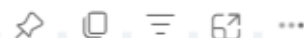




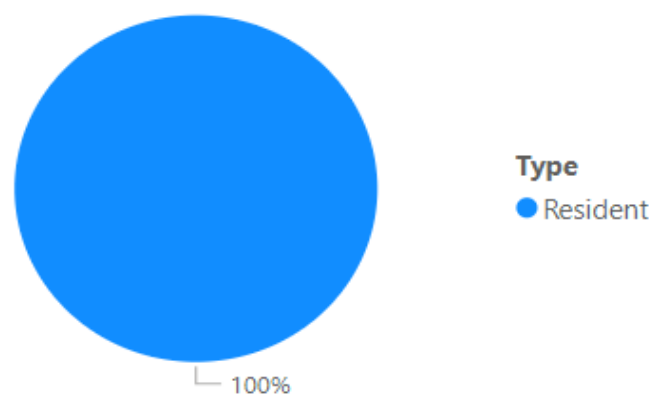
## Survey Methodology

The budget survey was live from 11th August to 26th September. It was online and supported by Communications, with the option of calling to request a paper survey also promoted.

In 2022 we received 134 responses to the previous budget survey, This year, the response number was 75, which was a decrease and caution must be applied, as 300+ counts as a good representative sample for a self-selecting survey in Maldon.



## Respondent type



## Summary of Findings

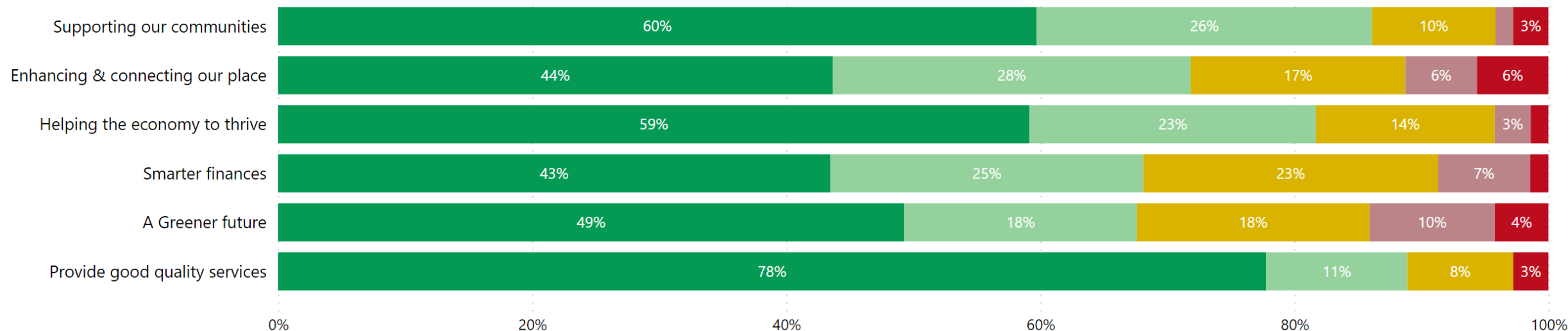
- Overall the majority were in agreement with the corporate plan priorities, with `Provide good quality services` being the most agreed with.
- 62% of people are in agreement to the Council Tax increase approach.
- 59% of people are in some way `comfortable` with the cost of living crisis impacts, which is a 28% increase from last year.
- 48% did not agree with the minimum contribution for those in receipt of council tax support, with suggesting alternative methods for the Council to find relief on public funds. Where respondents did agree, the most common suggestion for contribution should be 21-25%.
- There was a fairly even split of agreement V disagreement for reducing the savings limit to receive council tax support. Where respondents agreed, the suggested amount was equal between £5,000 or £5,000 or less.
- The most selected funding priorities for the 3 areas were Community safety, Climate action response & Refuse recycling and collection. The two other areas which were suggested but not as commonly were, Providing affordable housing and preventing homelessness, & Street cleansing.
- Car park charging structure & Commercial investments were the most suggested for income generation

**Note:** Open ended questions have been clustered to represent a trend.

## Corporate Priority Agreement

Do you agree with the six priorities set out in the Corporate Plan?

● Strongly Agree ● Slightly Agree ● Not Sure ● Slightly Disagree ● Strongly Disagree



**When asked: If you would like to provide any comments relating to the selections you have made above please do so here.**

40% of people responded to this question. The top theme of comment was 'Better transport links (Buses, walking & cycling)', responses illustrating the link of easing accessibility of the District to support other priorities.

Second theme was 'Communication/focus of Corporate plan', most responses were noting the need for more detail to enable understanding, focus & accountability.

Third theme was 'Environment protection', noting the need to preserve & maintain the green spaces

[Click here to see full results please](#)

**When asked: If there is a different strategic priority you think the Council should focus on, please tell us here**

35% of people responded to this question.

