

Quick Overview: budget consultation 2025

The next few pages will provide a summary of key facts and figures from the consultation

Total Responses

A total of 1,694 people and professional bodies completed the budget consultation either online, by email, letter or print submission.



Link to survey data:

- [1542 responses online](#)



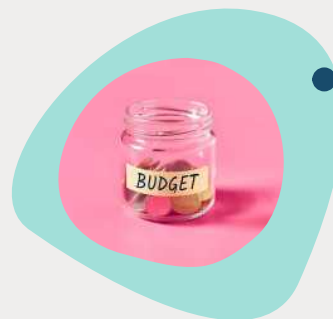
Council Tax Snapshot

from the 1562 responses (online and written submissions):



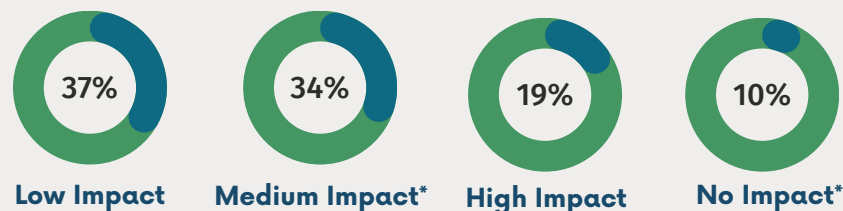
Council Tax Proposals

Respondents were asked what is the maximum percentage increase on Council Tax you would be willing to pay to help protect council services (with options from 'no increase' to 'more than 15%').



Impact of tax changes

Respondents were asked to what extent increasing Council Tax would negatively impact you?



*Percentage rounded up



Examples of comments

“While I understand this, it’s pushing those of us not entitled to benefits to that point of struggling to survive.”

“Would rather pay a little more and not have a reduction in services.”

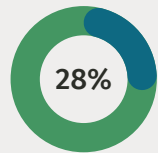
Place Directorate - Schools and Libraries

from the 1542 online responses and 23 written submissions:

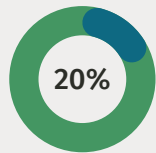


Impact of service changes

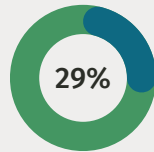
Respondents were asked what impact would redesigning school and public library services have on them.



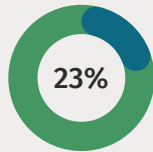
Low Impact*



Medium Impact



High Impact



No Impact

*Percentage rounded up



Examples of comments

“Midlothian libraries are the most precious and enabling aspect of the Council in terms of helping individuals, families, especially those under duress. Moreover, they build a sense of community and facilitate interaction between assumed disparate segments through solidifying outreach events.”

“Library cuts would save approximately 8% of the deficit at £800k which makes sense. Books should continue to be purchased however as an important resource for children and education.”



Spotlight on Libraries

Libraries garnered the most responses with 33.43% mentioning libraries with most comments favourable.

Majority of comments received via either Have Your Say or in print were also about libraries (40 in total), all of which were positive.

Included in these are formal responses from professional bodies, including the Scottish Books Trust

Midlothian



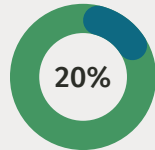
Place Directorate - Community Transport

from the 1542 online responses and 41 written submissions:

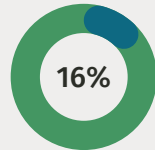


Impact of service changes

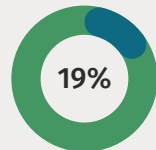
Respondents were asked what impact would stopping community transport have on you?



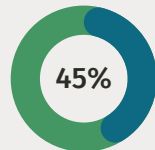
Low Impact*



Medium Impact



High Impact



No Impact*

*Percentage rounded up



Digging into the data

The highest number of paper responses (30 out of a total of 47) were received directly in writing from HcL elderly and disabled customers, all of them stating stopping the funding would have a high impact on them.



Examples of comments

“As a 90-year-old, the withdrawal of funding for the Dial-a-Ride service would be detrimental to myself and others. I depend on this service to maintain my independence and socialisation. I use this service to buy my weekly shopping and meet up with other users. I would not be averse to making a small, weekly contribution to assist with the cost of this service.”

