park for £1!!!!!!
15	Restructure the council, reduce jobs, stop building.
16	Accurate and true assessment of external contractors. More events held at the prom to boost local economy.

ID	Responses
17	Ev charge points at council car parks. Cheaper car parking at the prom. I was horrified at the cost when relatives visited recently
18	Don't crowd out private sector by trying to raise revenue. Reduce back office and poor performing staff
19	More public money raising events
20	Open all refuse tips to trade vehicles stop flytipping
21	Stop paying high wages and put the money into filling pot holes and bringing back our local police stations and make a weekly bin collection
22	Car parking in the town should be free. This will encourage more spending in local business and benefit the community. Free parking is available in tourist towns such as Southwold and does not cause congestion in the areas where you do not want people to park.
23	People Park in swimming pool carpark and go elsewhere, prom, bus, who knows, give leisure charge and give leisure centre users a pass.
24	It is not the role of the council to provide grants to businesses; that should continue to be completely mismanaged by central government and MDC should not be handing out taxpayer funds to local businesses.

7. Do you agree that the Council should move to electronic payment methods only (no cash) wherever possible to provide more modern and efficient payment methods?

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[Insights](#)



47% said yes and 45% said no, with a further 8% unsure on whether we should move to electronic payments only

Comments from those who didn't agree were themed around digitally excluding some people that usually pay cash.

There were also a number of comments from those who did agree around how people are more used to cashless due to Covid, and that it is a more simple and efficient way of payment.

**The following responses were given when asked if respondents had any other comments on the budget**

ID	Responses
1	It appears to be as prudent as it can realistically be
2	Seek to reduce back office costs by sharing services/procurement contracts with other Council or public bodies
3	Council are deceptive with the money and most people know it so if u want support then start from honest and put yourselves in a regular families shoes for once. No more greediness please start thinking of the people who have to live daily lives knowing they pay you all this money and it gets wasted on whatever the hell u want because you are more powerful and can basically do what u like. Don't make out you will even consider what the people of Maldon think.
4	Look at what your parish council's needs/budgeting for - and make sure they get it!
5	The council is working very well and has done throughout the pandemic. However I get the feeling that the staff I have spoken to are overworked and some have even mentioned as much in conversation. More staff should be hired to increase the number of people available to deliver the important local services and deal with peoples problems when they need them.
6	I feel Maldon usually manages their budget well and it's a pleasure living in Maldon so well done.
7	More cost efficiency within please
8	Revenue budget needs a financial review
9	I cannot see how continuously impoverished councils can continue to provide services unless those who can afford it (and many can) pay more money.
10	Stop building more houses taking away whats left of our green spaces and fund a better high street, more varied shops, another doctors surgery, dentists, schools etc.
11	Reduce, not increase
12	My answer is far too long for this box
13	Save money rather than putting taxes up
14	You should be reducing Council Tax not increasing it
15	Please please continue to focus on efficiency and reducing waste. Are all of your staff's roles truly required and relevant in the age we live in; MDC should be run like any successful private company - lean, efficiently and with a performance culture not a complacency culture.