

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	20 February 2023
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 been received and are detailed below:

Town and Parish Councils

3. The Town and Parish Council Precepts (including Special Expenses for Bexhill and Rye) for 2023/24 are detailed in Appendix B and total £3,468,114 (2022/23 £3,051,701). The increase results in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £90.03 for 2023/24.

East Sussex County Council

4. East Sussex County Council met on 7 February 2023 and set their precept at £65,246,531 (£61,673,148 in 2022/23) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,693.80 (£1,613.34 in 2022/23). This includes the Adult Social Care Precept of £222.66 at Band D in Council Tax.

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

5. Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner met on 8 February 2023 and set their precept at £9,241,525 (£8,597,635 in 2022/23) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £239.91 (£224.91 in 2022/23).

East Sussex Fire Authority

6. East Sussex Fire Authority met on 9 February 2023 and set their precept at £4,020,416 (£3,798,617 in 2022/23) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £104.37 (£99.37 in 2022/23).

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 2023/24, the maximum amount that a District Council can increase its Council Tax is the higher of either 3% or £5.

8. Cabinet have recommended Rother District Council's basic amount of tax for 2023/24 to be increased to £198.60 (£5.22 or 2.70%), which is within the Secretary of State's guidelines and is therefore not excessive. This represents a Council Tax requirement of £7,650,285, (£7,392,337 in 2022/23).

Budget Consultation

9. The Council budget consultation with residents and businesses closed on the 31 January 2023. There was a total of 126 responses, of which 123 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:

	2022/23	2023/24	Increase
	£	£	%
Rother District Council	193.38	198.60	2.70%
East Sussex County Council	1,422.90	1,471.14	3.39%
<i>East Sussex County Council – social care precept</i>	190.44	222.66	16.92%
Total East Sussex County Council	1,613.34	1,693.80	4.99%
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Authority	99.37	104.37	5.03%
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	224.91	239.91	6.67%
Sub-total	2,131.00	2,236.68	4.96%
Town and Parish Council (average)	79.83	90.03	12.78%
Total	2,210.83	2,326.72	5.24%

Malcolm Johnston
Chief Executive

Budget 2023/24

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 £7,650,285 for 2023/24 and the resultant Band D tax of £198.60 as set out in this report.
- (b) The expenses incurred by the Council, set out in the minutes of the Cabinet of 6 February 2023 in the sum of £679,180 in respect of Bexhill and £71,650 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 2023/24 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) 38,520.80 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	186.18	Etchingham	422.20	Rye Foreign	156.40
Battle	2,790.34	Ewhurst	556.97	Salehurst & Robertsbridge	1,025.07
Beckley	551.86	Fairlight	891.58	Sedlescombe	675.81
Bexhill	17,013.63	Guestling	635.71	Ticehurst	1,700.30
Bodiam	166.52	Hurst Green	587.34	Udimore	189.72
Brede	858.06	Icklesham	1,235.63	Westfield	1,109.81
Brightling	200.04	Iden	233.76	Whatlington	156.79
Burwash	1,257.16	Mountfield	202.69		
Camber	661.36	Northiam	1,045.03		
Catsfield	383.66	Peasmarsh	503.20		
Crowhurst	371.97	Pett	466.93		
Dallington	172.61	Playden	163.57		
East Guldeford	33.13	Rye	1,915.77		

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 2023/24 in accordance with sections 32 to 38 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended: -

- a. £45,856,957 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. -£34,738,558 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. £11,118,399 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. £288.63 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. £3,468,114 Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 35(1) of the Act
- f. £198.60 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	271.92
Battle	341.87
Beckley	243.90
Bexhill	276.83
Bodiam	267.18
Brede	245.15
Brightling	238.06
Burwash	282.75
Camber	294.61
Catsfield	282.01
Crowhurst	285.85
Dallington	253.26
East Guldeford	198.60
Etchingham	368.19
Ewhurst	337.46
Fairlight	299.54
Guestling	213.62
Hurst Green	281.48
Icklesham	327.75
Iden	267.05
Mountfield	257.80
Northiam	301.47
Peasmarsh	272.13
Pett	247.86
Playden	229.17
Rye	351.09
Rye Foreign	211.39
Salehurst	312.65
Sedlescombe	287.09
Ticehurst	286.91
Udimore	235.50
Westfield	292.31
Whatlington	243.88

