

Newport's Budget Challenge

Budget Saving Proposals for 2021-22

The following report summarises the results of the consultation surveys on the budget saving proposals for 2021-22. This process took two forms:

- An online survey that is open to all citizens; and
- A shortened survey involving users of the free bus Wi-Fi.

The consultation ran from the 8 January 2021 until the 12 February 2021.

A total of 599 responses were received including 285 through the online consultation survey and 314 through the bus Wi-Fi survey.

With regard to the online consultation survey respondents were asked their opinions on 8 of the proposals being considered by Cabinet. The summary of the results includes a description of each of the proposals, the options being considered, alongside the results given and a selection of the received comments.

For the bus Wi-Fi survey, the focus was on gathering users' views on the proposed increase in council tax, while promoting the full online survey and where to access.

In addition, during the consultation period we separately received feedback from Newport Councillors, which are summarised below:

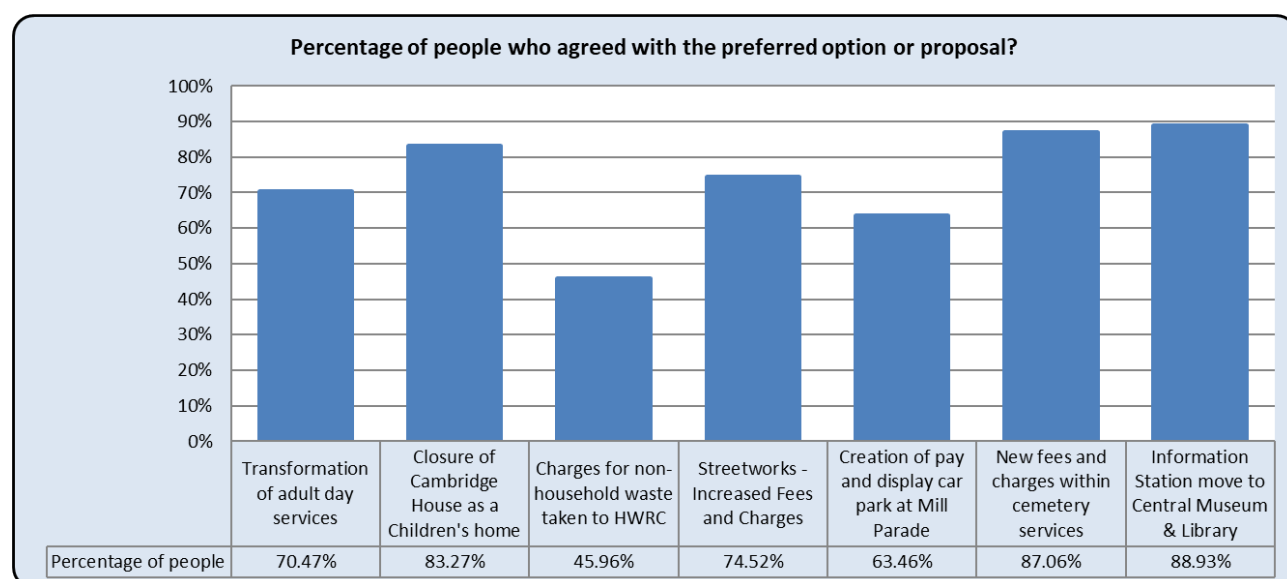
- General acknowledgment of the impact of Covid-19 on finances but highlighting the need to ensure that contingencies are in place taking into account both increased demand for services and decreases in revenue.
- Is there confidence in the outlined demand for social care e.g. high-end autism placements, older persons/mental health placements?
- Will the savings at the HWRC be eaten up by increased fly tipping, which is a real and big issue?
- Highlighted concerns from constituents on the level of increase in Council Tax, which they feel is too high, especially in these challenging times.

Online Budget Consultation Survey

There were 285 responses received (including 2 completed in Welsh), with the results shown below:

Overview of Results

Budget Proposals		Percentage of people who agreed with the...		Percentage of people who believed the proposal was fully or partly explained in the business case
		Preferred option	Proposal	
AS2122/03	Transformation of adult day services	70.47%		91.80%
CS2122/03	Closure of Cambridge House as a Children's home	83.27%		94.29%
STR2122/02	Charges for non-household waste taken to HWRC	45.96%		96.68%
STR2122/05	Streetworks - Increased Fees and Charges		74.52%	93.88%
STR2122/06	Creation of pay and display car park at Mill Parade		63.46%	99.18%
STR2122/08	New fees and charges within cemetery services	87.06%		94.78%
RIH2122/04	Information Station move to Central Museum & Library	88.93%		96.12%
Proposal		Agree a 5% increase is 'About Right'		
N/A	Increase in Council Tax		31.05%	
N/A	Increase in Council Tax (Bus Wi-Fi Survey)		20.06%	



List of Budget Proposals 2021-22 – People

Proposal Number 1

AS2122/03 – Adult and Community Services

Transformation of adult day services

The day opportunities service provides specialist services for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and people needing support with their mental health. A number of rooms on the Brynglas site are also used by an older persons' group.

The PMLD and older people's services provide respite for carers as they require round-the-clock personal care and support. Brynglas also provides the opportunity for people to socialise and participate in a range of activities.

Over the past few years, the numbers attending the services have significantly reduced so that typically there are between 10-14 people in the mental health service each session; and between 21-23 in the PMLD per day.

There have been minimal referrals to the PMLD day service over the past two years while there has been an increase in the referrals for older persons' respite care. Younger people coming into the adult PMLD group and their families do not want the traditional building-based service.

The ending of the contract for an external respite for mainly older people ends on 31 March and this presents an opportunity to deliver the same level of service by our own staff. Community based care would mainly focus on supporting older people and unpaid carers. In order to deliver a community based model of care and support that meets people's needs, a staffing restructure would be required. There are efficiencies that can be made by delivering this service model compared to a building based model, which would be achieved through a reduction in overall staffing.

It is proposed to commission day services for people with PMLD or mental health services from providers who have the experience and facilities.

Savings: £437k (2021/22); £145k (2022/23)

Reduction of Staff: 16.97 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

The following options have been put forward:

Option 1: Continue to deliver a building based day service from Brynglas for people with PMLD, older people and people with mental health problems (status quo).

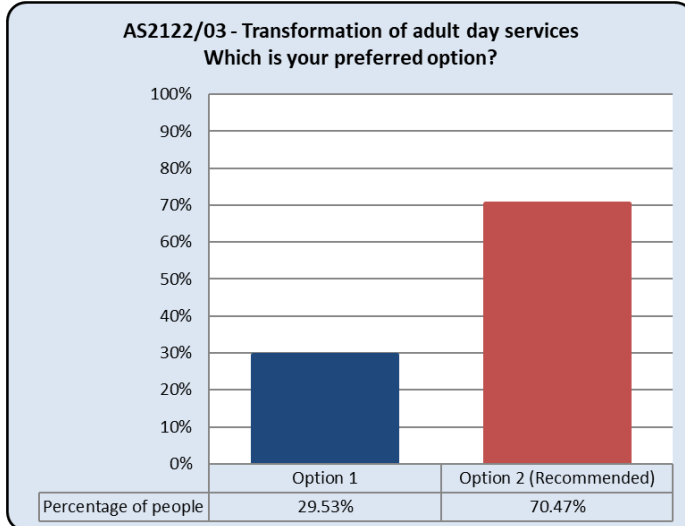
Option 2 (**Recommended Option**): Move to a community outreach model and:

- Re-provision the Mental Health service to third sector provision;
- Move to a community based outreach model of respite, care and support for older people and unpaid carers;
- Provide a mixed range of provision for PMLD clients which include both building and community based services using a mix of internal and external provision.

Q1a: Which is your preferred option?

Preferred Option	Number of people	Percentage of people
Option 1	75	29.53%
Option 2 (Recommended)	179	70.47%

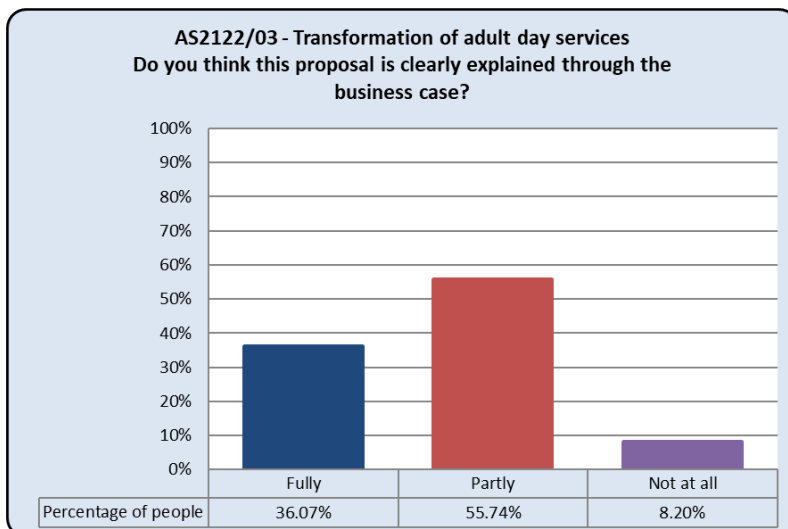
NB: There were 31 no responses to Q1a.



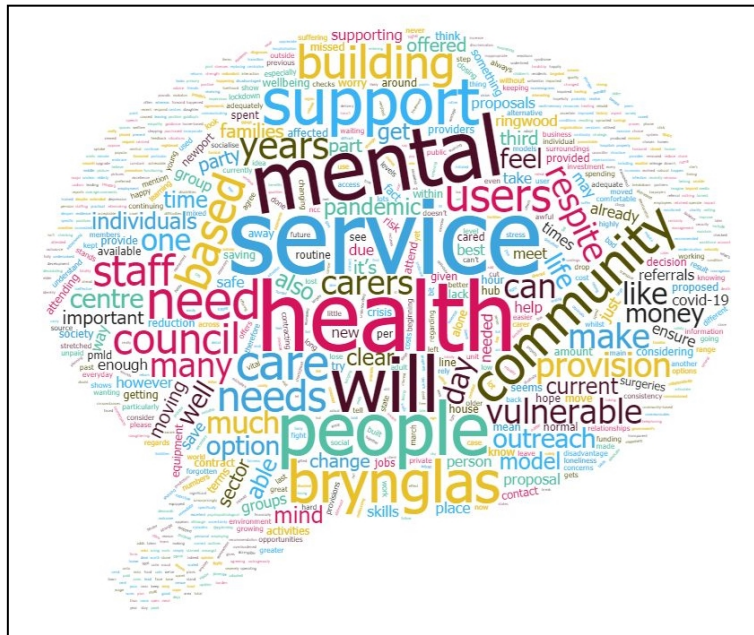
Q1b: Do you think this proposal is clearly explained through the business case?

