

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	21 February 2022
Report of the	-	Chief Executive
Subject	-	Budget 2022/23

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendix A be approved.

Introduction

1. The Localism Act 2011 requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as previously.
2. The precept levels of other precepting bodies have all now been received. These are detailed below:

Town and Parish Councils

3. The Town and Parish Council Precepts (including Special Expenses for Bexhill and Rye) for 2022/23 are detailed in Appendix B and total £3,051,701 (2021/22 £2,840,013). The increase results in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £79.83 for 2022/23.

East Sussex County Council

4. East Sussex County Council met on 8 February 2022 and set their precept at £61,673,148 (£58,066,095 in 2021/22) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,613.34 (£1,544.04 in 2021/22). This includes the Adult Social Care Precept of £190.44 at Band D in Council Tax.

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

5. Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner met on 9 February 2022 and set their precept at £8,597,635 (£8,082,034 in 2021/22) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £224.91 (£214.91 in 2021/22).

East Sussex Fire Authority

6. East Sussex Fire Authority met on 10 February 2022 and set their precept at £3,798,617 (£3,664,011 in 2021/22) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £99.37 (£97.43 in 2021/22).

Excessive Council Tax increases

7. The Localism Act 2011 introduced a requirement for a local authority to determine whether its proposed Council Tax increase for a financial year is excessive, in which case a local referendum would be needed. The Secretary of State has indicated that for 2022/23, the maximum amount that a District Council can increase its Council Tax is the higher of either 2% or £5.

8. Cabinet have recommended Rother District Council's basic amount of tax for 2022/23 to be increased to £193.38 (£4.67 or 2.47%), which is within the Secretary of State's guidelines and is therefore not excessive. This represents a Council Tax requirement of £7,469,658, (£7,096,652 in 2021/22).

Budget Consultation

9. The Council budget consultation with residents and businesses closed on the 31 January 2022. There was a total of 275 responses, of which 266 were from residents. A summary of the results is shown at Appendix C.

Conclusions

10. The recommendations of the Cabinet are set out in the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendix A. If the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendix A is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2021/22	2022/23	Increase
	£	£	%
Rother District Council	188.71	193.38	2.47%
East Sussex County Council	1,392.12	1,422.90	2.21%
<i>East Sussex County Council – social care precept</i>	151.92	190.44	25.36%
Total East Sussex County Council	1,544.04	1,613.34	4.49%
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Authority	97.43	99.37	1.99%
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	214.91	224.91	4.65%
Sub-total	2,045.09	2,131.00	4.20%
Town and Parish Council (average)	75.59	79.83	5.61%
Total	2,120.68	2,210.83	4.25%

Malcolm Johnston
Chief Executive

Budget 2022/23

DRAFT RESOLUTION

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass a resolution in the following terms: -

1. (a) That Council approves the Rother District Council General Fund Council Tax Requirement of £7,392,337 for 2022/23 and the resultant Band D tax of £193.38 as set out in this report.
 - (b) The expenses incurred by the Council, set out in the minutes of the Cabinet of 7 February 2022 in the sum of £637,460 in respect of Bexhill and £64,430 in respect of Rye, be approved as the Special Expenses chargeable to residents of Bexhill and Rye respectively. All other expenses incurred by the Council (excluding Parish Precepts) be approved as general expenditure for the purposes of section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. (This resolution will be reviewed annually).
2. That it be noted, the following amounts for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
 - (a) 38,227.0 being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax base for the year.

(b)

Ashburnham & Penhurst	188.60	Etchingham	412.20	Rye Foreign	159.60
Battle	2,713.50	Ewhurst	553.40	Salehurst & Robertsbridge	1,027.00
Beckley	548.20	Fairlight	903.10	Sedlescombe	670.20
Bexhill	16,826.70	Guestling	643.40	Ticehurst	1,681.10
Bodiam	166.50	Hurst Green	581.30	Udimore	190.20
Brede	860.40	Icklesham	1,218.40	Westfield	1,116.70
Brightling	199.50	Iden	237.80	Whatlington	158.60
Burwash	1,255.20	Mountfield	197.80		
Camber	663.90	Northiam	1,048.40		
Catsfield	377.80	Peasmarsh	505.10		
Crowhurst	367.30	Pett	473.90		
Dallington	172.80	Playden	164.50		
East Guldeford	30.60	Rye	1,913.30		

being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with sections 32 to 38 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended: -

- a. £49,849,298 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act. (this amount is the Council's gross expenditure including the Parish Council Precepts and the Special Expenses for Bexhill and Rye).
- b. -£39,405,194 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
- c. £10,444,104 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 32(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- d. £273.21 being the amount at 3(c) divided by the amount at 2 above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- e. £3,051,701 Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 35(1) of the Act
- f. £193.38 Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

g.