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	181.28	211.50	241.70	271.92	332.35	392.78	453.20	543.84
Battle	227.91	265.90	303.88	341.87	417.85	493.82	569.78	683.74
Beckley	162.60	189.70	216.80	243.90	298.11	352.30	406.50	487.80
Bexhill	184.55	215.32	246.06	276.83	338.35	399.87	461.38	553.66
Bodiam	178.12	207.81	237.49	267.18	326.56	385.93	445.30	534.36
Brede	163.43	190.68	217.91	245.15	299.63	354.11	408.58	490.30
Brightling	158.71	185.16	211.61	238.06	290.97	343.87	396.77	476.12
Burwash	188.50	219.92	251.33	282.75	345.59	408.42	471.25	565.50
Camber	196.41	229.14	261.87	294.61	360.09	425.55	491.02	589.22
Catsfield	188.01	219.34	250.67	282.01	344.69	407.35	470.02	564.02
Crowhurst	190.57	222.33	254.09	285.85	349.38	412.90	476.42	571.70
Dallington	168.84	196.98	225.12	253.26	309.55	365.82	422.10	506.52
East Guldeford	132.40	154.47	176.53	198.60	242.74	286.87	331.00	397.20
Etchingham	245.46	286.37	327.28	368.19	450.02	531.83	613.65	736.38
Ewhurst	224.97	262.47	299.96	337.46	412.46	487.45	562.43	674.92
Fairlight	199.69	232.98	266.25	299.54	366.11	432.67	499.23	599.08
Guestling	142.41	166.15	189.88	213.62	261.10	308.57	356.03	427.24
Hurst Green	187.65	218.93	250.20	281.48	344.04	406.59	469.13	562.96
Icklesham	218.50	254.92	291.33	327.75	400.59	473.42	546.25	655.50
Iden	178.03	207.71	237.37	267.05	326.40	385.74	445.08	534.10
Mountfield	171.87	200.51	229.15	257.80	315.10	372.38	429.67	515.60
Northiam	200.98	234.48	267.97	301.47	368.47	435.46	502.45	602.94
Peasmarsh	181.42	211.66	241.89	272.13	332.61	393.08	453.55	544.26
Pett	165.24	192.78	220.32	247.86	302.95	358.02	413.10	495.72
Playden	152.78	178.25	203.70	229.17	280.10	331.03	381.95	458.34
Rye	234.06	273.07	312.07	351.09	429.12	507.13	585.15	702.18
Rye Foreign	140.93	164.42	187.90	211.39	258.37	305.34	352.32	422.78
Salehurst	208.43	243.18	277.91	312.65	382.13	451.61	521.08	625.30
Sedlescombe	191.39	223.30	255.19	287.09	350.89	414.69	478.48	574.18
Ticehurst	191.27	223.16	255.03	286.91	350.67	414.43	478.18	573.82
Udimore	157.00	183.17	209.33	235.50	287.84	340.17	392.50	471.00
Westfield	194.87	227.36	259.83	292.31	357.27	422.23	487.18	584.62
Whatlington	162.59	189.69	216.78	243.88	298.08	352.27	406.47	487.76

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.

4. That the Council notes that for the year 2023/24, 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	1,129.20	1,317.40	1,505.60	1,693.80	2,070.20	2,446.60	2,823.00	3,387.60
- <i>Council Tax</i>	<i>980.76</i>	<i>1,144.22</i>	<i>1,307.68</i>	<i>1,471.14</i>	<i>1,798.06</i>	<i>2,124.98</i>	<i>2,451.90</i>	<i>2,942.28</i>
- <i>Adult Social Care Precept</i>	<i>148.44</i>	<i>173.18</i>	<i>197.92</i>	<i>222.66</i>	<i>272.14</i>	<i>321.62</i>	<i>371.10</i>	<i>445.32</i>
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	159.94	186.60	213.25	239.91	293.22	346.54	399.85	479.82
East Sussex Fire & Rescue	69.58	81.18	92.77	104.37	127.56	150.76	173.95	208.74

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 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Bands

