

**Boston Borough Council
Budget 2024-25
Consultation Report
Published**



Introduction to this consultation

1. This report details the responses received for the Budget 2024/25 consultation undertaken between 19th January 2024 to 2nd February 2024.
2. The exercise was performed to seek residents' views on the Council's Budget proposals for 2024/25.

Methodology

3. A media release was issued to local newspapers to promote the consultation and social media activity was ongoing throughout the consultation period.
4. A link to the electronic questionnaire was made available on the Council's website and in the Boston Bulletin. Paper copies of the questionnaire were available on request.
5. It should be noted that base data has been rounded to the nearest number (so may add up to between 99% and 101%).

Response Rate

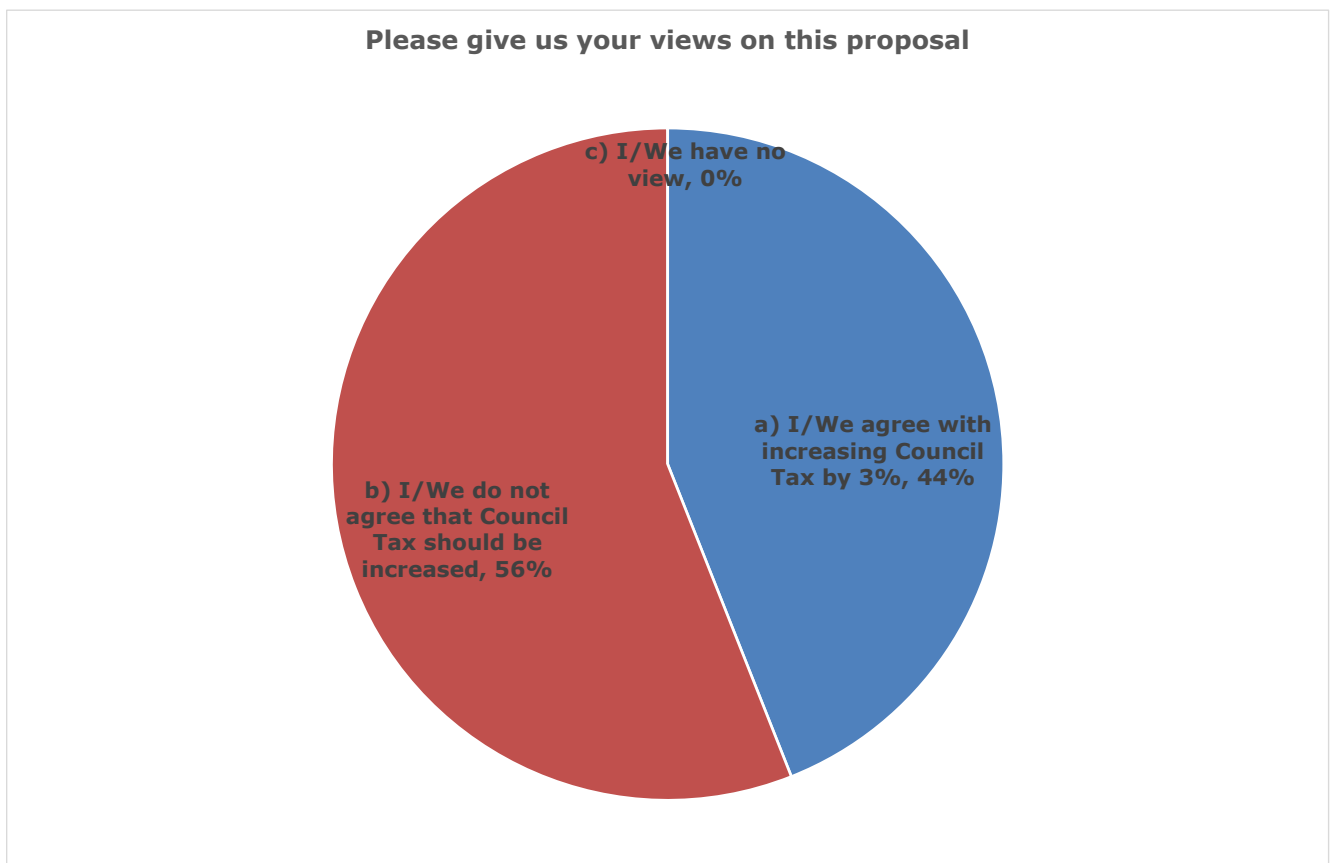
6. 9 electronic responses were received.

Results and Analysis

7. 56% (5) of all respondents responding to the consultation responded as 'A resident' with the remaining 11% (1) responding as 'Other'. The respondent that stated 'Other' responded as 'someone that worked in the Borough'. 3 (33%) did not provide a response to this question.

Council Tax

8. All respondents were advised that the Government was allowing the Council to increase its Council Tax by 3% or £5, whichever is the higher, relating to the relative basic amount (based on a Band D property) The Council was therefore proposing a £7.20 (3%) increase for 2024/25 - an extra 14p per week for a Band D property. A 3% increase is proposed for all Council Tax Bands. The chart below shows that 44% (4) of all respondents agreed with the Council increasing its Council Tax by 3% (£7.20), with the remaining 56% (5) stating that they 'did not agree' with the Council increasing its Council Tax by 3% (£7.20).



Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy

9. All respondents were asked if they had any comments to make in respect of the proposed Budget and associated papers. A full list of comments are included below.
- Perhaps you should raise by 5% to better meet the needs of the borough

- Increase in council tax is a burden on families who are already struggling. These are families who don't qualify for any benefits that are working families who cannot afford anymore increases.
 - With the thousands of new houses built and continuing to be build, frontline services including waste collection and keeping the streets clean, should be prioritised, not cut, they need more vehicles and staff to cope with the demand. Help them please we appreciate them more than anything else
 - It will not be popular, but residents need to realise you can only do so much with limited resources
 - It is a concern that reserves are being used to supplement income shortfall. They can only be spent once. It brings problems in future years
10. All respondents were advised that in view of the cost of living crisis and financial pressures that both businesses and individuals were experiencing, the Council was looking to find different and innovative ways of working, and asked them what changes they thought the Council could implement in order to support that. A full list of suggestions are listed below.
- Perhaps look at the number of vanity projects the Council is engaging with, perhaps early identification where the project may not be viable.
 - Support for families in council tax E bands and who do not qualify for benefits
 - Frontline services need investment, you don't need to provide things like the guildhall and other assets. Looking at your structure, too much emphasis is on growth, you cannot grow unless you can maintain what your already have
 - Run it more commercially
11. All respondents were given the opportunity to provide any other comments; a full list of these are detailed below.
- You need spend more money on frontline services and less on other things
 - Please do not increase parking fees, this would not encourage higher footfall if you did