There were two equal themes which was 'Infrastructure', responses covering the need for more to support growth, and then 'Limit Development', noting the need to slow new build housing and prevent the District from becoming over developed

Second most common theme was 'Transport', with all comments illustrating the need to connect the more rural parts of the District, and to improve community access to key infrastructure.

[Click here to see full results please](#)





When asked: If you would like to provide any comments relating to the selections you have made above please do so here.

Theme 1 (Priority Comments)	Occurrence
Better transport links (Bus, Walking, Cycling etc)	6
Communication/focus of Corporate Plan	5
Environment protection	4
Performance/Goal Setting	2
Quality services delivered	2
Stronger Development Negotiations (Infrastructure)	2
Business Support	1
Business Support & Staffing Structure	1
Community focus	1
Community focus for spending	1
Digital Support	1
Exclude Finances	1
Less climate & more people focus	1
Privatise appropriate services	1
Remove cars from towns	1

‘It is impossible to disagree with any of these corporate priorities, and the Corporate Plan, while very pretty to look at, needs to be much more accessible and focused. The Council's future priorities should be prioritised and ideally the whole plan can be summed up on one side of A4 paper ‘

‘Services are the essential role of a local authority and should take precedence, if people can move around all the different and great places in our district then the economy will thrive and people's access to services will improve ‘

When asked: If there is a different strategic priority you think the Council should focus on, please tell us here

Theme 2 (Priority Direction)	Occurrence
Infrastructure	6
Limit Development	5
Transport	3
Crime Management	2
Efficient Services	2
Protecting Coast & Countryside	2
Road Management Engagement	2
Energy saving	1
Reduction in size of Council	1
Service Quality	1
Stronger Development Negotiations	1
Support working community	1

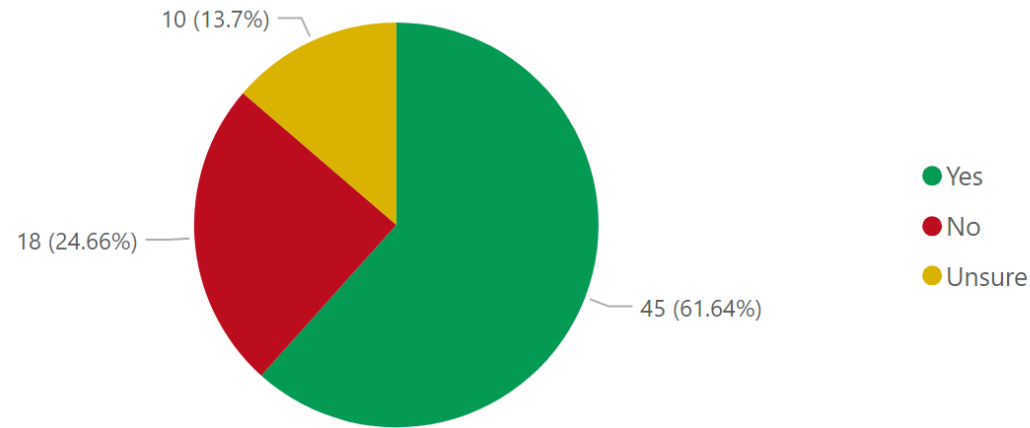
Prioritising essential infrastructure to support growing communities

‘Prevent even more land being lost to development, and communities being swallowed up. ‘

‘ The land for housing development needs careful consideration as using previously fertile land for houses instead of growing our food is not sustainable for the UK, Maldon needs to lead this consideration when thinking about planning. ‘

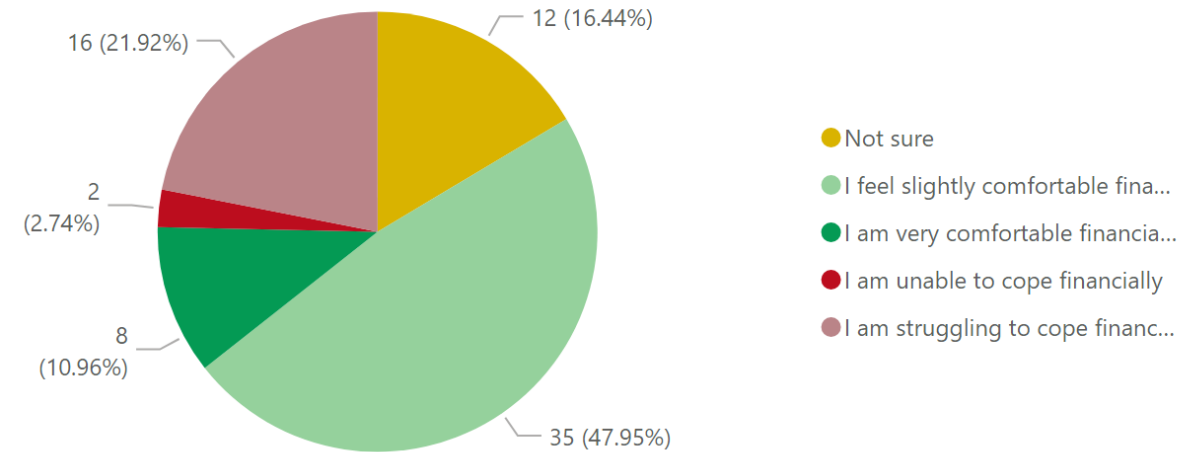
## Agreement to Council tax increase approach

The government has set a limit for district councils to increase council tax by 3% in 2024/25. Maldon has factored this increase into its medium term financial plan to try and maintain services, given uncertainty around government grant funding and continued inflationary pressures



## Cost of living crisis impact

Do you feel the current cost of living crisis is having an impact of how you manage your household financ...