<u>PARISH COUNCIL AREA</u>	Band D
	£
Ashburnham & Penhurst	262.31
Battle	336.31
Beckley	238.98
Bexhill	254.49
Bodiam	259.33
Brede	238.64
Brightling	232.17
Burwash	277.66
Camber	289.02
Catsfield	272.79
Crowhurst	272.70
Dallington	242.19
East Guldeford	193.38
Etchingham	366.84
Ewhurst	326.45
Fairlight	270.89
Guestling	207.65
Hurst Green	270.09
Icklesham	322.72
Iden	260.66
Mountfield	259.61
Northiam	288.76
Peasmarsh	266.63
Pett	241.91
Playden	223.78
Rye	325.62
Rye Foreign	205.91
Salehurst	298.32
Sedlescombe	280.84
Ticehurst	281.15
Udimore	228.24
Westfield	282.63
Whatlington	238.15

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

h.

Valuation Bands

LOCAL TAX

<u>AREA</u>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashburnham								
& Penhurst	174.87	204.02	233.16	262.31	320.60	378.90	437.18	524.62
Battle	224.21	261.58	298.94	336.31	411.04	485.78	560.52	672.62
Beckley	159.32	185.88	212.42	238.98	292.08	345.20	398.30	477.96
Bexhill	169.66	197.94	226.21	254.49	311.04	367.60	424.15	508.98
Bodiam	172.89	201.70	230.51	259.33	316.96	374.59	432.22	518.66
Brede	159.09	185.61	212.12	238.64	291.67	344.71	397.73	477.28
Brightling	154.78	180.58	206.37	232.17	283.76	335.36	386.95	464.34
Burwash	185.11	215.96	246.81	277.66	339.36	401.07	462.77	555.32
Camber	192.68	224.80	256.90	289.02	353.24	417.48	481.70	578.04
Catsfield	181.86	212.17	242.48	272.79	333.41	394.03	454.65	545.58
Crowhurst	181.80	212.10	242.40	272.70	333.30	393.90	454.50	545.40
Dallington	161.46	188.37	215.28	242.19	296.01	349.83	403.65	484.38
East Guldeford	128.92	150.41	171.89	193.38	236.35	279.33	322.30	386.76
Etchingham	244.56	285.32	326.08	366.84	448.36	529.88	611.40	733.68
Ewhurst	217.63	253.91	290.17	326.45	398.99	471.54	544.08	652.90
Fairlight	180.59	210.70	240.79	270.89	331.08	391.29	451.48	541.78
Guestling	138.43	161.51	184.57	207.65	253.79	299.94	346.08	415.30
Hurst Green	180.06	210.07	240.08	270.09	330.11	390.13	450.15	540.18
Icklesham	215.15	251.01	286.86	322.72	394.43	466.15	537.87	645.44
Iden	173.77	202.74	231.69	260.66	318.58	376.51	434.43	521.32
Mountfield	173.07	201.92	230.76	259.61	317.30	375.00	432.68	519.22
Northiam	192.51	224.59	256.67	288.76	352.93	417.10	481.27	577.52
Peasmarsh	177.75	207.38	237.00	266.63	325.88	385.14	444.38	533.26
Pett	161.27	188.16	215.03	241.91	295.66	349.43	403.18	483.82
Playden	149.19	174.05	198.91	223.78	273.51	323.24	372.97	447.56
Rye	217.08	253.27	289.44	325.62	397.97	470.34	542.70	651.24
Rye Foreign	137.27	160.16	183.03	205.91	251.66	297.43	343.18	411.82
Salehurst	198.88	232.03	265.17	298.32	364.61	430.91	497.20	596.64
Sedlescombe	187.23	218.43	249.63	280.84	343.25	405.66	468.07	561.68
Ticehurst	187.43	218.68	249.91	281.15	343.62	406.11	468.58	562.30
Udimore	152.16	177.52	202.88	228.24	278.96	329.68	380.40	456.48
Westfield	188.42	219.83	251.22	282.63	345.43	408.25	471.05	565.26
Whatlington	158.77	185.23	211.69	238.15	291.07	344.00	396.92	476.30

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band "D", calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different Valuation Bands.