LOCAL TAX AREA

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashburnham								
& Penhurst	1,540.00	1,796.68	2,053.32	2,310.00	2,823.33	3,336.68	3,850.00	4,620.00
Battle	1,586.63	1,851.08	2,115.50	2,379.95	2,908.83	3,437.72	3,966.58	4,759.90
Beckley	1,521.32	1,774.88	2,028.42	2,281.98	2,789.09	3,296.20	3,803.30	4,563.96
Bexhill	1,543.27	1,800.50	2,057.68	2,314.91	2,829.33	3,343.77	3,858.18	4,629.82
Bodiam	1,536.84	1,792.99	2,049.11	2,305.26	2,817.54	3,329.83	3,842.10	4,610.52
Brede	1,522.15	1,775.86	2,029.53	2,283.23	2,790.61	3,298.01	3,805.38	4,566.46
Brightling	1,517.43	1,770.34	2,023.23	2,276.14	2,781.95	3,287.77	3,793.57	4,552.28
Burwash	1,547.22	1,805.10	2,062.95	2,320.83	2,836.57	3,352.32	3,868.05	4,641.66
Camber	1,555.13	1,814.32	2,073.49	2,332.69	2,851.07	3,369.45	3,887.82	4,665.38
Catsfield	1,546.73	1,804.52	2,062.29	2,320.09	2,835.67	3,351.25	3,866.82	4,640.18
Crowhurst	1,549.29	1,807.51	2,065.71	2,323.93	2,840.36	3,356.80	3,873.22	4,647.86
Dallington	1,527.56	1,782.16	2,036.74	2,291.34	2,800.53	3,309.72	3,818.90	4,582.68
East Guldeford	1,491.12	1,739.65	1,988.15	2,236.68	2,733.72	3,230.77	3,727.80	4,473.36
Etchingham	1,604.18	1,871.55	2,138.90	2,406.27	2,941.00	3,475.73	4,010.45	4,812.54
Ewhurst	1,583.69	1,847.65	2,111.58	2,375.54	2,903.44	3,431.35	3,959.23	4,751.08
Fairlight	1,558.41	1,818.16	2,077.87	2,337.62	2,857.09	3,376.57	3,896.03	4,675.24
Guestling	1,501.13	1,751.33	2,001.50	2,251.70	2,752.08	3,252.47	3,752.83	4,503.40
Hurst Green	1,546.37	1,804.11	2,061.82	2,319.56	2,835.02	3,350.49	3,865.93	4,639.12
Icklesham	1,577.22	1,840.10	2,102.95	2,365.83	2,891.57	3,417.32	3,943.05	4,731.66
Iden	1,536.75	1,792.89	2,048.99	2,305.13	2,817.38	3,329.64	3,841.88	4,610.26
Mountfield	1,530.59	1,785.69	2,040.77	2,295.88	2,806.08	3,316.28	3,826.47	4,591.76
Northiam	1,559.70	1,819.66	2,079.59	2,339.55	2,859.45	3,379.36	3,899.25	4,679.10
Peasmarsh	1,540.14	1,796.84	2,053.51	2,310.21	2,823.59	3,336.98	3,850.35	4,620.42
Pett	1,523.96	1,777.96	2,031.94	2,285.94	2,793.93	3,301.92	3,809.90	4,571.88
Playden	1,511.50	1,763.43	2,015.32	2,267.25	2,771.08	3,274.93	3,778.75	4,534.50
Rye	1,592.78	1,858.25	2,123.69	2,389.17	2,920.10	3,451.03	3,981.95	4,778.34
Rye Foreign	1,499.65	1,749.60	1,999.52	2,249.47	2,749.35	3,249.24	3,749.12	4,498.94
Salehurst	1,567.15	1,828.36	2,089.53	2,350.73	2,873.11	3,395.51	3,917.88	4,701.46
Sedlescombe	1,550.11	1,808.48	2,066.81	2,325.17	2,841.87	3,358.59	3,875.28	4,650.34
Ticehurst	1,549.99	1,808.34	2,066.65	2,324.99	2,841.65	3,358.33	3,874.98	4,649.98
Udimore	1,515.72	1,768.35	2,020.95	2,273.58	2,778.82	3,284.07	3,789.30	4,547.16
Westfield	1,553.59	1,812.54	2,071.45	2,330.39	2,848.25	3,366.13	3,883.98	4,660.78
Whatlington	1,521.31	1,774.87	2,028.40	2,281.96	2,789.06	3,296.17	3,803.27	4,563.92

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 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52B(3) of the Local Government Act 1992.