**When asked: If you would like to provide any comments relating to the selections you have made above please do so here.**

21% of people responded to this question, all responses were unique and did not form a trend or priority.

- Clear increase in Council Tax Criteria (i.e) all bands
- Improve communication between council & Residents
- Ensure good policies are in place
- Explanation as to the need for increases
- Government Tax Initiatives
- Improvement to community and animal welfare
- Improvement to infrastructure & Environment
- Lobby to lift restriction on Council Tax increase
- More cost effective activities in the District
- Stop over development
- Promotion what the Council achieves.
- Senior Staffing Review
- Understanding of council funding issues

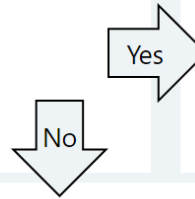
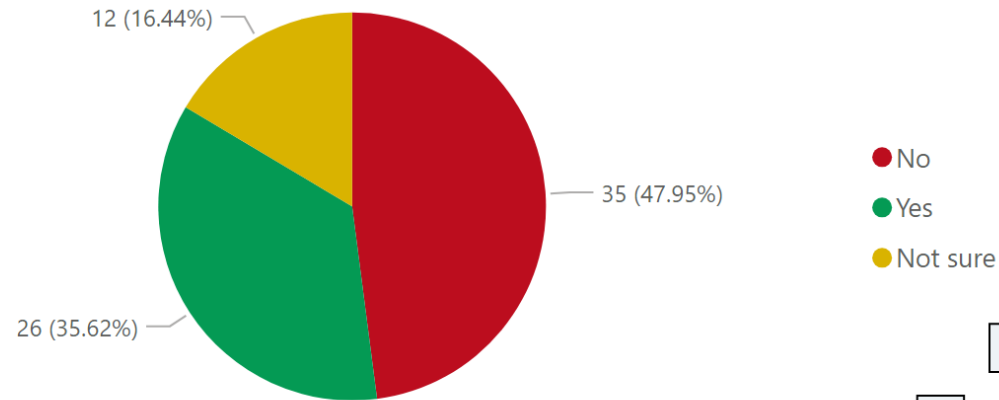
*'The Council should show off what I does well - your recycling stats are fantastic for example'*

*'I think MDC should lobby the government to lift the limit to council tax increase'*

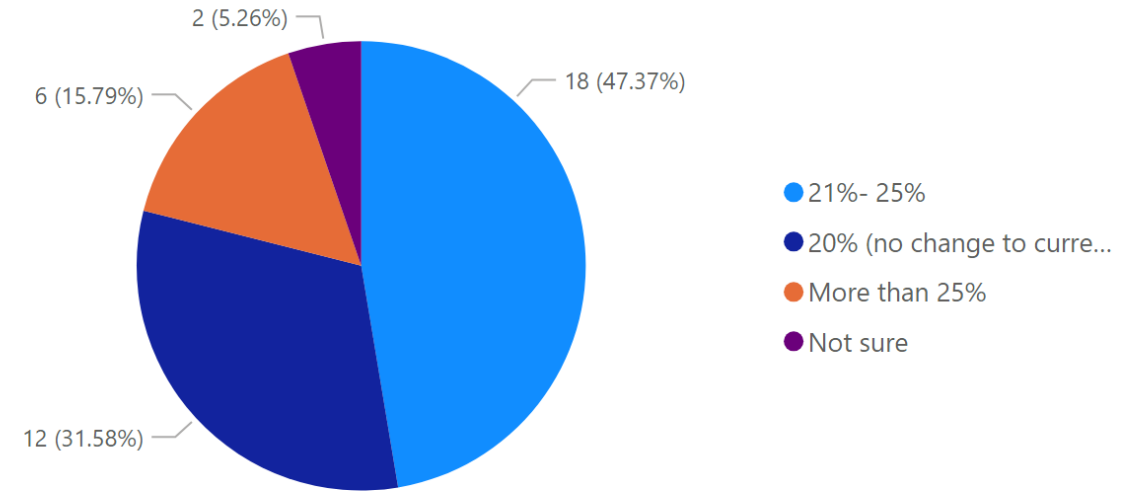


## Minimum Council Tax payment for all non-exempt working age residents

All non-exempt working age residents pay a minimum of 20% towards their Council Tax, that percentage hasn't changed since 2013. This would reduce the cost of the Council Tax Support Scheme on public funds but would mean that households on a low income would have to pay more