Clearly Explained	Number of people	Percentage of people
Fully	88	36.07%
Partly	136	55.74%
Not at all	20	8.20%

NB: There were 41 no responses to Q1b.



Q1c: Do you have any other comments about this proposal (60 comments received – a selection of these comments to give an overview of the main issues are shown below)?



- It is important that people get to meet together. This has been particularly underlined during the recent pandemic. Home-based services are not enough.
- Seems sensible given that the proposed alternative would provide a service more in line with what people want/need.
- Brynglas offers a much needed service! Referrals may have dropped because the service isn't offered to young people leaving children's services and entering the adult provisions!
- Seems like a good idea to incorporate and work collaboratively with other partners.
- Many carers require the respite break that an outside setting offers. Simply 'supporting carers more' is not adequate. Respite services need to be improved and escalated not scaled down.
- I think that firstly you have to ascertain what support those that are attending are getting from the service as it currently stands. Whilst you consider the numbers are low, I consider that those that are attending may be getting something that they can't access elsewhere and so removing the service or changing it could mean that they lose out. If they can access the same support as they get from this service by other means then that is the time to look at this as an option, not before.

Proposal Number 2

CS2122/03 – Children and Family Services

Closure of Cambridge House as a Children's home

Cambridge House (CH) is a children's home in the Stow Hill area of the city. There has been a children's home at CH for over 30 years. As a children's home, CH is a very large building which is out of kilter with best practice in children's residential care. The building layout is challenging to manage children with more difficult behaviours. The building is in poor condition and in order for continued safe use requires extensive capital spend. It is in the middle of the city, which again poses extensive challenges because of the risk to children being exploited and targeted.

As a local authority (LA), Newport City Council has undertaken extensive works to maintain and enhance the residential care in Newport. This includes Forest Lodge and Rose Cottage with Rosedale due to come into operation at the end of November 2020. Windmill Farm is progressing and it is anticipated will come into operation during the autumn of 2021. Oaklands provides short breaks for disabled children. The proposed closure of Cambridge House would be in line with the developments of smaller children's homes with focussed methodologies of care set in the more rural areas of the city. Smaller homes are more able to meet the needs of children and are better suited to developing a family environment. Children's homes in close proximity to the city centre do have advantages in terms of access to facilities, public transport and other services. However, these advantages are outweighed by risks because of being close to areas of the city with inherent risks and difficulties for children and young people. Children's homes a little out of the city centre provide children with the advantages of more space, some rural activities and distance from more difficult aspects of the city centre. The developments within Newport are all within easy distance of services and facilities and do not suffer from isolation.

The council currently has the largest number of residential homes of any Welsh LA with a commitment to quality of practice and safe care for children. In order to achieve a closure and savings for a full year the decision for closure will require a timely decision. The staff group across children's residential care would be consulted in order to ensure the remaining children's homes were effectively & safely staffed.

Rosedale has been acquired and the capital works completed using Integrated Care Fund (ICF) grant funding. Rosedale is on schedule to be ready for use by early December. The revenue budget has been calculated on the same basis as Rose Cottage which has the same number of children and is working in the way planned for Rosedale. Rosedale has been planned in the same way as Rose Cottage with the original revenue budget coming with the children who have been placed out of county. If this business case is agreed, then the revenue attached to the children returning will be reconsidered either against the pressures being absorbed within Children's Services or as the next steps to reduce the numbers of agreed placements in out of county residential.

In order to maximise the savings element of this proposal, the final element is the targeting of one bed in Rosedale to be used by a neighbouring LA. Discussions have commenced with another LA for one child to return to Gwent and to be placed in Rosedale. This will also ensure the regional element of ICF capital funding is sustained. The current need for residential placements across Wales vastly outstrips local provision. It is therefore anticipated that one bed could consistently be used by another LA contributing towards the revenue budget for Rosedale.

The existing Cambridge House budget is £816k. The Rose Cottage budget is £601k, with £215k the projected saving. In addition, the contribution from another LA to a placement a year will equal £124k. The total saving in this business case is thus £339k with savings being realised from June 2021 onwards.

Savings: £254k (2021/22); £85k (2022/23)

Reduction of Staff: 5.12 FTE

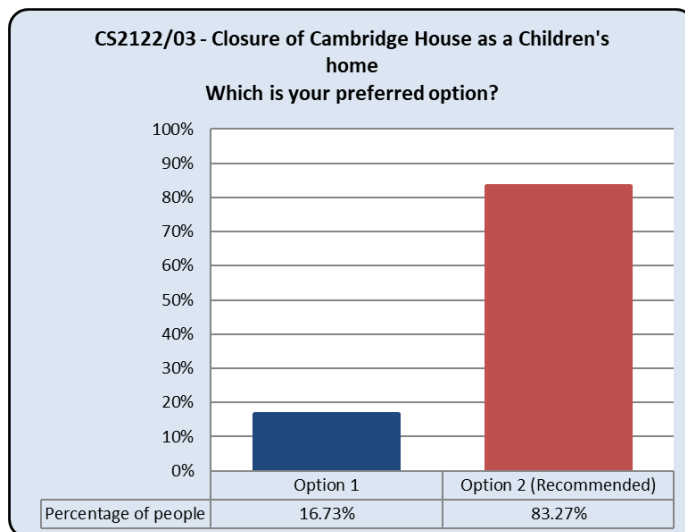
The following options have been put forward:

Option 1: Retain Cambridge House as a children's home.
Option 2 (Recommended Option): Cambridge House is closed as a children's home.

Q2a: Which is your preferred option?

Preferred Option	Number of people	Percentage of people
Option 1	43	16.73%
Option 2 (Recommended)	214	83.27%

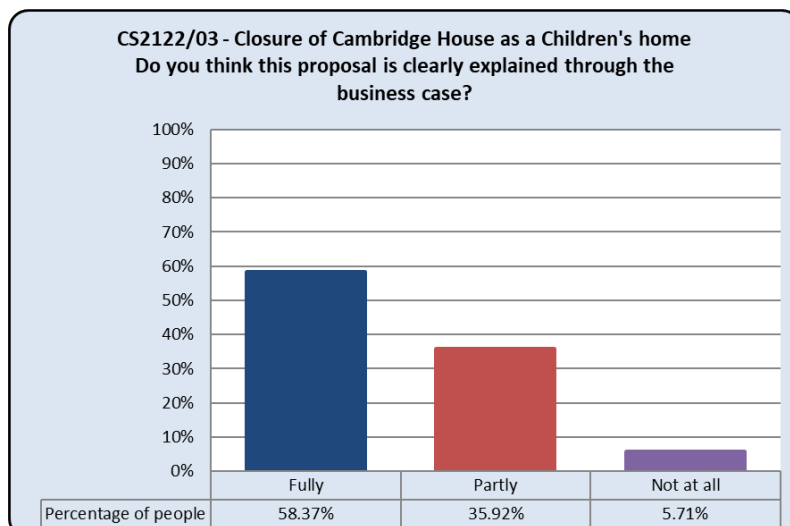
NB: There were 28 no responses to Q2a.



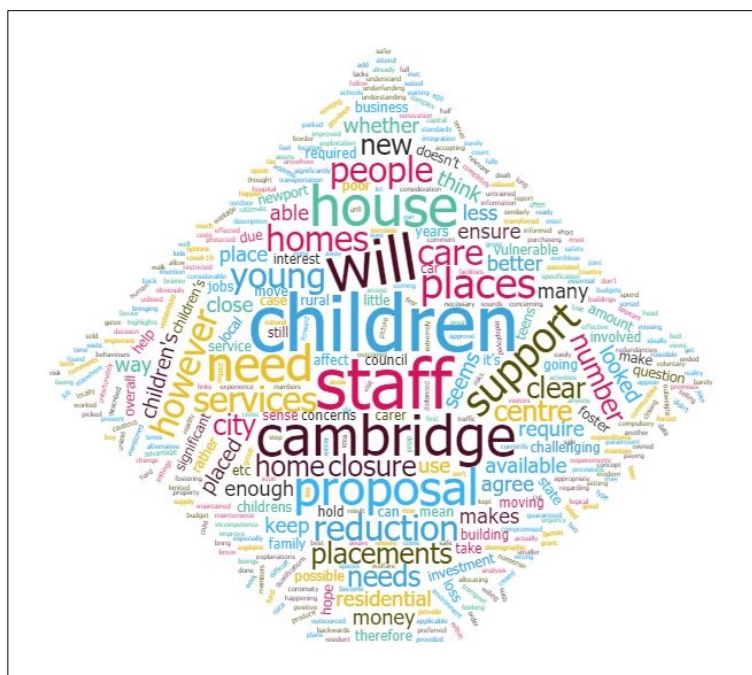
Q2b: Do you think this proposal is clearly explained through the business case?

Clearly Explained	Number of people	Percentage of people
Fully	143	58.37%
Partly	88	35.92%
Not at all	14	5.71%

NB: There were 40 no responses to Q2b.



Q2c: Do you have any other comments about this proposal (50 comments received – a selection of these comments to give an overview of the main issues are shown below)?



- I agree with the closure of CH with clear care plans for the children to be placed in appropriate placements. I am unsure where the LA are going to place the children, this doesn't appear to be clear within the proposal and it is concerning due to placements being extremely limited.
- I do have a question about the children and where they are going to be placed. Has there been any thought about joint working with Llamau?
- I fully approve the advantage of more spaces for outdoor and rural activities, more distanced from a city centre reality. It sounds to be in the best interest of those children.
- To ensure no loss of service and ensure children are protected I agree with this business case, however you have failed to mention how moving out of the city centre would affect the children in care. This must be looked at to be able to make an informed decision.
- I completely agree with the concerns about the risks associated with it being so close to the city centre. Having worked in Cambridge House many years ago it was challenging for staff to keep the young people safe as they only had to walk out of the gates and they could easily be picked up in a car and there was little we could do other than report them missing. However, I do have concerns that there seems to be a reduction in the number of children who would be able to access support in this way.
- I am an ex resident of Cambridge house children's home and I ended up there after a foster carer had to go into hospital. Services for teens have not improved in Newport and places are not readily available for teens or young people. To close this home would put young people at risk.