- That the Council notes that for the year 2022/23 East Sussex County Council, the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and the East Sussex Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

<u>Precepting Authority</u>	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
East Sussex County Council	1,075.56	1,254.82	1,434.08	1,613.34	1,971.86	2,330.38	2,688.90	3,226.68
- <i>Council Tax</i>	<i>948.60</i>	<i>1,106.70</i>	<i>1,264.80</i>	<i>1,422.90</i>	<i>1,739.10</i>	<i>2,055.30</i>	<i>2,371.50</i>	<i>2,845.80</i>
- <i>Adult Social Care Precept</i>	<i>126.96</i>	<i>148.12</i>	<i>169.28</i>	<i>190.44</i>	<i>232.76</i>	<i>275.08</i>	<i>317.40</i>	<i>380.88</i>
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	149.94	174.93	199.92	224.91	274.89	324.87	374.85	449.82
East Sussex Fire & Rescue	66.25	77.29	88.33	99.37	121.45	143.53	165.62	198.74

5. That, having calculated the aggregate each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Bands

<u>LOCAL TAX AREA</u>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashburnham								
& Penhurst	1,466.62	1,711.06	1,955.49	2,199.93	2,688.80	3,177.68	3,666.55	4,399.86
Battle	1,515.96	1,768.62	2,021.27	2,273.93	2,779.24	3,284.56	3,789.89	4,547.86
Beckley	1,451.07	1,692.92	1,934.75	2,176.60	2,660.28	3,143.98	3,627.67	4,353.20
Bexhill	1,461.41	1,704.98	1,948.54	2,192.11	2,679.24	3,166.38	3,653.52	4,384.22
Bodiam	1,464.64	1,708.74	1,952.84	2,196.95	2,685.16	3,173.37	3,661.59	4,393.90
Brede	1,450.84	1,692.65	1,934.45	2,176.26	2,659.87	3,143.49	3,627.10	4,352.52
Brightling	1,446.53	1,687.62	1,928.70	2,169.79	2,651.96	3,134.14	3,616.32	4,339.58
Burwash	1,476.86	1,723.00	1,969.14	2,215.28	2,707.56	3,199.85	3,692.14	4,430.56
Camber	1,484.43	1,731.84	1,979.23	2,226.64	2,721.44	3,216.26	3,711.07	4,453.28
Catsfield	1,473.61	1,719.21	1,964.81	2,210.41	2,701.61	3,192.81	3,684.02	4,420.82
Crowhurst	1,473.55	1,719.14	1,964.73	2,210.32	2,701.50	3,192.68	3,683.87	4,420.64
Dallington	1,453.21	1,695.41	1,937.61	2,179.81	2,664.21	3,148.61	3,633.02	4,359.62
East Guldeford	1,420.67	1,657.45	1,894.22	2,131.00	2,604.55	3,078.11	3,551.67	4,262.00
Etchingham	1,536.31	1,792.36	2,048.41	2,304.46	2,816.56	3,328.66	3,840.77	4,608.92
Ewhurst	1,509.38	1,760.95	2,012.50	2,264.07	2,767.19	3,270.32	3,773.45	4,528.14
Fairlight	1,472.34	1,717.74	1,963.12	2,208.51	2,699.28	3,190.07	3,680.85	4,417.02
Guestling	1,430.18	1,668.55	1,906.90	2,145.27	2,621.99	3,098.72	3,575.45	4,290.54
Hurst Green	1,471.81	1,717.11	1,962.41	2,207.71	2,698.31	3,188.91	3,679.52	4,415.42
Icklesham	1,506.90	1,758.05	2,009.19	2,260.34	2,762.63	3,264.93	3,767.24	4,520.68
Iden	1,465.52	1,709.78	1,954.02	2,198.28	2,686.78	3,175.29	3,663.80	4,396.56
Mountfield	1,464.82	1,708.96	1,953.09	2,197.23	2,685.50	3,173.78	3,662.05	4,394.46
Northiam	1,484.26	1,731.63	1,979.00	2,226.38	2,721.13	3,215.88	3,710.64	4,452.76
Peasmarsh	1,469.50	1,714.42	1,959.33	2,204.25	2,694.08	3,183.92	3,673.75	4,408.50
Pett	1,453.02	1,695.20	1,937.36	2,179.53	2,663.86	3,148.21	3,632.55	4,359.06
Playden	1,440.94	1,681.09	1,921.24	2,161.40	2,641.71	3,122.02	3,602.34	4,322.80
Rye	1,508.83	1,760.31	2,011.77	2,263.24	2,766.17	3,269.12	3,772.07	4,526.48
Rye Foreign	1,429.02	1,667.20	1,905.36	2,143.53	2,619.86	3,096.21	3,572.55	4,287.06
Salehurst	1,490.63	1,739.07	1,987.50	2,235.94	2,732.81	3,229.69	3,726.57	4,471.88
Sedlescombe	1,478.98	1,725.47	1,971.96	2,218.46	2,711.45	3,204.44	3,697.44	4,436.92
Ticehurst	1,479.18	1,725.72	1,972.24	2,218.77	2,711.82	3,204.89	3,697.95	4,437.54
Udimore	1,443.91	1,684.56	1,925.21	2,165.86	2,647.16	3,128.46	3,609.77	4,331.72
Westfield	1,480.17	1,726.87	1,973.55	2,220.25	2,713.63	3,207.03	3,700.42	4,440.50
Whatlington	1,450.52	1,692.27	1,934.02	2,175.77	2,659.27	3,142.78	3,626.29	4,351.54