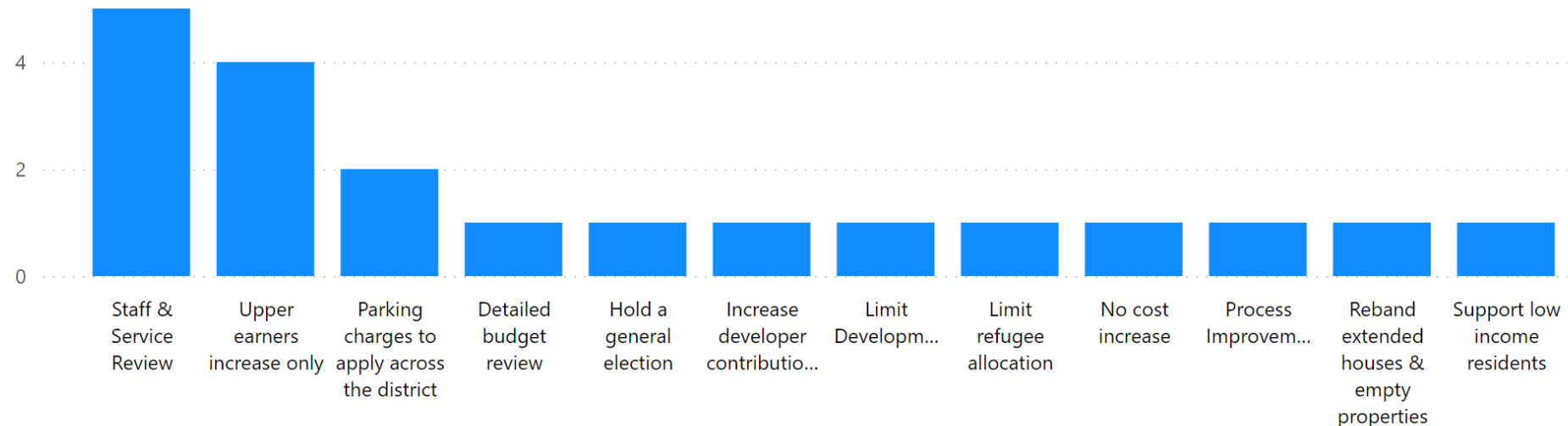


## Suggestion levels of minimum payment that you think each household should pay



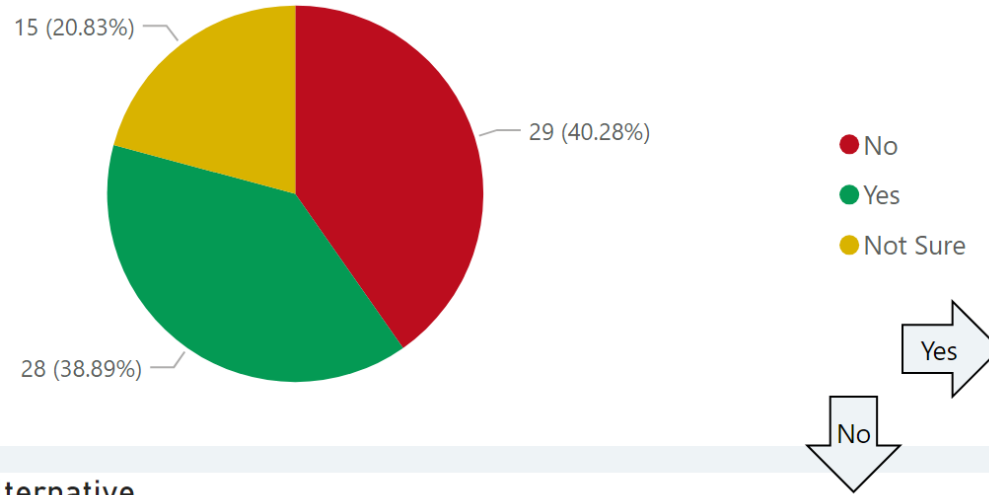
## Suggestions on alternative approach for cost reduction

When asked: If you disagree what alternative to reducing costs would you propose?