List of Budget Proposals 2021-22 – Place Proposal Number 3

STR2122/02 – City Services

Charges for non-household waste taken to household waste recycling centre (HWRC)

Historically the council has accepted non-household waste from residents such as DIY and construction materials.

This has incurred additional costs to the council and this proposal is to introduce a small charge to offset these costs.

Benchmarking analysis shows that while charges for these type of materials are not common in Wales, most other councils across the UK apply charges to DIY waste, plasterboard and tyres, with prices ranging between £2.50 and £6 per bag of plasterboard, and £4 to £5 per tyre.

New fees would be in place from 1st April 2021, and residents would be charged at the point of booking an appointment for disposal of the items.

Savings: £20k (2021/22)

Reduction of Staff: Not applicable

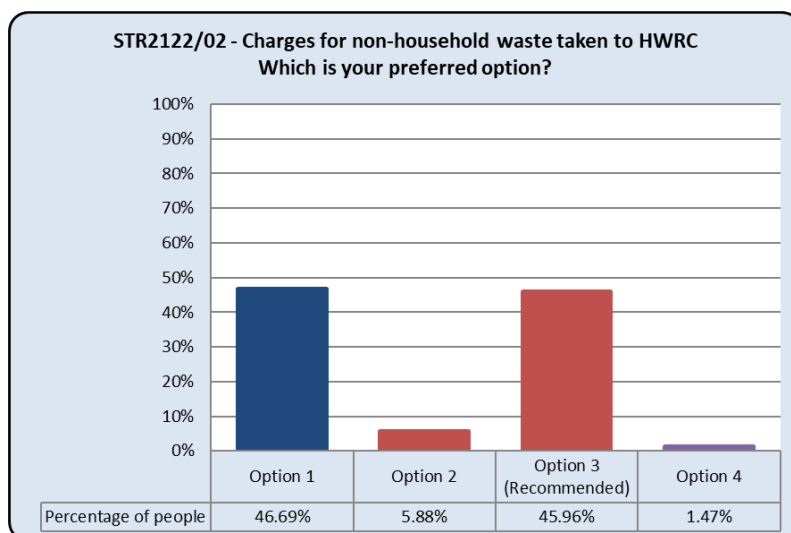
The following options have been put forward:

Option 1: Maintain status quo.
Option 2: Introduce charges for rubble, tyres and plasterboard. Main costs are generated by collection of rubble, tyres and plasterboard. Rubble is a material commonly produced as part of house renovations and the amount of rubble disposed of at the HWRC is high. While introducing new charges would bring additional revenue, it would impact on more residents and significantly impact on the recycling rate. If charges were introduced for all three elements, based on a cost recovery basis, the council would save c£90k. However, it is expected that some residents would opt for disposing of their items a different way or just not recycle them, which would lead to an overall decrease in the amount of material.
Option 3 (Recommended Option): Introduce charges for tyres (£2.5 per item) and plasterboard (£5 per bag – up to approx. 25kg). Rubble is a material commonly produced as part of house renovations and the amount of rubble disposed of at the HWRC is high; although the impact of introducing new charges would be high in terms of additional revenue, it would affect a higher number of residents both in frequency and cost, and would also have a significant negative impact to the recycling rate. However, tyres and plasterboard are relatively minor waste streams by weight, so any losses due to resident's opting out would be negligible in terms of recycling rate, while at the same time contributing to decrease the current extra costs to the recycling budget. Imposing charges for disposal of tyres and plasterboard would deliver savings of 20k while not having a significant negative impact on the recycling rate.
Option 4: Stop accepting tyres and plasterboard. There would be a saving, but a reduction in recycling and not be in line with the council's well-being objective of promoting economic growth and regeneration while protecting the environment.

Q3a: Which is your preferred option?

Preferred Option	Number of people	Percentage of people
Option 1	127	46.69%
Option 2	16	5.88%
Option 3 (Recommended)	125	45.96%
Option 4	4	1.47%

NB: There were 13 no responses to Q3a.

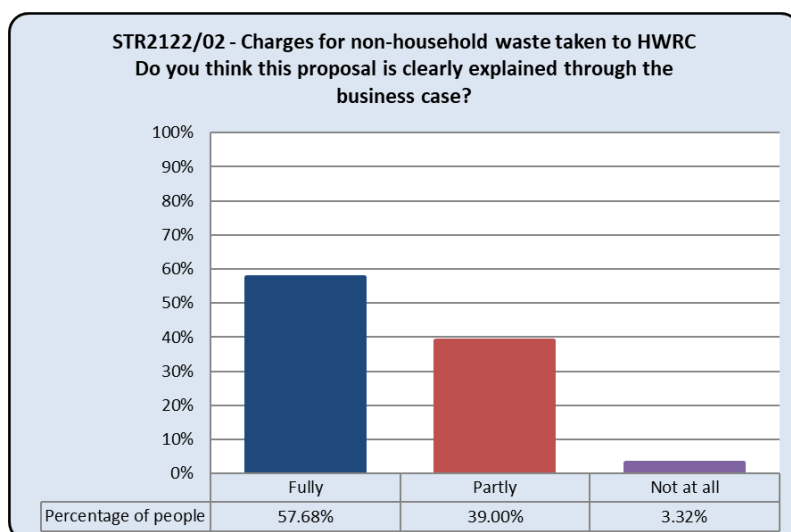


We also received feedback from two Community Councils who did not support the above proposal. For more information, see the letters appended in the Cabinet Report.

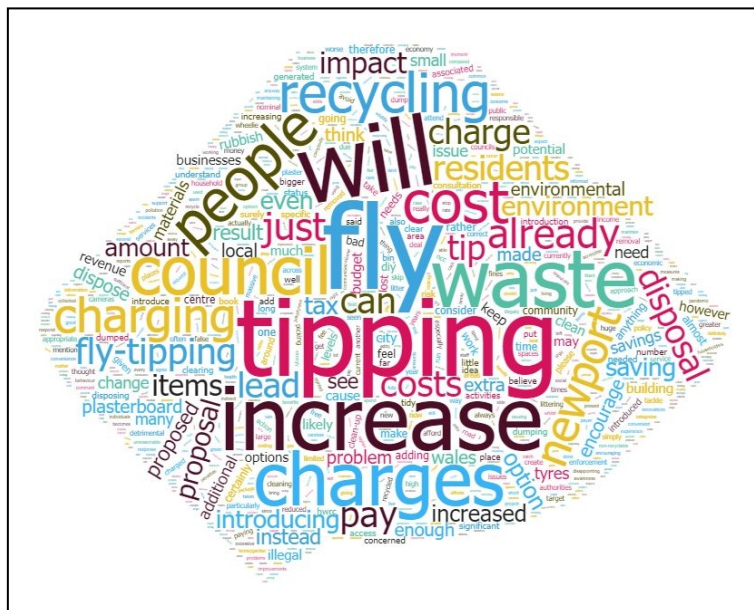
Q3b: Do you think this proposal is clearly explained through the business case?

Clearly Explained	Number of people	Percentage of people
Fully	139	57.68%
Partly	94	39.00%
Not at all	8	3.32%

NB: There were 44 no responses to Q3b.



Q3c: Do you have any other comments about this proposal (105 comments received – a selection of these comments to give an overview of the main issues are shown below)?



- Introduction of charges will lead to increased Fly Tipping which will lead to environmental pollution and health and safety issues. Fly Tipped refuse still needs to be collected and removed.
- I am concerned that more people will just dump waste if they have to pay or can't dispose of it at all. This will lead to costs of cleaning it up instead, not to mention it being unsightly and a hazard in the meantime.
- Introducing / increasing fines for disposal of any waste will increase the likely hood of fly tipping. Surely, fly tipping costs the Council more in the long run than people disposing of it free of charge at a legitimate refuse/recycling site. We need to somehow change people's attitudes to purchasing less/generating less waste to begin with.
- There is already significant pressure on green spaces, additional costs risk leading to higher levels of fly tipping and waste accumulating in gardens with associated health and aesthetic consequences.
- May increase the prices of home building and building renovations.
- Sensible proposal. However due to a cost will this increase fly tipping?
- If people can afford house renovations to include removal of plasterboard and rubble, then they can afford to purchase a skip or pay for this waste to be removed.

Proposal Number 4

STR2122/05 – City Services

Streetworks – Increased Fees and Charges

This proposal seeks to increase the Council's current fees for the approval and processing of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders applications by public utilities and developers who want to carry out works in the adopted highway.

This a statutory requirement that all contractors must obtain prior to commencing any works that will affect the availability for roadusers and pedestrians whereby roads will require closure and diversion to a suitable alternative route to enable the works to be carried out safely.

The Council's Streetworks team administer all such applications and ensure efficient coordination is carried out to ensure minimal service disruption and shared access can be agreed as far as possible.

This legal process incurs both administrative and legal costs and includes advertising where required. Currently the council charge £800 per application exclusive of advertising, which is charged separately to the applicants on long term road closures only.

The proposal is to increase the fees charged to be inclusive of advertising costs so applicants are aware that a standard set fee is relevant to every application. The fee proposal is £1,450 per application, in line with other Councils.

Analysis of applications received per year indicate an anticipated number per annum of 58 will be received and an anticipated increase of gross income will be generated. An allowance for advertising costs is to be included based on long term closures experienced previously for £15k.

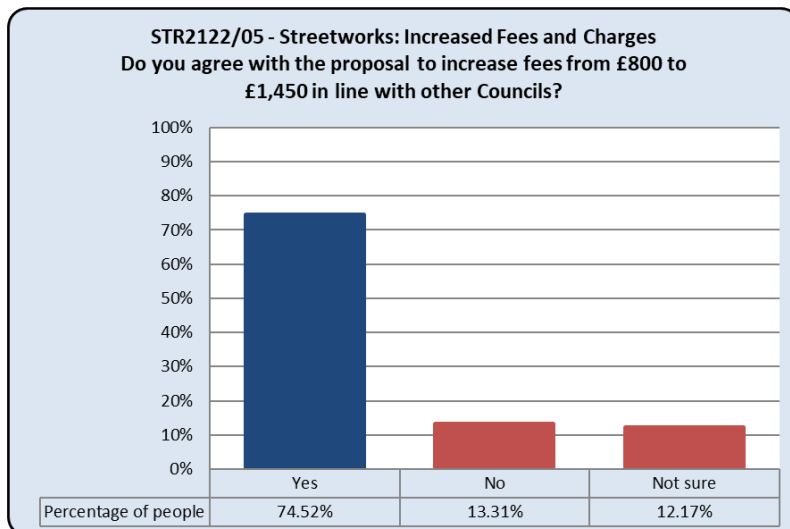
Savings: £21k (2021/22)

Reduction of Staff: Not applicable

Q4a: Do you agree with the proposal to increase fees from £800 to £1,450 in line with other Councils?

