

## Public Consultation: 2025/26 Budget & Medium-Term Financial Strategy (2026/27 to 2029/30)

The public consultation was undertaken from 21 January to 10 February 2025, and the total number of responses received was 13.

Respondent	Question										
	Having read the budget proposal report, please tell us your views on the overall budget strategy/approach detailed in the report.	Having read the budget proposal report, please tell us your views on the proposed Capital Programme (Paragraph 3.37 of the report).	Do you support the principle of ensuring the Council plans ahead to address a forecast shortfall in its revenue funding from 2027/28 onwards in order that it can continue to broadly deliver its existing range of services?	Do you support increasing the Harborough District Council element of Council Tax for 2025/26 by 2.99% (which equates to 10.2p a week for a Band D equivalent property) to prepare for the projected net £5.5m budget gap in future years due to uncertainties around government funding?	Do you support freezing the price of the optional green waste collection service for 2025/26 at £61?	Do you support freezing the price of car parking charges for 2025/26?	Do you support the continued investment into community development to work with all communities on issues that are affecting them?	Do you support the Council offering Grants to community organisations to help develop their communities? And to continue this support into the future?	Do you support the creation of a dedicated resource to support the Council's emergency planning responsibilities to ensure the Council can support communities in need during climate events such as flooding, storms, snow and heatwaves?	The Council maintains a prudent level of reserves to ensure that it can continue to deliver services over the medium-term, which includes setting aside money to meet future service risks. However, it also holds some reserves for risk mitigation. Do you think the Council should use these to directly support its community?	Do you have any other comments on the Council's budget proposal report?
1	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response
2	The focus is wrong, should be working towards a single tier of local government to cut duplication and provide better VFM and increased efficiency.	See response to Q 1.	As response to Q 1.	Short term fix, longer term work towards single tier local authority	Yes	Yes and aim to reduce to improve footfall	Debatable, what are the measurable impacts?	Debatable. Are communities represented on the body managing the awards is setting criteria and considering applications? If not I don't agree.yrs	Yes yrs	Yes	See Q1 response
3	No comment.	No comment.	Yes in principle.	Yes. It's fair.	Yes. It is too high for what is already.	Yes.	Yes as long as the engagement is to all areas of the district.	No.	Yes. But can public be more involved/engaged in any actual activity?	Only if absolutely necessary.	None.
4	In times of budget constraints is it really the Council's responsibility to provide walks and activities. Surely health is something individuals should take responsibility for?		Yes	Yes	Yes although I think it should be free and include food waste collection as this is neglected locally.	Yes	Not sure about this. I've never seen anything about this role previously. Are they effective?	As long as the expenditure is properly monitored and used on sensible initiatives.	Yes	Yes in part	
5	negative			no , should be frozen or reduced	no	no	no	no, money should be given back to local taxpayers	yes	No, excessive reserves should be paid back to taxpayers	
6	I'm pleased to see the council planning investment in both local people (Garden waste charges, community fund, additional staffing) and in the wider environment we live in (Battery provision+solar)	I support the proposed program	Yes, it's important that the council plans ahead to ensure services can continue beyond 2027/2028	Yes, I wish it wasn't needed, but I support the council raising council tax to account for this gap	Yes, this is a valuable service that helps avoid more waste going into black bins	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Thank you for your transparency

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7	Three properties for temp homeless £2.7M. That's £900,000 each. Where are you buying them, the Woodlands. £5.6M for a fleet of new waste collection vehicles, yet no mention of the disposal of the old ones. Are they to be sold or simply scrapped? A nominal 2.99% increase in council tax yearly, no mention of any attempt into cost savings or cost-downs for services purchased. (Within the automotive industry this is something that is imperative, to		No, I honestly think the council should be actively looking at cost savings and costdowns for services they buy in.	No, this increase has been made on the assumption that it is impossible to make any savings	No, I consider this to be an affront to the community and the council ought to provide this as a matter of course. That's what we pay council tax for.	No! You reneged on the original ring-fencing of charges when they were initially introduced (against the wishes of the local community) yet now you expect us to laud your restraint in not increasing these further.	In principle, yes	As long as there is an audit trail to hold the council to account AND a check on these community organisations to ensure any money has been spent wisely with a shown improvement.	Yes, this is something of utmost importance, in particular the flooding issue	No, it should be held as now	See my first answer.
8	Why food waste bins - something new happening?			Do not support- take it from all the new builds , i live on an estate with service charges as you cant be bothered to adopt it so im paying twice for poor service from everyone	Not applicable to me	Not applicable			Waste of money		Get adopting all the new built estates - especially bushby fields in the LE7 area
9	I agree with this.	I agree with this	I agree with this	I think this needs to factor in the cost of living and that there will be residents unable to pay this increase.	Yes I agree	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Consider activities for young people to participate in to reduce the risk of county lines.



**Equalities - Respondents per question**

<b>Age (years)</b>	<b>25 to 29</b>	<b>30 to 44</b>	<b>45 to 59</b>	<b>60 to 64</b>	<b>65 to 79</b>	<b>I wish not to declare my age</b>	<b>Not stated</b>	<b>Total Respondents</b>
	1 7.7%	1 7.7%	2 15.4%	2 15.4%	4 30.8%	2 15.4%	1 7.7%	13 100.0%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>				<b>Prefer not to say</b>	<b>Not stated</b>	<b>Total</b>
	6 46.2%	4 30.8%				2 15.4%	1 7.7%	13 100.0%
<b>Physical/Mental Condition or Illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more</b>				<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Prefer not to say</b>	<b>Not stated</b>	<b>Total</b>
				2 15.4%	8 61.5%	2 15.4%	1 7.7%	13 100.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>White - White British / White Other</b>					<b>Prefer not to say</b>	<b>Not stated</b>	<b>Total</b>
	10 76.9%					2 15.4%	1 7.7%	13 100.0%