6. The Chief Finance Officer as Section 151 Officer be authorised to authenticate and serve all notices etc. required in connection with the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rate.

Assessment as to whether change in Council Tax is excessive

7. That the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52B(3) of the Local Government Act 1992.

Council Tax 2022/23
Local Precepts

<u>PARISH COUNCIL AREA</u>	2022/23			2021/22			% COUNCIL TAX CHANGE
	LOCAL PRECEPT	divided by LOCAL TAX BASE	gives LOCAL BAND D COUNCIL TAX	LOCAL PRECEPT	divided by LOCAL TAX BASE	gives LOCAL BAND D COUNCIL TAX	
Ashburnham & Penhurst	13,000.00	188.60	68.93	12,607.00	189.60	66.49	3.67
Battle	387,850.00	2,713.50	142.93	368,830.00	2,657.50	138.79	2.98
Beckley	25,000.00	548.20	45.60	23,000.00	546.00	42.12	8.26
Bexhill-on-Sea Parish Council - see below	390,920.00	16,826.70	23.23	371,765.00	16,456.20	22.59	0.00
Bodiam	10,980.00	166.50	65.95	10,550.00	157.60	66.94	-1.48
Brede	38,940.00	860.40	45.26	37,175.00	848.90	43.79	3.36
Brightling	7,739.00	199.50	38.79	7,506.00	201.10	37.32	3.94
Burwash	105,792.00	1,255.20	84.28	88,160.10	1,246.40	70.73	19.16
Camber	63,498.00	663.90	95.64	66,849.00	656.30	101.86	-6.11
Catsfield	30,000.00	377.80	79.41	26,000.00	353.60	73.53	8.00
Crowhurst	29,134.24	367.30	79.32	28,231.00	363.00	77.77	1.99
Dallington	8,435.00	172.80	48.81	8,435.00	173.70	48.56	0.51
East Guldeford	0.00	30.60	0.00	0.00	31.50	0.00	0.00
Etchingham	71,500.00	412.20	173.46	76,000.00	411.00	184.91	-6.19
Ewhurst	73,641.00	553.40	133.07	70,134.00	544.30	128.85	3.28
Fairlight	70,000.00	903.10	77.51	63,000.00	889.80	70.80	9.48
Guestling	9,180.00	643.40	14.27	8,500.00	635.10	13.38	6.65
Hurst Green	44,594.00	581.30	76.71	43,435.00	578.50	75.08	2.17
Icklesham	157,588.00	1,218.40	129.34	113,775.00	1,211.40	93.92	37.71
Iden	16,000.00	237.80	67.28	16,000.00	229.90	69.60	-3.33
Mountfield	13,100.00	197.80	66.23	13,100.00	197.60	66.30	-0.11
Northiam	100,000.00	1,048.40	95.38	95,000.00	1,045.60	90.86	4.97
Peasmarsh	37,000.00	505.10	73.25	37,000.00	502.10	73.69	-0.60
Pett	23,000.00	473.90	48.53	23,000.00	467.60	49.19	-1.34
Playden	5,000.00	164.50	30.40	5,000.00	159.00	31.45	-3.34
Rye - see below	188,592.00	1,913.30	98.57	173,176.00	1,884.80	91.88	7.28
Rye Foreign	2,000.00	159.60	12.53	2,000.00	187.90	10.64	17.76
Salehurst & Robertsbridge	107,770.00	1,027.00	104.94	98,370.00	1,024.90	95.98	9.34
Sedlescombe	58,613.00	670.20	87.46	57,184.00	665.50	85.93	1.78
Ticehurst	147,550.00	1,681.10	87.77	147,980.00	1,646.70	89.86	-2.33
Udimore	6,630.00	190.20	34.86	7,000.00	182.30	38.40	-9.22
Westfield	99,665.00	1,116.70	89.25	45,341.00	1,104.80	41.04	117.47
Whatlington	7,100.00	158.60	44.77	7,100.00	156.40	45.40	-1.39