Do you agree?	Number of people	Percentage of people
Yes	196	74.52%
No	35	13.31%
Not sure	32	12.17%

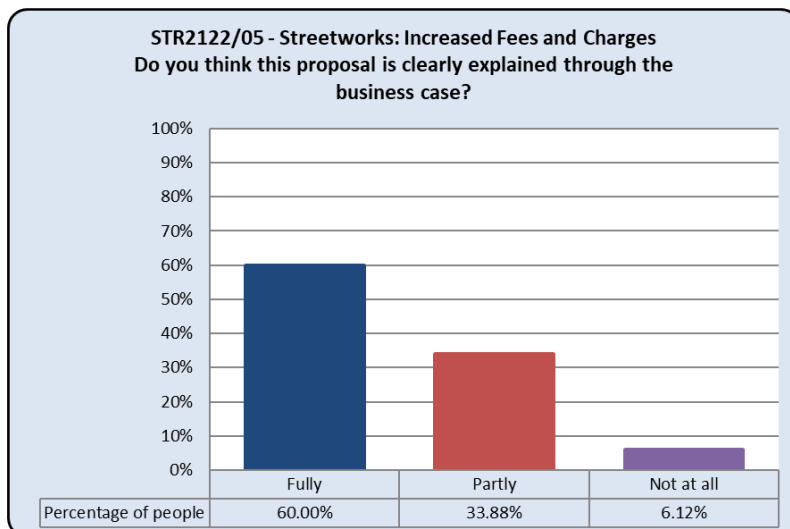
NB: There were 22 no responses to Q4a.



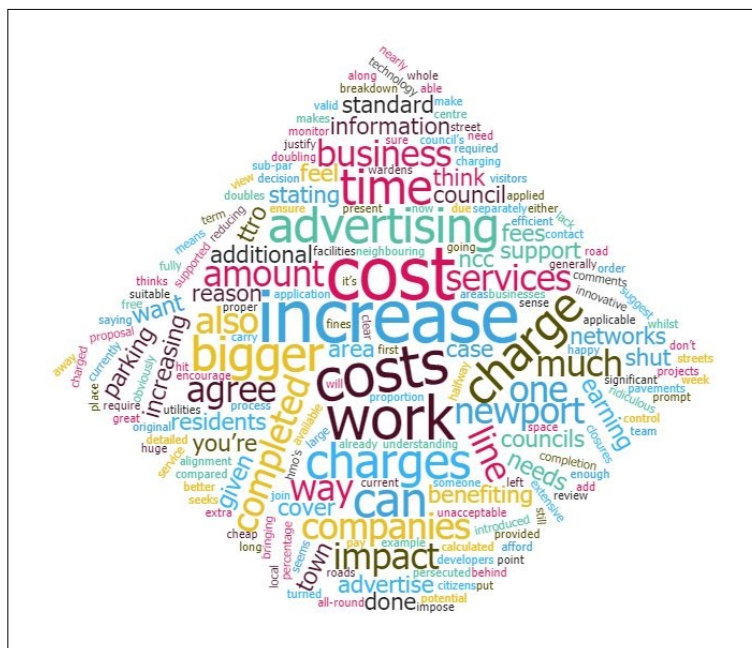
Q4b: Do you think this proposal is clearly explained through the business case?

Clearly Explained	Number of people	Percentage of people
Fully	147	60.00%
Partly	83	33.88%
Not at all	15	6.12%

NB: There were 40 no responses to Q4b.



Q4c: Do you have any other comments about this proposal (31 comments received – a selection of these comments to give an overview of the main issues are shown below)?



- Along with charging companies to carry out these services. NCC should also monitor the standard of work to ensure pavements / roads are left in a suitable way after work has been completed.
- I think that £800 per application was a very cheap cost, and that if you are going to increase costs for some services, it makes sense to increase them for large businesses (developers and utilities companies) who can still afford them during this time.
- You need to be more efficient with technology.
- Suggest an amount halfway, if extensive advertising is required, charge extra but agree with charges generally because of the impact on citizens.
- What would be better all-round is that you control the whole process and impose fines on the companies if the work is not completed on time and if the work completed has not been done so up to a proper standard.

Proposal Number 5

STR2122/06 – City Services

Creation of pay and display car park at Mill Parade

At the moment, the council does not charge to park at 30-space car park at Mill Parade, directly opposite the Transporter Bridge visitor centre.

It has been recently upgraded with electric vehicle charging facilities for 4 vehicles at this site.

Currently the site is being used by residents and commercial businesses, some of which are storing and maintaining vehicles off road free of charge for inordinate periods. Complaints have been received regarding a lack of public parking at the location currently being available. The site is an ideal parking facility for the nearby Transporter Bridge tourist attraction and nearby commercial premises.

This proposal is to introduce charging for the facility in line with the other out of city council car parks and adopt tariff charges as used at Maindee car park to enable its use to be for utilisation of residents and visitors to the area.

There will be a requirement for an initial invest to save capital allocation to be approved for the equipment and associated signage and legal traffic order amendments.

The scheme will include the installation of a CCTV camera to monitor the site. It is also noted that regular enforcement patrols by the council's civil parking enforcement officers will be necessary.

It is estimated these works and the formal process will be delivered by March 2021.

Savings: £21k (2021/22)

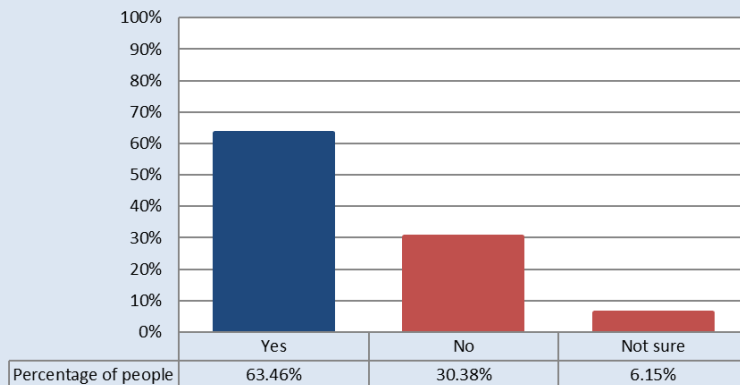
Reduction of Staff: Not applicable

Q5a: Do you agree with the proposal to introduce charging at Mill Parade in line with the other out of city council car parks and adopt tariff charges as used at Maindee car park?

Do you agree?	Number of people	Percentage of people
Yes	165	63.46%
No	79	30.38%
Not sure	16	6.15%

NB: There were 25 no responses to Q5a.

STR2122/06 - Creation of pay and display car park at Mill Parade
Do you agree with the proposal to introduce charging at Mill Parade in line with other out of city centre car parks and adopt tariff charges as used at Maindee car park?

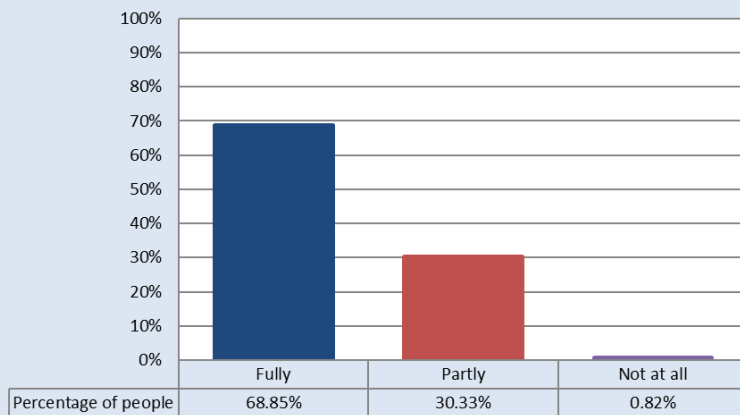


Q5b: Do you think this proposal is clearly explained through the business case?

Clearly Explained	Number of people	Percentage of people
Fully	168	68.85%
Partly	74	30.33%
Not at all	2	0.82%

NB: There were 41 no responses to Q5b.

STR2122/06 - Creation of pay and display car park at Mill Parade
Do you think this proposal is clearly explained through the business case?



Q5c: Do you have any other comments about this proposal (54 comments received – a selection of these comments to give an overview of the main issues are shown below)?



- Newport is crippled by car parks that are chargeable. Bad move and will create bad feeling.
- Agree providing the tariff is kept low to the cost of the user. Car park fees are set too high, particularly for those who have no choice but to use their cars and park up somewhere safe for the day in order to earn a living.
- Consideration could be to have free parking for a set time. For example, 2 hours. This would not stop visitors to this area but stop residents and commercial use. This could be enforced by the CCTV proposed as in other cities.
- Yes, agree with this but a reduced cost would be sensible to ensure that tourism income is gained.
- People should pay to park cars and the money spent on improving cycle lanes.
- This car park is only lightly used so the costs may not be met by the income. The new visitors' centre at the Transporter Bridge may increase demand though.
- People will park in the surrounding streets causing further ASB to more residents.

Proposal Number 6

STR2122/08 – City Services

New fees and charges within cemetery services

Introduction of new fees and charges for services provided within the cemetery service. To date these services have not been provided or were not defined as a separate service or have been benchmarked against service provision and costs within the authority and other neighbouring local authorities.

These new charges will be implemented from the 1st April 2021 and will provide the public with a clear and concise list of charges for burial services and memorialisation within Newport owned and managed cemetery sites.