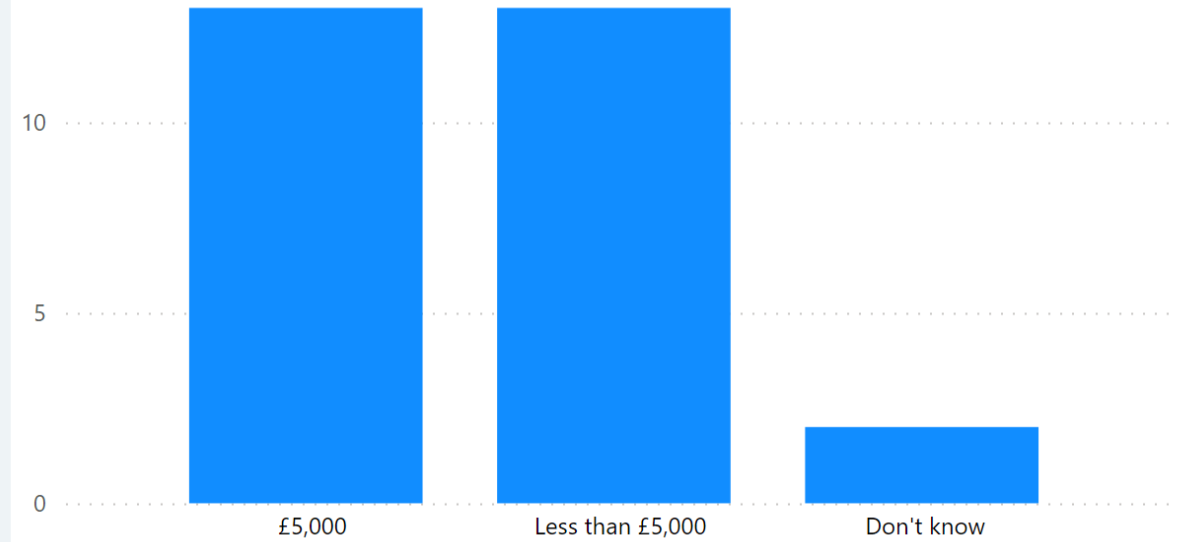


## Support for reduction in the £6,000 savings limit, for Council Tax support

Working age residents with savings over £6,000 are not eligible for Council Tax Support, that figure hasn't changed since 2013. Would you support a reduction in the £6,000 savings limit? This would reduce the cost of the Council Tax Support Scheme but would mean that low income households with more savings ...



## What do you think the capital limit should be set at?

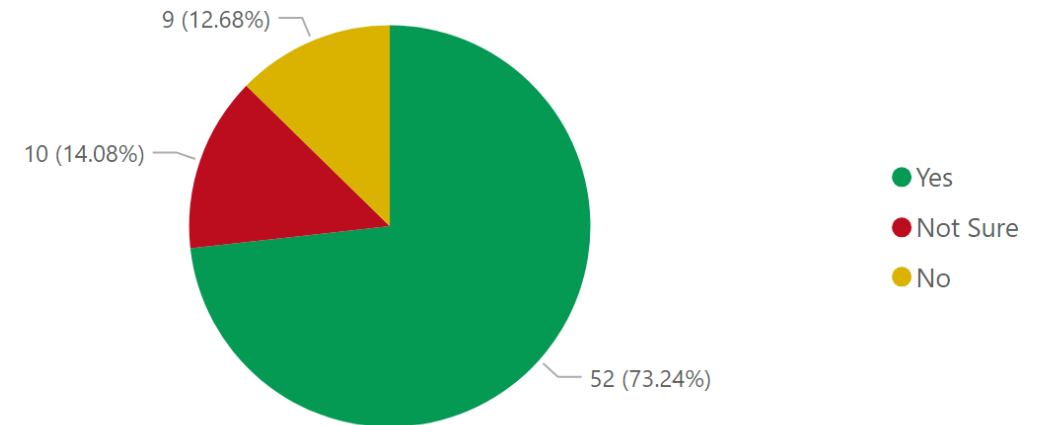


## Cost reduction alternative

When asked: If you disagree what alternative to reducing costs would you propose?



## Do you agree that every working age resident who has capital/savings over a set amount should not qualify for Council Tax Support?