	Precept £	Taxbase	Local Tax £
Note 1			
Bexhill local precept shown above comprises			
: Bexhill Parish Council	390,920.00	16,826.70	23.23
: Bexhill Special Expenses	637,460.00	16,826.70	37.88
	<u>1,028,380.00</u>		<u>61.11</u>
Note 2			
Rye local precept shown above comprises			
: Rye Town Council Precept	188,592.00	1,913.30	98.57
: Rye Special Expenses	64,430.00	1,913.30	33.67
	<u>253,022.00</u>		<u>132.24</u>

BUDGET CONSULTATION SUMMARY

1. This consultation ran from 21 December 2021 to 31 January 2022.
2. We had a total of 275 responses, of which 262 used the online questionnaire. We have responses from 11 named local organisation, including six Parish and Town Councils.
3. In terms of residents' responses:
 - a. 54% lived in Bexhill, 9% lived in Battle, 5% lived in Rye and 32% lived in the rural areas of the Rother district.
 - b. 53% were male and 43% were female, 4% preferred not to say.
 - c. In terms of age groupings, the responses were as follows:
 - i. 47% were aged 65 to 79
 - ii. 25% were aged 55 to 64
 - iii. 19% were aged 35 to 54
 - iv. 7% were aged 80+
 - v. 2% were aged 18 to 34
 - vi. 0% were under 18
 - d. 16% were disabled or had a long-term illness or condition.
 - e. 91% were White British descent, 5% had another White background and 4% had another ethnic background.
4. We asked respondents for feedback about issues ranging from financial pressures, service provision and how they should be funded. The responses are summarised in paragraphs 5 to 10 below.
- 5. Overall, how well informed do you feel about the financial challenges facing councils?**
 - a. Very well informed – 14%
 - b. Fairly well informed – 52%
 - c. Not very well informed – 23%
 - d. Not well informed at all – 10%
 - e. Do not know – 1%
- 6. How strongly do you agree or disagree that Rother District Council should do each of the following when faced with financial pressures?**
 - a. Streamline services so that we can deliver the same outcomes – 91% agreed or slightly agreed
 - b. Prioritise spending to protect services for the most vulnerable and those without choice – 91% agreed or slightly agreed
 - c. Help people to help themselves more so they have less reliance on publicly funded services – 88% agreed or slightly agreed
 - d. Use or partner with other organisations to provide services – 85% agreed or slightly agreed
 - e. Encourage local people and communities to deliver certain services – 78% agreed or slightly agreed
 - f. Introduce charges for some services that are currently free or subsidised – 65% agreed or slightly agreed

- g. Reduce or stop delivering some services to protect others – 51% agreed or slightly agreed

7. Rother District Council should consider increases in council tax.....

- a. To protect services for the most vulnerable and those without choice – 84% agreed or slightly agreed
- b. Only when opportunities to streamline services have been exhausted – 79% agreed or slightly agreed
- c. When the only alternative is to stop delivering some services – 76% agreed or slightly agreed
- d. As an alternative to imposing or increasing fees and charges for services – 56% agreed or slightly agreed
- e. In other circumstances – 65% agreed or slightly agreed
- f. Under no circumstances – 39% agreed or slightly agreed