The proposed new costs are as follows:

- Traditional Graves Installation of full kerb set - £400 per unit (estimated 10 per year)
- Double Depth Grave - £200 per unit (estimated 30 per year)
- Triple Depth Grave - £300 per unit (estimated 15 per year)
- Test Dig of a Grave - £140 per unit (estimated 10 per year)
- Bricking up a Single Grave - £650 per unit (estimated 4 per year)
- Bricking up a Double Grave - £1,300 per unit (None estimated)
- In-house provision of Public Health Funerals – potentially saving £6,248

Savings: £25k (2021/22)

Reduction of Staff: Not applicable

The following options have been put forward:

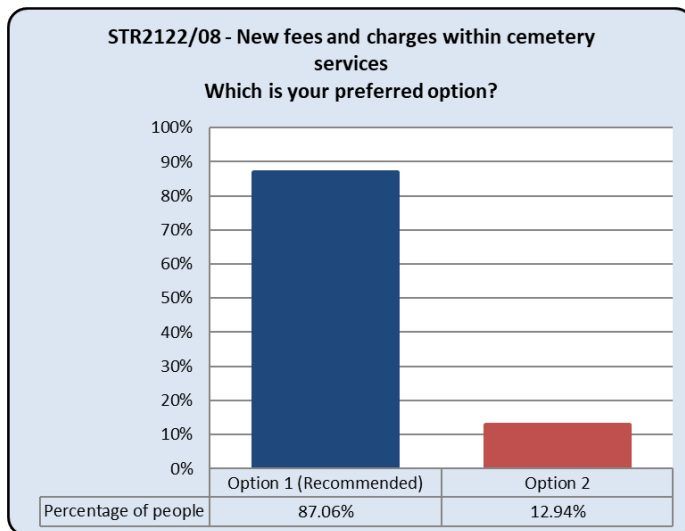
Option 1 (**Recommended Option**): Introduce charges at the levels indicated. This gives clarity to families arranging the funeral and allow all costs to be identified and considered at the earliest stage therefore eliminating 'hidden' costs.

Option 2: To not provide additional services – or only as necessary – with additional costs applied retrospectively, causing distress to grieving families.

Q6a: Which is your preferred option?

Preferred Option	Number of people	Percentage of people
Option 1 (Recommended)	222	87.06%
Option 2	33	12.94%

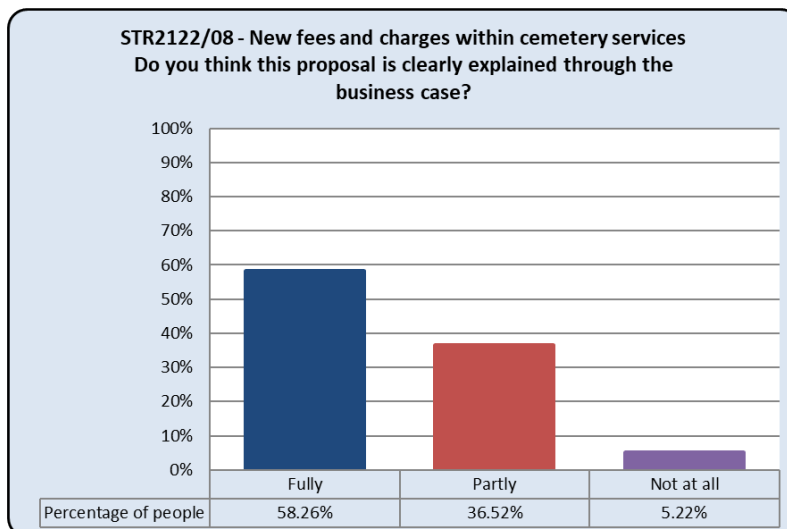
NB: There were 30 no responses to Q6a.



Q6b: Do you think this proposal is clearly explained through the business case?

Clearly Explained	Number of people	Percentage of people
Fully	134	58.26%
Partly	84	36.52%
Not at all	12	5.22%

NB: There were 55 no responses to Q6b.



Q6c: Do you have any other comments about this proposal (33 comments received – a selection of these comments to give an overview of the main issues are shown below)?



- Essential to do this. Make things as easy and as efficient as possible for grieving families
- Additional costs should be charged immediately, not retrospectively.
- I think that this proposal should be definitely put in place having lost 2 close family members in a very short period of time it can be a very stressful and upsetting time showing all costs up front would benefit everybody.
- Further public consultation is needed with this business case to ensure further support. I feel the need to be clear about the cost of this service however [I am unaware of actual cost] feel the above prices are steep for the circumstances.
- Funerals cost lots as it is without any increases being made. But cremations should be more encouraged.
- The Council needs to do everything in its powers to cease the unsustainable practice of burying bodies in holes in the ground. The real and opportunity costs of land and ongoing maintenance needs to be eradicated ASAP. Increase burial fees substantially (100%) along with this option to push people down the cremation route and charge annual maintenance fees for all future burials

Proposal Number 7

RIH2122/04 – Regeneration, Investment and Housing Information Station move to Central Museum and Library

The saving will be achieved by moving the Information Station call centre and face to face facilities to the Central Museum and Library (CML) building. The overall budget saving will be offset by the cost of borrowing, facilities management of the CML and transferring of utilities budgets.

The relocation of the face-to-face service has previously been approved by Cabinet and will enable the use of the Information Station as a business incubator/co-working hub. The occupier has been secured (Tramshed Tech) and will not only bring this successful concept to Newport, but it will also provide much needed flexible working space for start-ups and knowledge intensive small and medium enterprises (SMEs). There is currently a lack of such facilities in Newport and will provide us with the opportunity to retain and support some of the new start-ups and talent emanating from the likes of the National Software Academy, the Cyber Academy and the Alacrity foundation, all of which are based very close to (or within) the Information Station building.

This decision also allowed the council to conform to the approach outlined in the Strategic Asset Management Plan for rationalising our estate reducing our risk and liability. The Central Museum and Library was chosen as a suitable new venue for the provision of the Information Station service due to it providing the opportunity to maximise use of an existing council building and also being located in an accessible and central part of the city centre.

This saving should be fully realised by April 2021, with the CML site becoming fully operational in September 2021.

Savings: £117k (2021/22)

Reduction of Staff: Not applicable

The following options have been put forward:

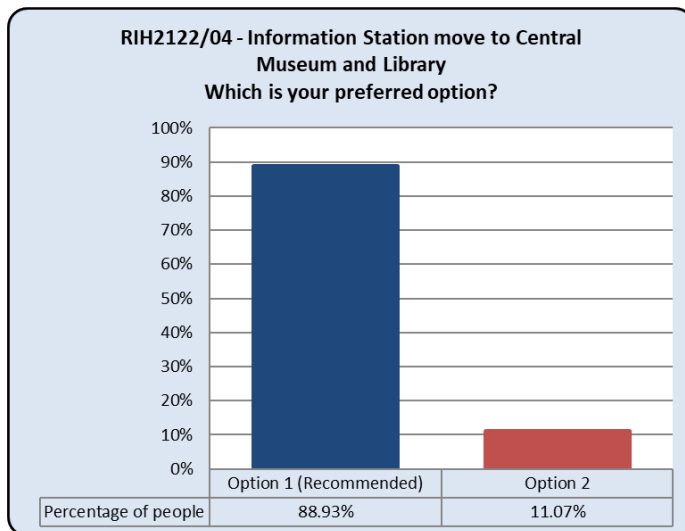
Option 1 (Recommended Option): To proceed with opportunities to commercialise the Information Station building, on the basis that officers can secure new occupiers and external finance required to deliver the project. Also relocate existing staff and services from the Information Station to the Central Museum and Library.

Option 2: To not proceed with opportunities to commercialise the Information Station building, continue to operate the building in the current format, including no change to the services provided in the Central Museum and Library building.

Q7a: Which is your preferred option?

Preferred Option	Number of people	Percentage of people
Option 1 (Recommended)	233	88.93%
Option 2	29	11.07%

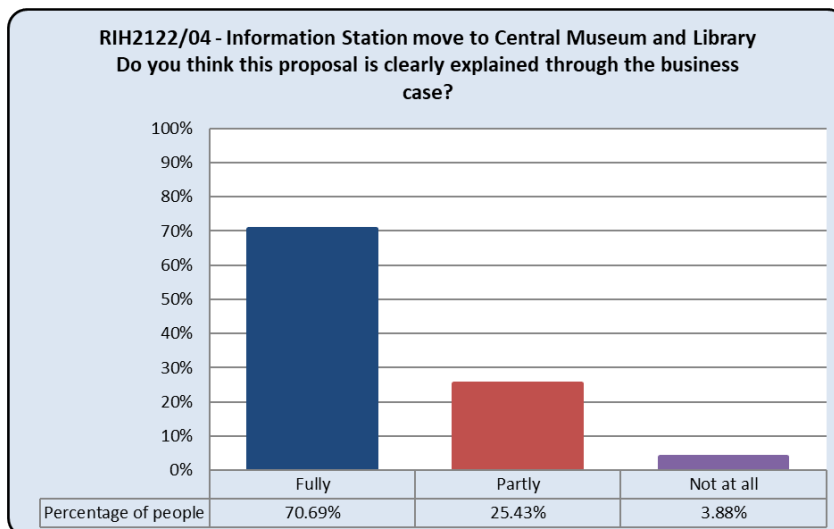
NB: There were 23 no responses to Q7a.



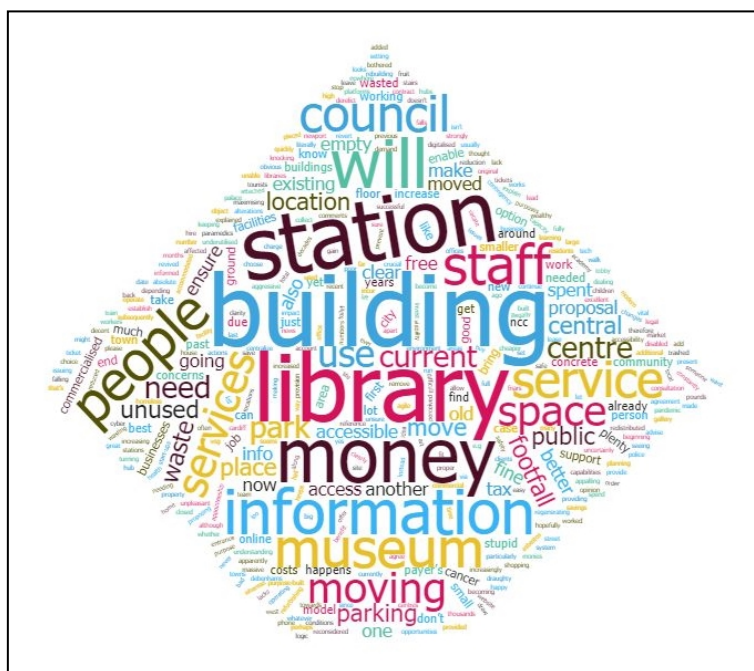
Q7b: Do you think this proposal is clearly explained through the business case?

Clearly Explained	Number of people	Percentage of people
Fully	164	70.69%
Partly	59	25.43%
Not at all	9	3.88%

NB: There were 53 no responses to Q7b.



Q7c: Do you have any other comments about this proposal (43 comments received – a selection of these comments to give an overview of the main issues are shown below)?