“The Wednesday morning shopping bus is always full. The passengers are all disabled and widowed OAPs who are unable to use other transport and have no other way of getting their weekly shop. With the extremely kind and patient help from drivers, we are able to keep a little more of our independence and for most of us housebound people, it is the highlight of our week. Hope you can help us. Thank you!”

Midlothian



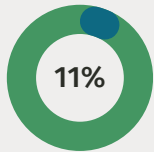
Place Directorate - Leisure Centres

from the 1542 online responses:

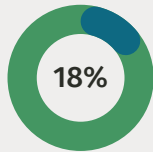


Impact of service changes

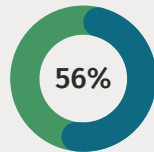
‘What impact would closing leisure centres have on you?’



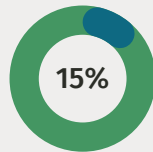
Low Impact*



Medium Impact



High Impact*



No Impact

*Percentage rounded up



Highlighting Percentages

The question ‘What impact would closing leisure centres have on you?’ received the highest percentage of ‘high impact’ responses to Place Directorate savings proposals.

Examples of comments



Respondents were asked about the impact of Place savings on those with protected characteristics. Comments about leisure centres included:

“Please DO NOT follow West Lothian council's example by closing leisure centres. Yes it's an easy, large saving, but it affects so many. I have a MAC card and go swimming twice a week. This is the only form of exercise other than walking and yoga I can safely take part in. Our pools are well used! Gyms I don't think they are but the pool and halls are. Penicuik pool is always incredibly busy be it from the public of private bookings. I would be devastated if our leisure centre were to close.”

“Close leisure centre or make charity.”

Midlothian



Place Directorate - other general findings

Christmas Lights



32.36% of 1542 respondents said stopping funding of Christmas lights would have no impact on them.

Protected Characteristics



Age and disability were the protected characteristics most people who responded listed when asked if any of the Place saving options impacted on them because of your Protected Characteristic.

Penicuik Recycling Centre



Of the 1542 responses online about the impact of closing Penicuik Recycling Centre, 45.33% chose no impact while 26.59% chose high impact.



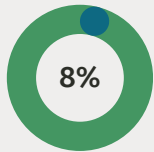
Children, Young People & Partnerships - Learning Assistants

from the 1542 online responses:

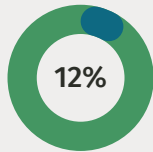


Impact of service changes

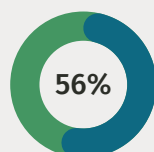
'What impact would reducing the budget for learning assistants have on you?'



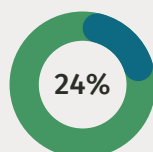
Low Impact*



Medium Impact*



High Impact*



No Impact

*Percentage rounded up



Highlighting Percentages

The question that garnered the highest number of 'high impact' responses in the CYPP directorate was one around reducing the budget for learning assistants.

Examples of comments



Learning Assistants (high impact): "It has been recognised that there is an increasing ASN demand in schools across the country under stricter and stricter budgets. Reducing the number of learning assistants will have very obvious negative effects on the learning of those who most need this assistance but then would impact everyone else in the school community by overstressing an already limited resource during a time of increased demand. This would put workload pressures on remaining staff and could potentially create dangerous issues with behaviour in classrooms."

"Learning Assistants must be protected and in fact increased. They are critical to the inclusive model of education we are currently working with. Their presence supports ALL learners. Not just those with additional support needs. The demand for additional support and trained resources in the classrooms is going up. The numbers of LAs therefore should NOT be cut."

Midlothian



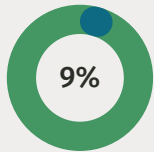
Children, Young People & Partnerships - Learning Hours

from the 1542 online responses:

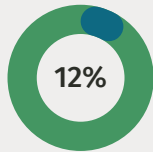


Impact of service changes

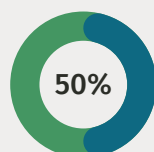
‘What impact would reducing learning hours have on you?’



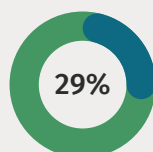
Low Impact



Medium Impact



High Impact*



No Impact*

*Percentage rounded up



Highlighting Percentages

The second highest percentage of ‘high impact’ responses in the CYP directorate was in response to the impact of reducing learning hours.