Council Tax 2023/24

Local Precepts

PARISH COUNCIL AREA	2023/24			2022/23			% 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	13,650.00	186.18	73.32	13,000.00	188.60	68.93	6.37
Battle	399,777.00	2,790.34	143.27	387,850.00	2,713.50	142.93	0.24
Beckley	25,000.00	551.86	45.30	25,000.00	548.20	45.60	-0.66
Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council - see note 1	651,715.00	17,013.63	38.31	390,920.00	16,826.70	23.23	64.92
Bodiam	11,420.00	166.52	68.58	10,980.00	166.50	65.95	3.99
Brede	39,945.00	858.06	46.55	38,940.00	860.40	45.26	2.85
Brightling	7,894.00	200.04	39.46	7,739.00	199.50	38.79	1.73
Burwash	105,792.00	1,257.16	84.15	105,792.00	1,255.20	84.28	-0.15
Camber	63,498.00	661.36	96.01	63,498.00	663.90	95.64	0.39
Catsfield	32,000.00	383.66	83.41	30,000.00	377.80	79.41	5.04
Crowhurst	32,455.00	371.97	87.25	29,134.24	367.30	79.32	10.00
Dallington	9,435.00	172.61	54.66	8,435.00	172.80	48.81	11.99
East Guldeford	0.00	33.13	0.00	0.00	30.60	0.00	0.00
Etchingham	71,600.00	422.20	169.59	71,500.00	412.20	173.46	-2.23
Ewhurst	77,343.00	556.97	138.86	73,641.00	553.40	133.07	4.35
Fairlight	90,000.00	891.58	100.94	70,000.00	903.10	77.51	30.23
Guestling	9,547.00	635.71	15.02	9,180.00	643.40	14.27	5.26
Hurst Green	48,681.00	587.34	82.88	44,594.00	581.30	76.71	8.04
Icklesham	159,580.00	1,235.63	129.15	157,588.00	1,218.40	129.34	-0.15
Iden	16,000.00	233.76	68.45	16,000.00	237.80	67.28	1.74
Mountfield	12,000.00	202.69	59.20	13,100.00	197.80	66.23	-10.61
Northiam	107,500.00	1,045.03	102.87	100,000.00	1,048.40	95.38	7.85
Peasmarsh	37,000.00	503.20	73.53	37,000.00	505.10	73.25	0.38
Pett	23,000.00	466.93	49.26	23,000.00	473.90	48.53	1.50
Playden	5,000.00	163.57	30.57	5,000.00	164.50	30.40	0.56
Rye Town Council - see note 2	220,490.00	1,915.77	115.09	188,592.00	1,913.30	98.57	16.76
Rye Foreign	2,000.00	156.40	12.79	2,000.00	159.60	12.53	2.08
Salehurst & Robertsbridge	116,912.00	1,025.07	114.05	107,770.00	1,027.00	104.94	8.68
Sedlescombe	59,800.00	675.81	88.49	58,613.00	670.20	87.46	1.18
Ticehurst	150,150.00	1,700.30	88.31	147,550.00	1,681.10	87.77	0.62
Udimore	7,000.00	189.72	36.90	6,630.00	190.20	34.86	5.85
Westfield	104,000.00	1,109.81	93.71	99,665.00	1,116.70	89.25	5.00
Whatlington	7,100.00	156.79	45.28	7,100.00	158.60	44.77	1.14
	2,717,284.00	38,520.80		2,349,811.24	38,227.00		

*** Note: The precept for Rye Foreign Parish Council is due on the 14th February 2023 and therefore subject to a possible change.**

	Precept £	Taxbase	Local Tax £
Note 1			
Bexhill local precept shown above comprises			
: Bexhill Town Council	651,715.00	17,013.63	38.31
: Bexhill Special Expenses	<u>679,180.00</u>	17,013.63	<u>39.92</u>
	<u>1,330,895.00</u>		<u>78.23</u>
Note 2			
Rye local precept shown above comprises			
: Rye Town Council Precept	220,490.00	1,915.77	115.09
: Rye Special Expenses	<u>71,650.00</u>	1,915.77	<u>37.40</u>
	<u>292,140.00</u>		<u>152.49</u>

Budget consultation summary

The Council budget and council tax consultation with residents and businesses closed on the 31 January 2023. There was a total of 126 responses, of which 123 were from residents, 2 from people that worked or were visiting Rother and 1 from a business. A summary of the results is shown below.