- Fully support increased use of library building. Turning library facilities into 'information hubs' is becoming increasingly successful in other towns such as the excellent Cardiff model.
- Keeps services central and easy access.
- Concerns about accessibility of the Library site - small ground floor lobby area, only one public lift. Information Station is purpose-built to ensure it is accessible for the public and safe for the staff working there.
- Hopefully by moving the info station to the library it will increase public footfall and bring more people back to the library and museum.
- I have concerns on safety if the Information Station services is moved to the Library as it is not the best place when dealing with aggressive people, homeless people and for the Police to remove them from the building down the stairs or if someone has a health issues and Paramedics need to get to that person.
- As a disabled person I find it very difficult to access the current building because of where it is. Moving it would centralize the service to a better location. And yes the unused space since the reference library was moved (closed).

List of Budget Proposals 2021-22 – Finance and Non-Service

Proposal Number 8

Non Service

Increase in Council Tax

A base 4% increase is already included in our medium term financial projections each year. This year, it is proposed that an additional 1% increase is applied to council tax in 2021-22 bringing the proposed increase to 5%.

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Annual increase	£39.93	£46.58	£53.24	£59.89	£73.20	£86.51	£99.82	£119.79	£119.79
Weekly increase	£0.77	£0.90	£1.02	£1.15	£1.41	£1.66	£1.92	£2.30	£2.30

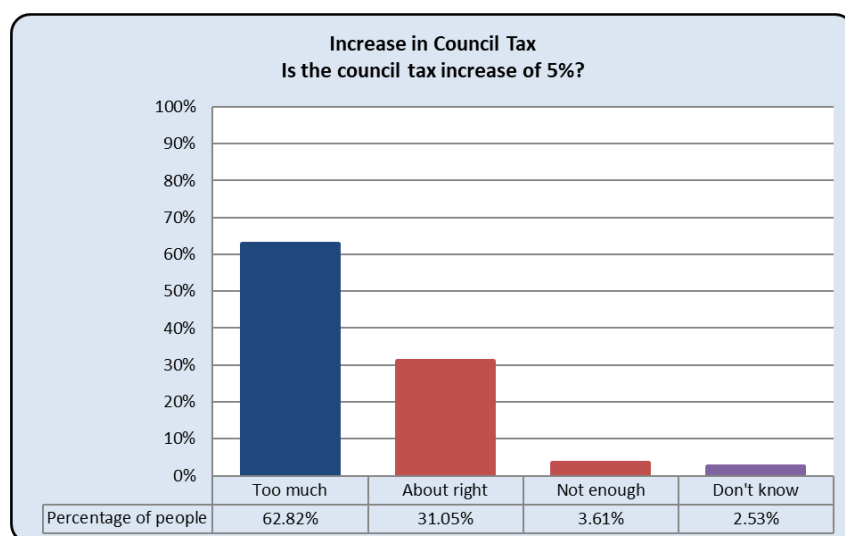
Given that over half of Newport's chargeable properties are banded A-C, the majority of households would see an increase of between £0.77 and £1.02 per week based on a 5% increase.

It is well documented that Newport's council tax is low compared to others in Wales, generating approximately 24% of our income, compared to around 25% for most Welsh councils. Newport continues to be one of the lowest council tax levels in Wales.

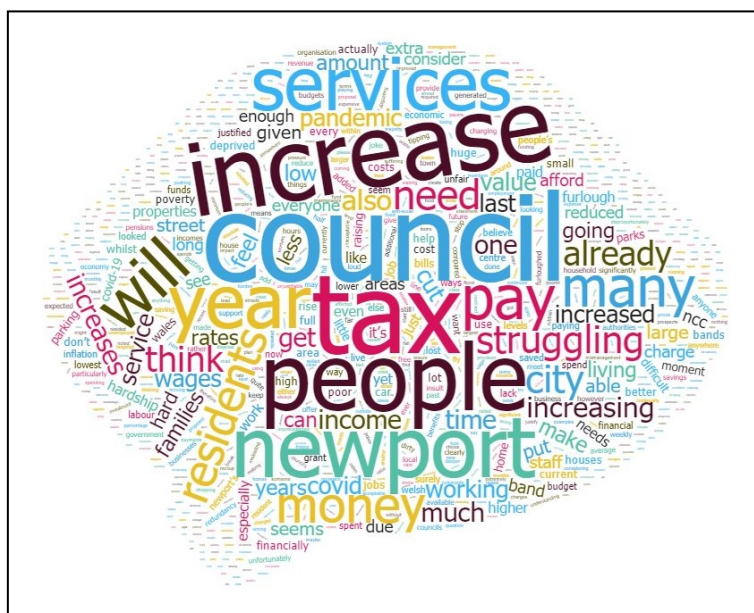
Q8a: Is a council tax increase of 5%?

Is the increase	Number of people	Percentage of people
Too much	174	62.82%
About right	86	31.05%
Not enough	10	3.61%
Don't know	7	2.53%

NB: There were 8 no responses to Q8a.



Q8c: Do you have any other comments about this proposal (104 comments received – a selection of these comments to give an overview of the main issues are shown below)?



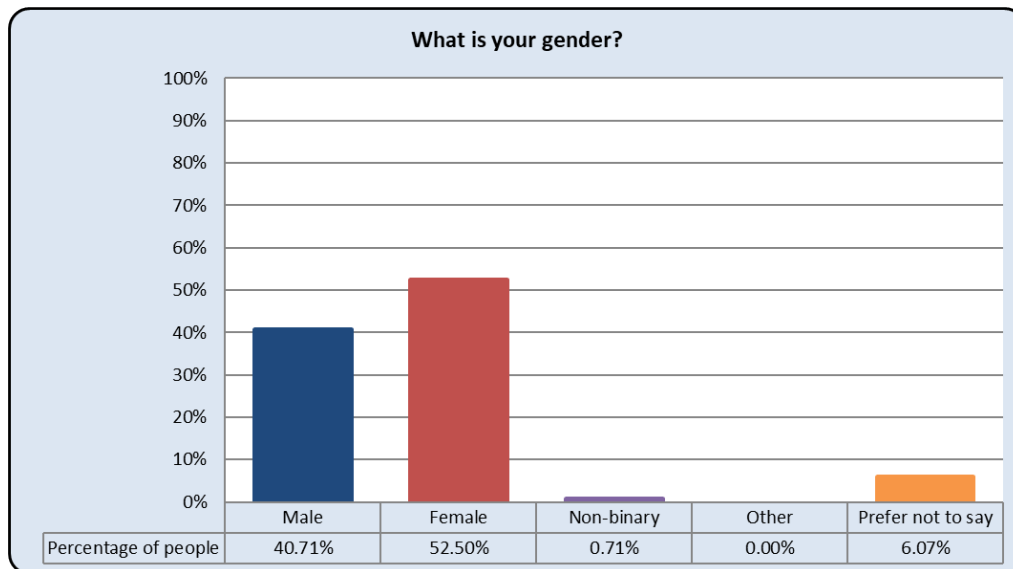
- Concerns for families who have been hard hit financially in 2020 as a result of Covid, e.g. redundancy, small business owners etc.
- It seems a lot but understandable with re-cooping Covid costs.
- Just think times are difficult enough at the moment. People are struggling so much, make the increase as small as possible after such a difficult year.
- Families and people in Newport living in poverty and an increase in council tax would put a strain on household income. Very unfair for low skilled workers on below average wages.
- Far too much. The pandemic has resulted (and continues to result) in significantly reduced household income. Many people have been out on furlough, had hours cut or unfortunately been made unemployed. Services over the last year have been significantly cut, and represent poor value for money. The council have furloughed far too many staff and I am sure this will have yielded an unexpected saving on cost. This continues to create stress, anxiety and uncertainty and now is NOT the time to be increasing council tax.

Equalities Monitoring

Q9: What is your gender?

Gender	Male	Female	Non-binary	Other	Prefer not to say
Number of people	114	147	2	-	17
Percentage of people	40.71%	52.50%	0.71%	-	6.07%

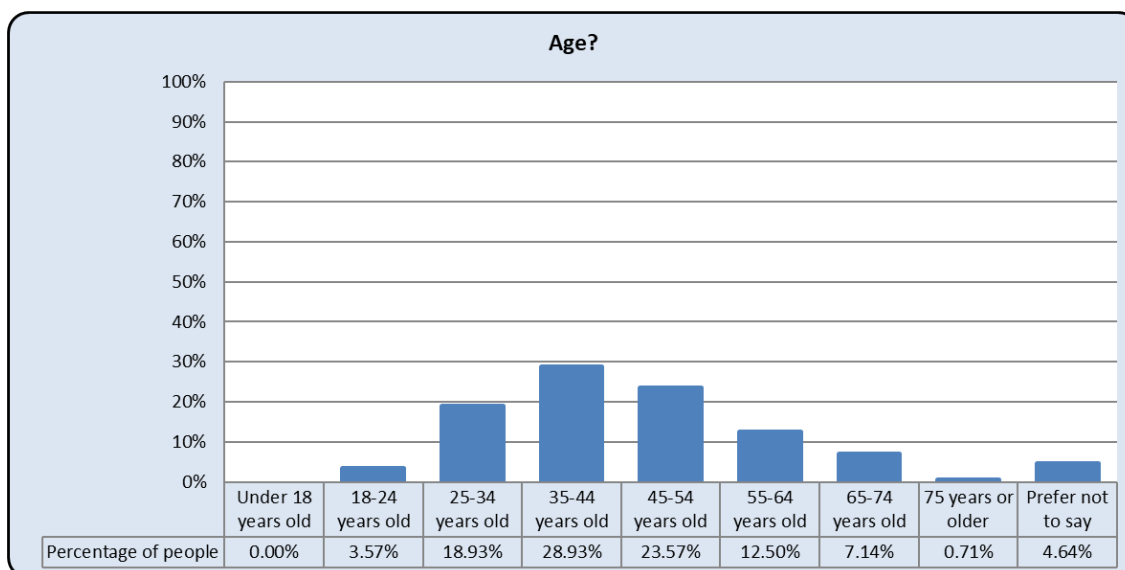
NB: There were 5 no responses to Q9.



Q10: Age?

Age	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 or older	Prefer not to say
Number of people	-	10	53	81	66	35	20	2	13
Percentage of people	-	3.57%	18.93%	28.93%	23.57%	12.50%	7.14%	0.71%	4.64%

NB: There were 5 no responses to Q10.