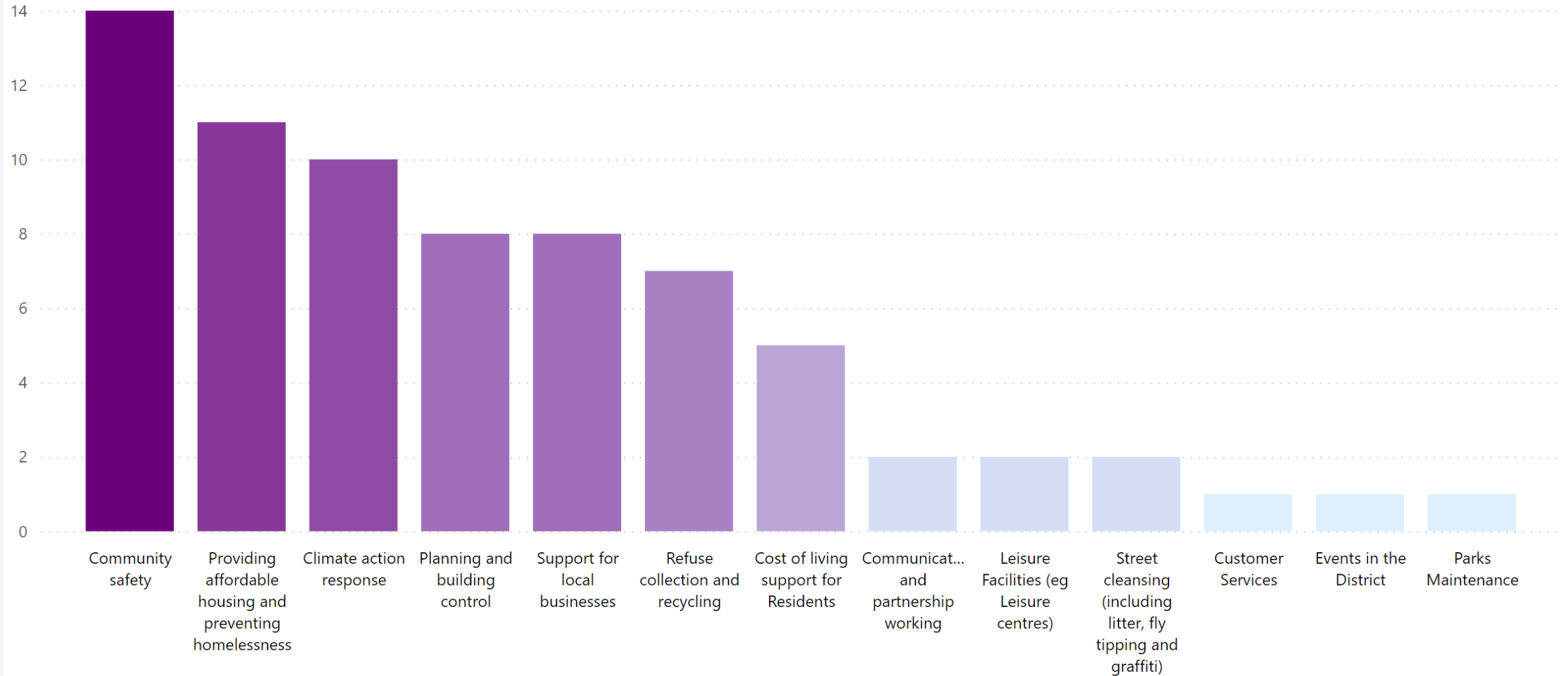
## Priority 1

## Priority 2

## Priority 3

### Funding Priority One

Please select which you think is a priority for council funding - Priority one







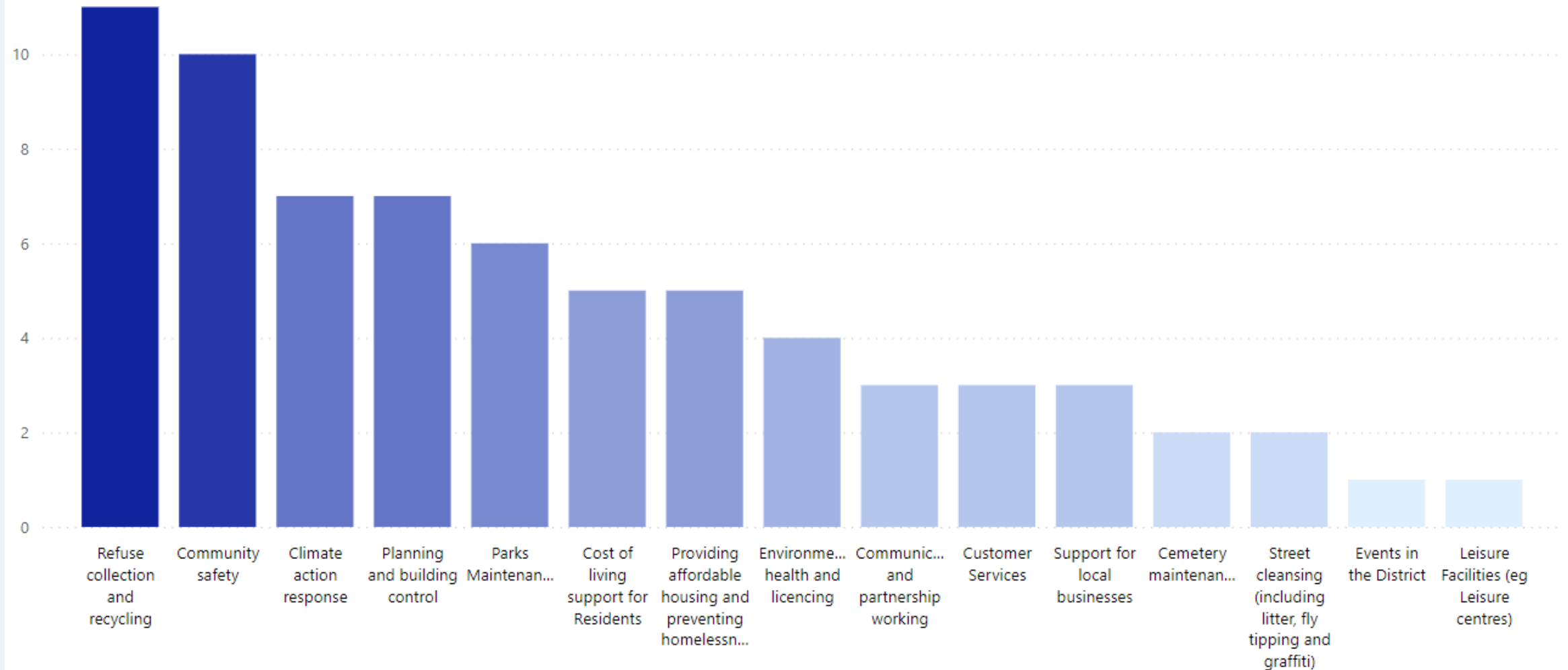
Priority 1

Priority 2

Priority 3

## Funding Priority Two

Please select which you think is a priority for council funding - Priority two







## Funding Priorities

APPENDIX 6



Priority 1

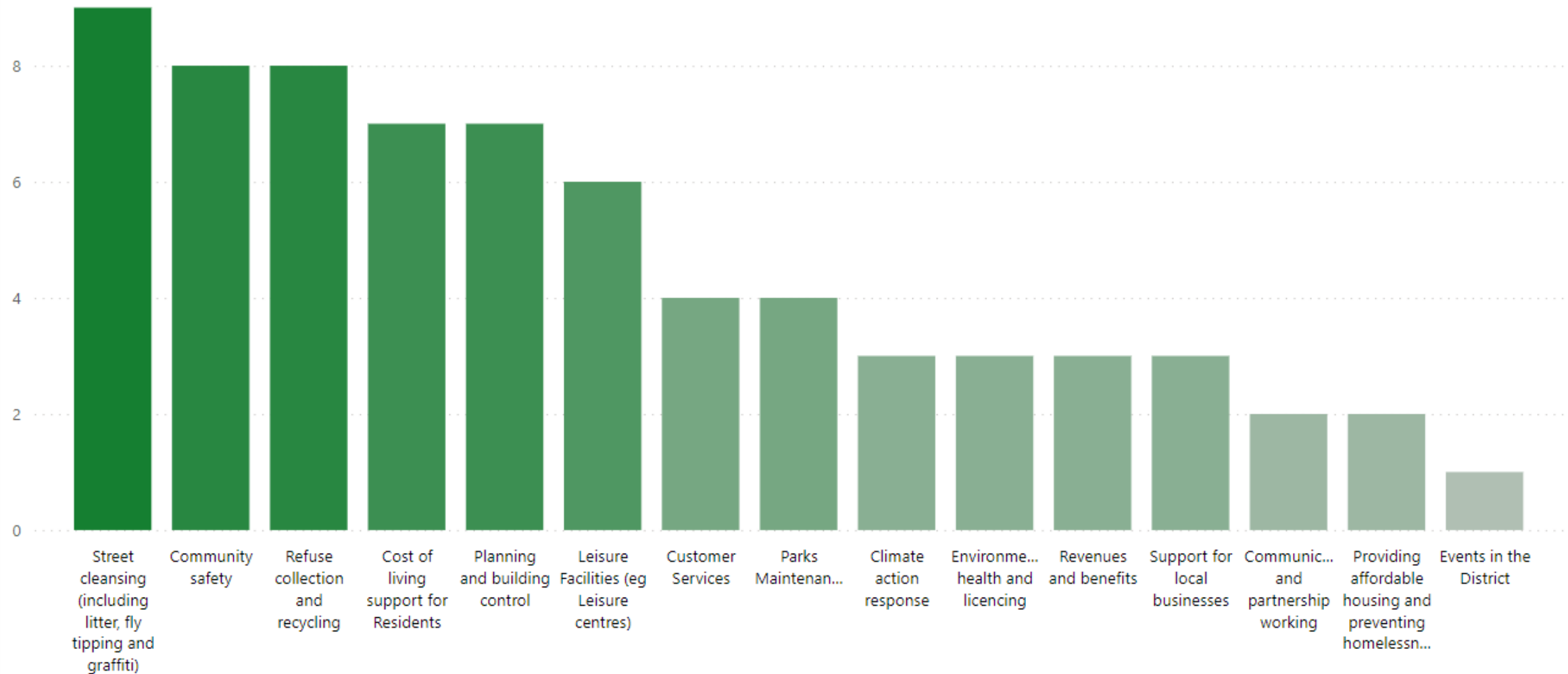
Priority 2

Priority 3