Key findings:

The consultation asked to what extent respondents either agreed or disagreed with a series of options that the Council could consider, these are provided at the end of this briefing note.

The following options received overall support from respondents:

(agree = agree/strongly agree. Shown in order of most support):

- 78% agreed to streamlining services so we can deliver the same outcomes.
- 66% agreed to people helping themselves, so they have less reliance on publicly funded services.
- 64% agreed to prioritising spending to protect services for most vulnerable and those without choice.
- 60% agreed to partnering with other organisations to provide services.

The following options did not receive overall support from respondents:

Agree = strongly agree/agree, disagree = disagree/strongly disagree. Shown in order of highest to lowest levels of agreement)

- 46% of respondents agreed to encouraging local people and communities to deliver certain services. Whilst only 17% disagreed, opinion is mixed/neutral.
- Whilst 35.5% agreed to introducing charges for some services currently free or subsidised, nearly as many (31%) disagreed.
- Only 28% agreed with reducing or stopping the delivering of some services to protect others with the same proportion disagreeing (28%).

Council Tax

There was overall support for the proposed amount of Council Tax to be charged, with 62% of respondents agreeing (53% strongly agree and 9% agreeing 'a bit').

Fees and Charges

There was also overall support for the proposed increase (10%) for fees and charges. Overall, 64% of people agreed (agree and agree strongly 43% and 21% agreeing 'a bit'). However, 30% of respondents disagreed.

Views on capital programme proposals

We received just over 60 individual comments which reflected a range of views from agreement with the proposals to ceasing capital investment. The common comments focussed on the following;

- Agreeing with the proposals outlined;
- Not using reserves or borrowing to fund capital expenditure;
- Only investing in current assets, not new ones;
- Being cautious when investing in new assets;
- Focus on provision of housing;
- Not investing in the Town Hall;
- Some comments highlighted a misunderstanding of what services and functions the Council undertakes (road improvements for example).

What else should the council take into account

We received around 70 individual comments, the most significant of these were as follows;

- 16% raised concerns about residents' ability to pay given rising costs;
- 13% stopping capital projects and not changing the town hall;
- 9% no value in having town/parish councils, too expensive, review cost vs delivery, reduce layers of local government
- 7% prioritising the most vulnerable; and
- 6% recommended cutting and reducing services (unspecified)

Respondents:

44% live in Bexhill
11% live in Battle
5% live in Rye
40% live in a village or the countryside

48% are male
46% are female
1% transgender/transsexual
5% prefer not to say

4% are aged 18 to 34
22% are aged 35 to 54
25% are aged 55 to 64
44% are aged 65 to 79
5% are aged 80 and over.

20% had a disability or a long term, limiting illness or condition that can affect day to day living

88% are White British
2% are White Gypsy/Traveller
5% are White other background
1% are Asian/Asian British: Indian
1% are Asian/Asian British: Chinese
3% are 'other' ethnic group

Consultation questions

What should the council do?

How much do you agree or disagree that Rother District Council should do each of the following when faced with financial pressure?

Streamline services so that we can deliver the same outcomes

Introduce charges for some services that are currently free or subsidised

Reduce or stop delivering some services to protect others

Encourage local people and communities to deliver certain services

Help people to help themselves more so they have less reliance on publicly funded services

Prioritise spending to protect services for the most vulnerable and those without choice

Use or partner with other organisations to provide services

Proposed council tax level

The Band D council tax for Rother District Council for this year is £193.38 and the possible increase for 2023/2024 is £5.78, which would take the charge up to £199.16. In the current financial circumstances how much do you agree or disagree that this is an appropriate amount to charge?

Proposed fees and charges

We are proposing increases in fees and charges for services we provide, except where the charges are set by the government, restricted to income recovery only or have fallen behind what other providers are charging. This is to help manage the inflationary pressures the Council is facing.

Most of the proposed increases for fees and charges are 10% in line with current inflation levels but there are some exceptions. In the current financial circumstances how much do you agree or disagree that this is an appropriate amount to increase fees and charges by?

Proposed capital spending plans

The Council's capital programme shows what we intend to spend on purchasing new assets and improving existing ones over the next five years. Over the period of our Medium Term Financial Plan we intend to invest £113m, funded by a mix of grants, capital receipts, reserves and borrowing. Please let us have any views on the capital programme proposals.