Examples of comments from parents, pupils and staff



Extract of response from acting head teacher at Dalkeith High on behalf of pupil leadership team: “They strongly believe that this proposal would have a significant negative impact upon pupil attainment and wellbeing. They shared that they felt this would reduce the quality of learning and teaching due to time pressures, increase the amount of unsupported independent study required and, ultimately, put them at a disadvantage compared to their peers from other local authorities. They also felt that the increased time pressure on teachers and pupils would effect pupil/teacher relationships, negatively impacting on school ethos.”

“I believe reducing the school learning hours would save a great deal of money. Children only get 22.5 hours class contact time with their teacher anyways. Reducing the school learning hours would allow us to save money on heating, electricity and rent across the council.”

Midlothian



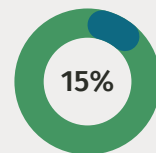
Children, Young People & Partnerships - Instrumental Music Budget

from the 1542 online responses:

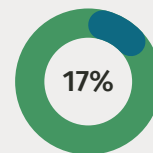


Impact of service changes

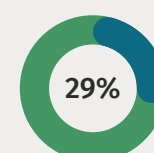
'What impact would reducing the instrumental music budget have on you?'



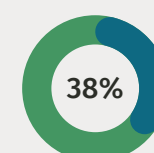
Low Impact



Medium Impact



High Impact



No Impact

Examples of comments



"As a parent of a child receiving tuition I would be happy to contribute an amount towards the cost of tuition but I know not all families could afford to and I believe that the benefits that music offers should not be accessible only to those who can afford to pay for it."

"Subsidise music lessons and approach music charities."

Midlothian



Capital Projects



Capital Project Priorities

Respondents were asked to prioritise spending on council projects by capital projects from 1 to 6, with 1 being the highest priority.

Highest
Importance



4.89

Schools and the wider estate

3.75

Travel infrastructure

3.64

Parks and public spaces

3.17

Town centres

2.94

Buildings from which we deliver services from

2.62

Initiatives to reduce carbon emissions



Least
Importance

Please note although the survey was tested, we had a small number of respondents (seven) reporting the survey was only allowing them to rank from 1-3. The survey was checked and could find no obvious fault so, as more than 150 had filled it in, decision made to keep the existing question and not lose responses but be aware findings may be skewed.

Midlothian



Resource Page

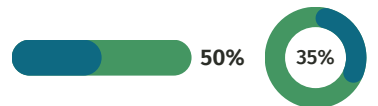
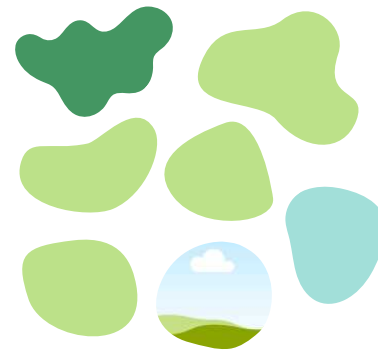
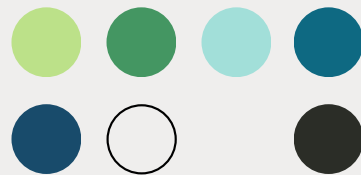
[Main Title]

[**Main Title**]

[Supporting title information]

[**Sub-heading**]

[Body copy]

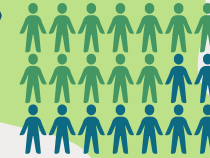


It's all about the Data Infographic

Infographic makes it easier for readers to absorb chunks of information. Shortly explain here what will this infographic cover.

Total Responses

A total of 1,542 (tbc) people and professional bodies completed the budget consultation either online, by email, letter or print submission.

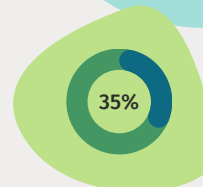


Data 2



69%

Include data like percentages and average. It helps the reader get insight about the topic.



35%

Pie charts help presenting proportions

Briefly describe the content of the graph. What do the numbers mean?



Bar graphs aid in comparing data of different categories

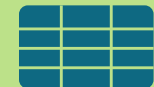
Use this space to highlight essential data that readers need to take note.

Supporting details

Build up the reader's knowledge by placing additional details here.

Data 3

Got more information? Make it more organized by placing it on a table.



Related Illustrations

Spice up your infographic with relevant illustrations or photos.

References

Add credibility to your infographic by pasting here the link of your sources.