### Funding Priority Three

Please select which you think is a priority for council funding - Priority three





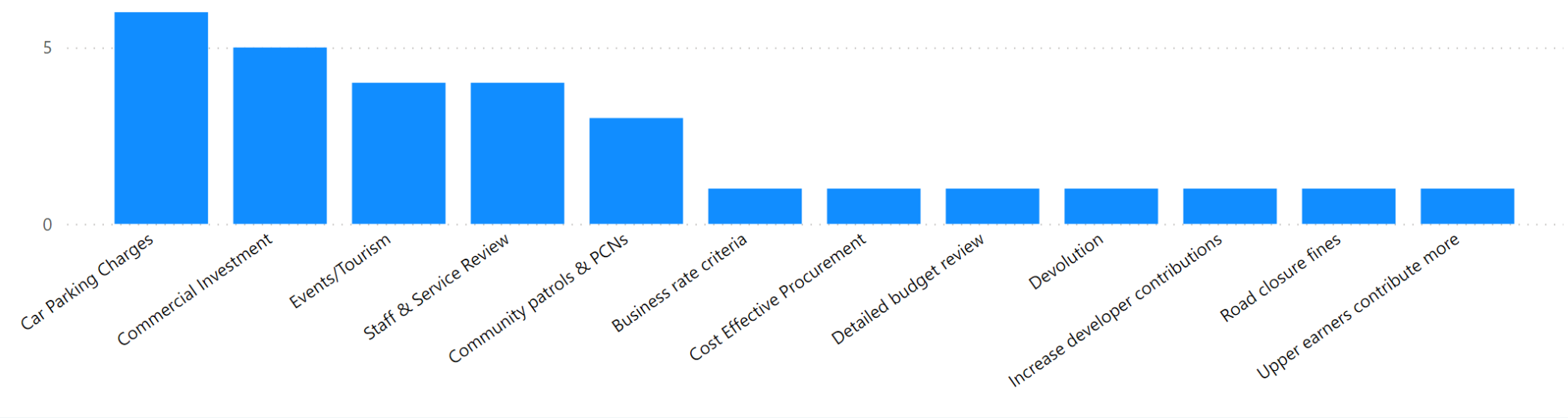
# Income & Budget Suggestions



## APPENDIX 6

### Income generation suggestions

When asked: If you have any suggestions as to how the Council should save money or generate more income, please tell us.

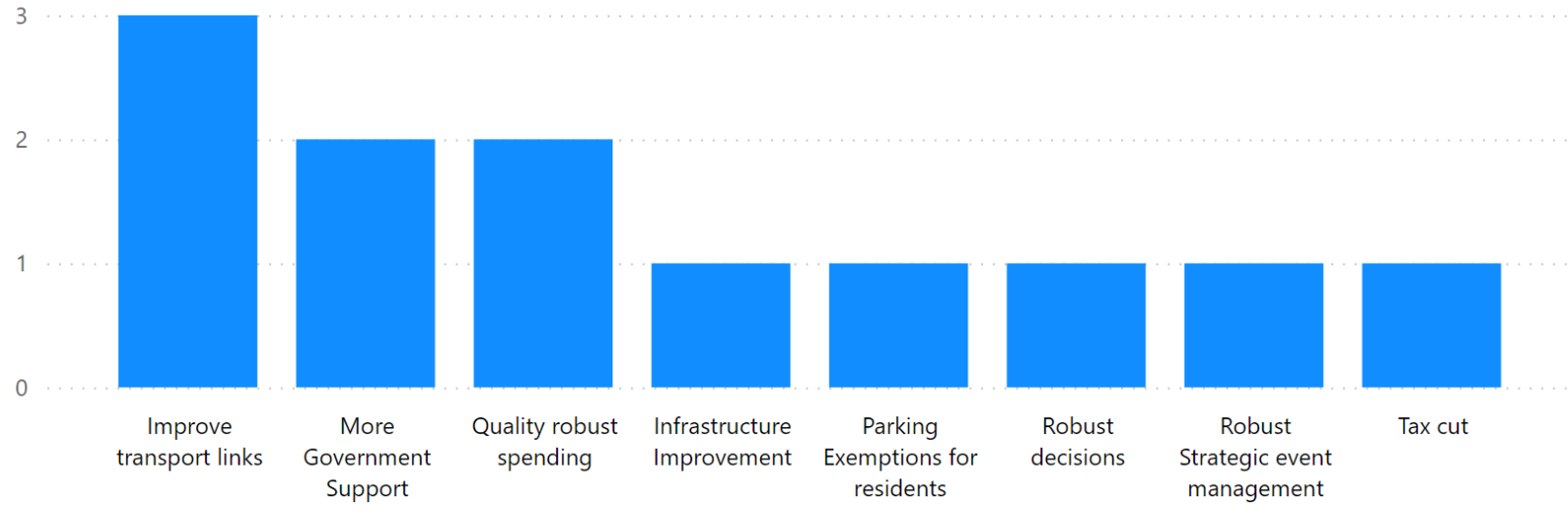


*‘More creativity on generating revenue. Offer more free parking days in the town and record this to a normal day and share with local residents to see if it makes a difference’*

*‘A municipal park and ride scheme could generate income while allowing prime property currently used for car parking in town to be sold/developed/re-purposed’*

### Other suggestions on budget

When asked: If you have any other comments on the Council's budget please tell us.



*‘Sustainable transport, including cycle paths’*

*‘Councils have too much statutory obligations with too little government support’*

*‘Past cuts did a lot of damage to internal services, this has to be put right’*