The question also gave responders the opportunity to provide other reasons for raising Council Tax that were not covered by the options. The responses are summarized below:

- i. To deliver and protect statutory and basic services, (6 responses)
- ii. To reduce debt/borrowing and protect reserves, (5 responses)
- iii. To improve and enhance the quality of services, (5 responses)
- iv. When other funding options have been exhausted, (4 responses)
- v. Increase council tax on second homes, holiday homes and larger properties, (4 responses)
- vi. To fund initiatives that deliver savings/generate income, (3 responses)
- vii. To fund initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions, loss of biodiversity loss and pollution, (3 responses)
- viii. To stimulate business growth and employment, (2 responses)
- ix. To fund concessions for the over 70s (1 response)
- x. To fund external resources to identify savings (1 response)

8. Please indicate which of the following services (by department) are a priority for you, (respondents could select more than one service)

- a. Housing:
 - i. Aids & adaptations to help residents remain in their home - 56%
 - ii. Provision of social housing – 41%
 - iii. Homelessness services – 40%
 - iv. None – 20%
- b. Environmental Services:
 - i. Waste collection and recycling – 82%
 - ii. Street cleaning – 48%
 - iii. Climate change and reducing carbon footprint in Rother – 40%
 - iv. None – 4%
- c. Planning:
 - i. Enforcement of planning – 64%
 - ii. Planning policy – 48%
 - iii. Application process (planning permission) – 43%
- d. Public Health and Safety:
 - i. Anti-social behaviour and pollution control – 79%

- ii. Community safety (prevention and reduction of crime) – 74%
 - iii. Food safety – 46%
 - iv. Covid outbreak controls – 32%
 - v. Licensing – 31%
 - vi. Rented homes safety – 29%
 - vii. None – 6%
- e. Cultural Services:
- i. Parks and gardens – 73%
 - ii. Sports and leisure facilities – 49%
 - iii. Tourism support – 33%
 - iv. Cemeteries – 27%
 - v. None – 11%
- f. Economic Growth
- i. Economic regeneration – 58%
 - ii. Attracting inward investment – 54%
 - iii. Car parks – 33%
 - iv. Investing in Rother’s digital infrastructure – 29%
 - v. Investing in new commercial space for business – 21%
 - vi. None – 10%

9. Please let us know why you believe these areas should be prioritized

Below is a summary of the key points made by respondents on why they felt their selections were priority services.

- i. They provide essential services, e.g. Housing
- ii. They make the area safe, attractive and healthy
- iii. They help those who most need help
- iv. They protect the environment, reduce climate change and support sustainability
- v. They facilitate business growth, employment and tourism
- vi. They encourage younger families into the area
- vii. They support a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour
- viii. They address poverty

10. Please let us know of anything else you would want us to consider as we set the Rother District Council budget for 2022/23 Budget

Unsurprisingly there were several wide-ranging responses to this question. Many of these conflicted with each other, e.g. funding ‘green’ initiatives, and several suggestions fall outside of the remit and control of Rother District Council. The responses are summarized below:

- i. Provide additional and improved service levels e.g. litter collection, funding for services in rural areas, more infrastructure near new housing developments, more regeneration, greater crime reduction, better public toilets, more online services.
- ii. No cuts to services
- iii. No charges for services, including car parking
- iv. Reduce management costs
- v. Lobby government for extra funding
- vi. Merge districts and ESCC

- vii. Hold a Council Tax referendum
- viii. Stop funding the De La Warr Pavilion
- ix. Devolve more services to town and parish councils
- x. Increase services for vulnerable people and those on low incomes
- xi. Provide more information the Council's services and finances
- xii. Increase investment in green infrastructure
- xiii. Do not fund climate change and carbon neutral projects.
- xiv. Make greater use of volunteering and community schemes
- xv. Do not build new council offices
- xvi. Change the council tax banding system
- xvii. Do not take on debt
- xviii. Privatize the provision of sport and leisure facilities,
- xix. Improve Planning services.
- xx. Lobby East Sussex County Council for improvements to highways, pavements, traffic flows, roadside verges, on-street parking, street lighting, education, social care, libraries, crime/policing, care homes, mental health services and public transport.