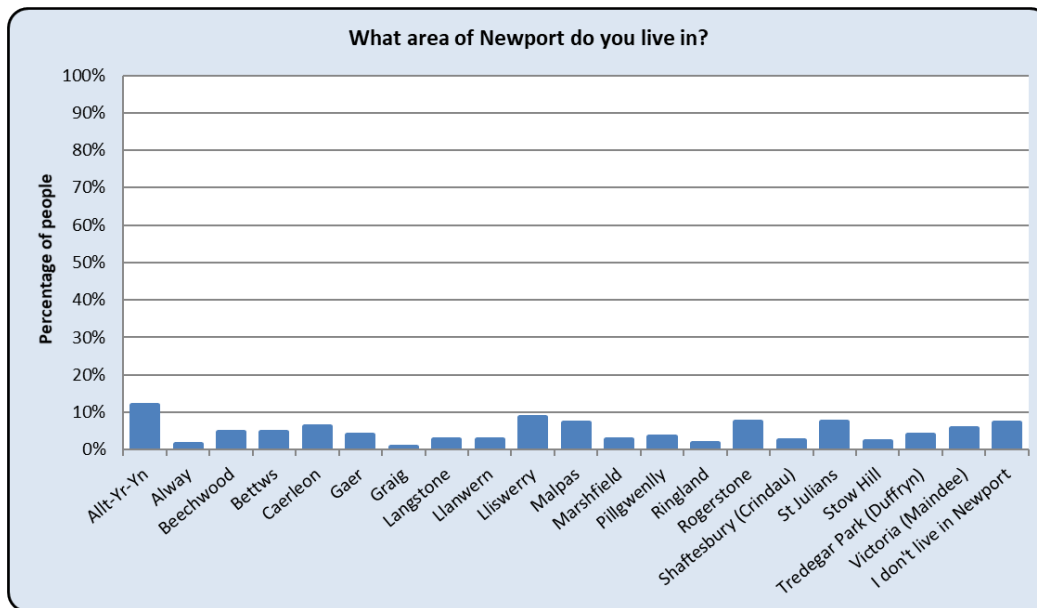


Q11: What area of Newport do you live in?

Ward	Number of people	Percentage of people
Allt-Yr-Yn	33	11.87%
Alway	4	1.44%
Beechwood	13	4.68%
Bettws	13	4.68%
Caerleon	17	6.12%
Gaer	11	3.96%
Graig	2	0.72%
Langstone	8	2.88%
Llanwern	8	2.88%
Lliswerry	24	8.63%
Malpas	20	7.19%

Ward	Number of people	Percentage of people
Marshfield	8	2.88%
Pillgwenlly	10	3.60%
Ringland	5	1.80%
Rogerstone	21	7.55%
Shaftesbury (Crindau)	7	2.52%
St Julians	21	7.55%
Stow Hill	6	2.16%
Tredegar Park (Duffryn)	11	3.96%
Victoria (Maindee)	16	5.76%
I don't live in Newport	20	7.19%

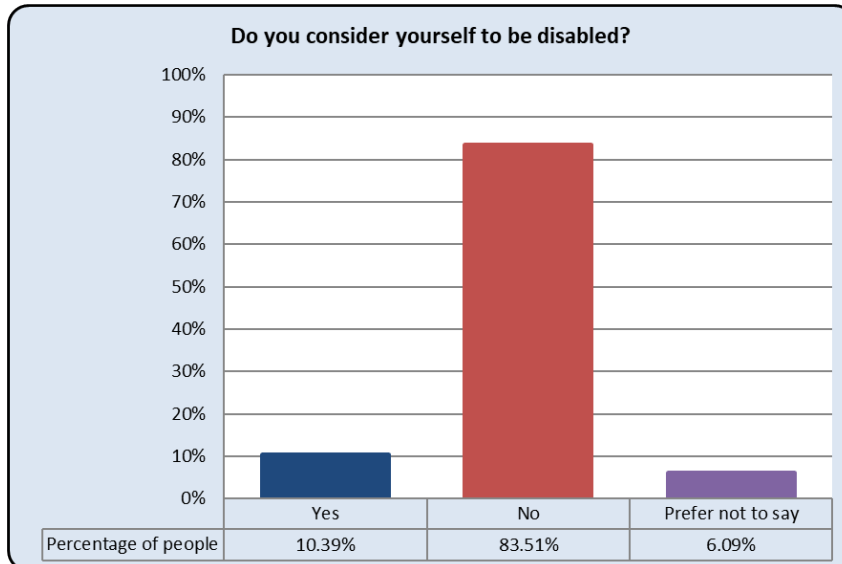
NB: There were 7 no responses to Q11.



Q12: Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Disabled	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Number of people	29	233	17
Percentage of people	10.39%	83.51%	6.09%

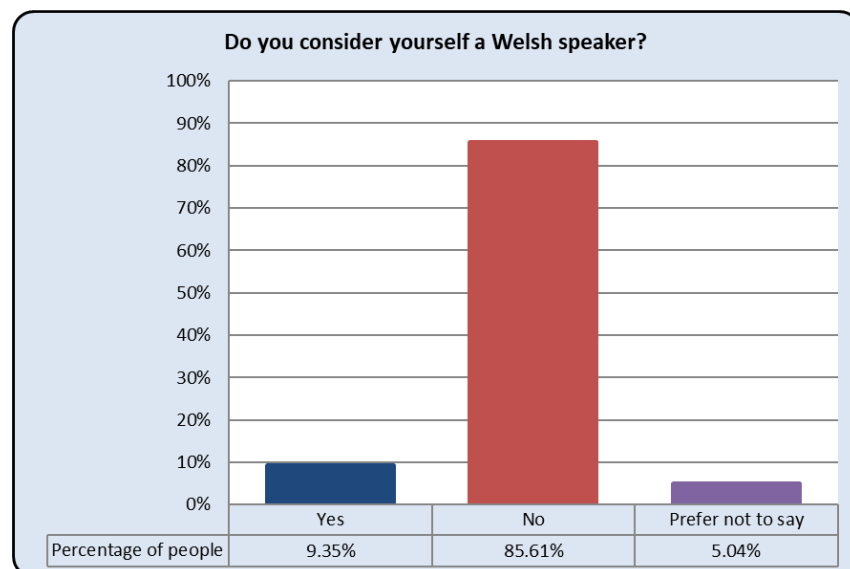
NB: There were 6 no responses to Q12.



Q13: Do you consider yourself to be a Welsh speaker?

Welsh Speaker	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Number of people	26	238	14
Percentage of people	9.35%	85.61%	5.04%

NB: There were 7 no responses to Q13.



Q14: What is your ethnic group?

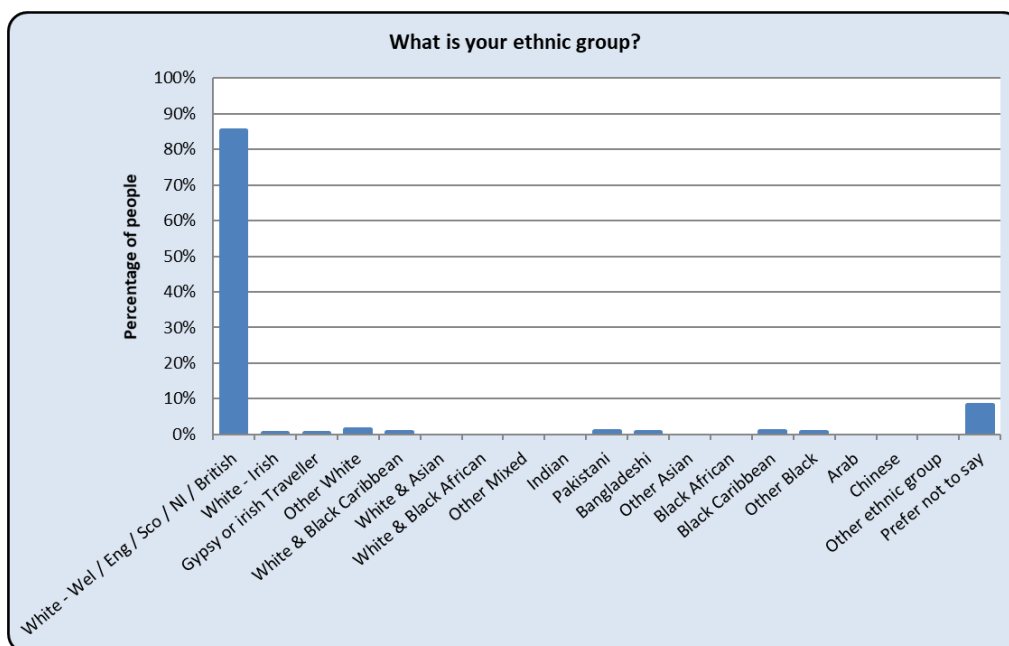
Ethnicity?	Number of people	Percentage of people
White - Wel / Eng / Sco / NI / British	238	85.30%
White - Irish	1	0.36%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.36%
Other White	4	1.43%
White & Black Caribbean	2	0.72%
White & Asian	-	-
White & Black African	-	-
Other Mixed	-	-
Indian	-	-
Pakistani	3	1.08%

NB: There were 6 no responses to Q14.

Ethnicity?	Number of people	Percentage of people
Bangladeshi	2	0.72%
Other Asian	-	-
Black African	-	-
Black Caribbean	3	1.08%
Other Black	2	0.72%
Arab	-	-
Chinese	-	-
Other ethnic group	-	-
Prefer not to say	23	8.24%

Other – White: European New Zealand European

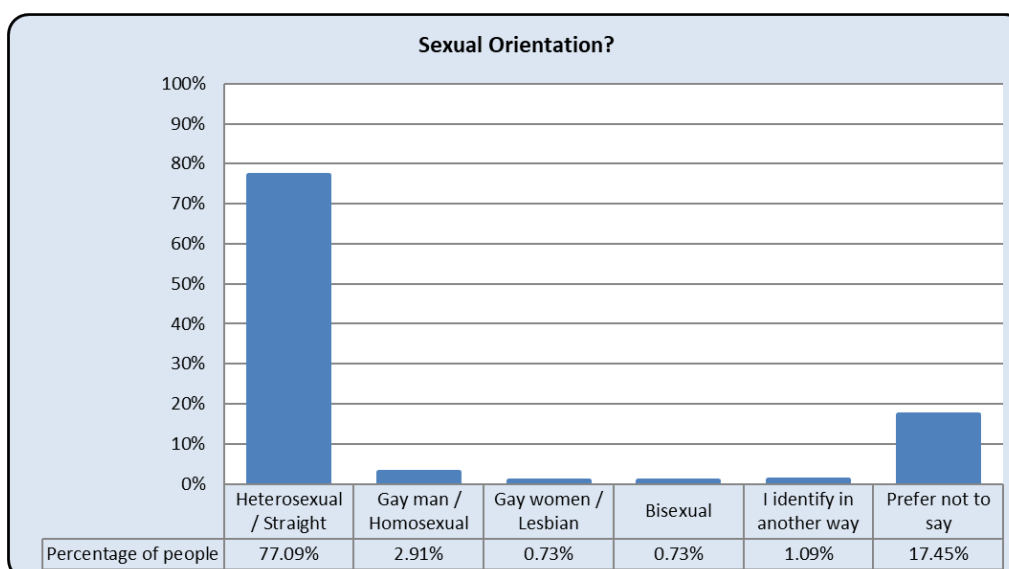
Other Black: British British



Q15: Sexual Orientation?

Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual / Straight	Gay man / Homosexual	Gay woman / Lesbian	Bisexual	I identify in another way	Prefer not to say
Number of people	212	8	2	2	3	48
Percentage of people	77.09%	2.91%	0.73%	0.73%	1.09%	17.45%

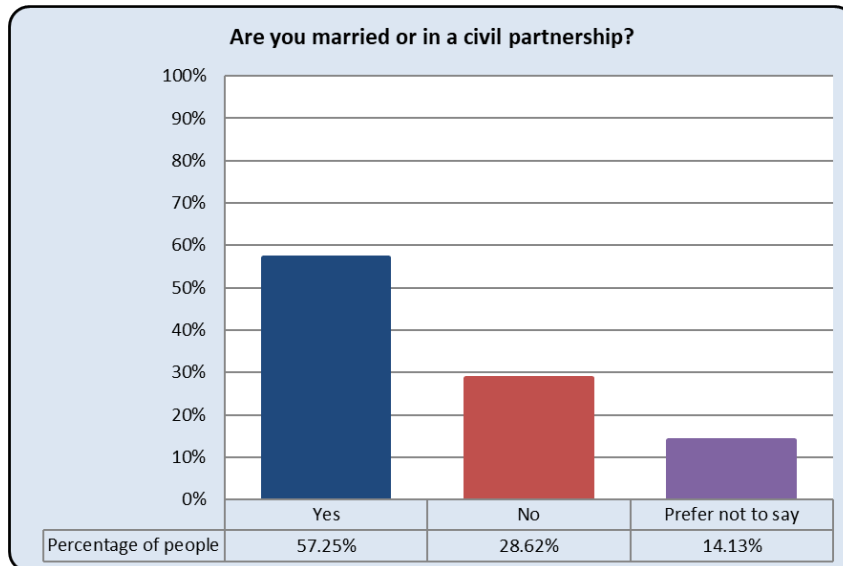
NB: There were 10 no responses to Q15.



Q16: Are you married or in a civil partnership?

Married / Civil Partnership	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Number of people	158	79	39
Percentage of people	57.25%	28.62%	14.13%

NB: There were 9 no responses to Q16.

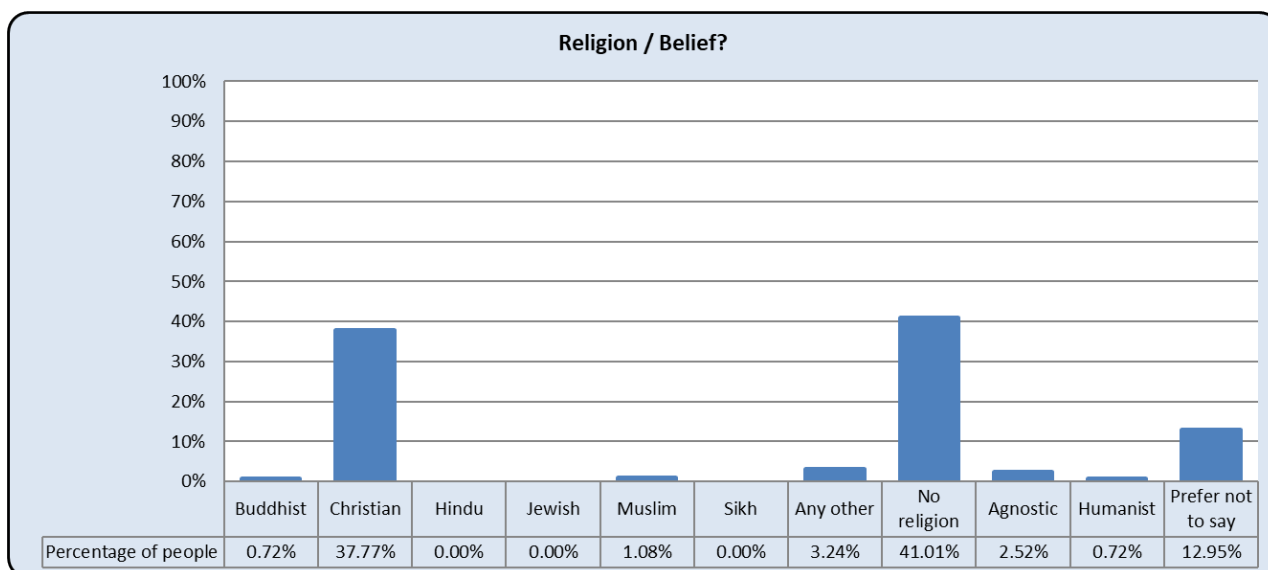


Q17: Religion / Belief?

Religion	No. of people	% of people
Buddhist	2	0.72%
Christian	105	37.77%
Hindu	-	-
Jewish	-	-
Muslim	3	1.08%
Sikh	-	-

Religion	No. of people	% of people
Any Other	9	3.24%
No religion	114	41.01%
Agnostic	7	2.52%
Humanist	2	0.72%
Prefer not to say	36	12.95%

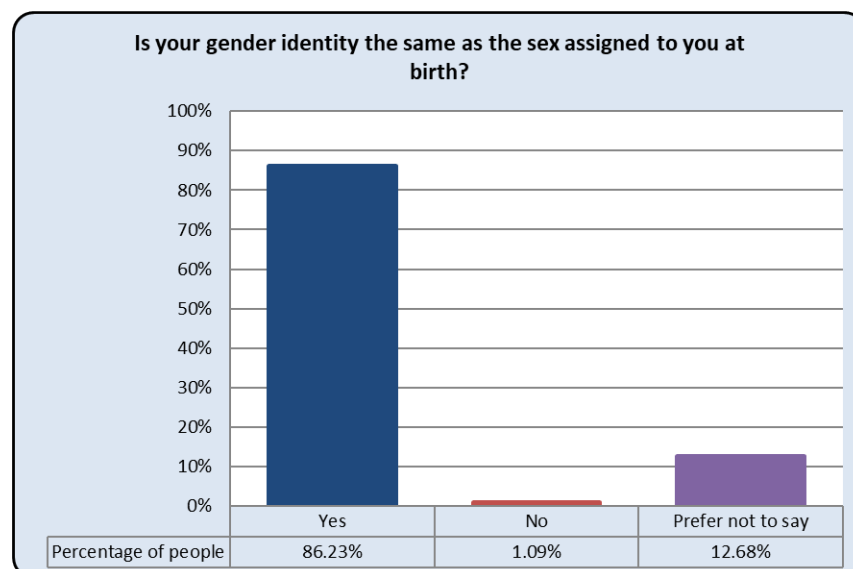
NB: There were 7 no responses to Q17.



Q18: Does your gender identity match your sex as registered at birth?

Identity	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Number of people	238	3	35
Percentage of people	86.23%	1.09%	12.68%

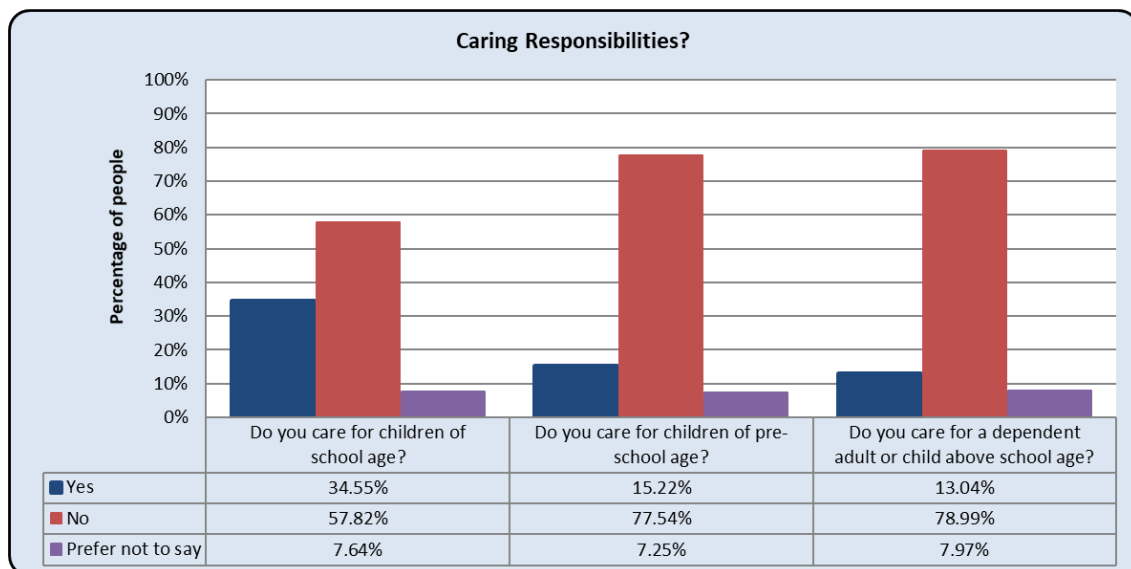
NB: There were 9 no responses to Q18.



Q19: Caring Responsibilities?

A: School Age	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Number of people	95	159	21
Percentage of people	34.55%	57.82%	7.64%
B: Pre-school Age	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Number of people	42	214	20
Percentage of people	15.22%	77.54%	7.25%
C: Above School Age	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Number of people	36	218	22
Percentage of people	13.04%	78.99%	7.97%

NB: There were 10 no responses to Q19.a / NB: There were 9 no responses to Q19.b / NB: There were 9 no responses to Q19.c.



Bus Wi-Fi Survey

A total of 314 responses were received during the consultation, where users were asked their views on the rise in council tax for 2021-22.

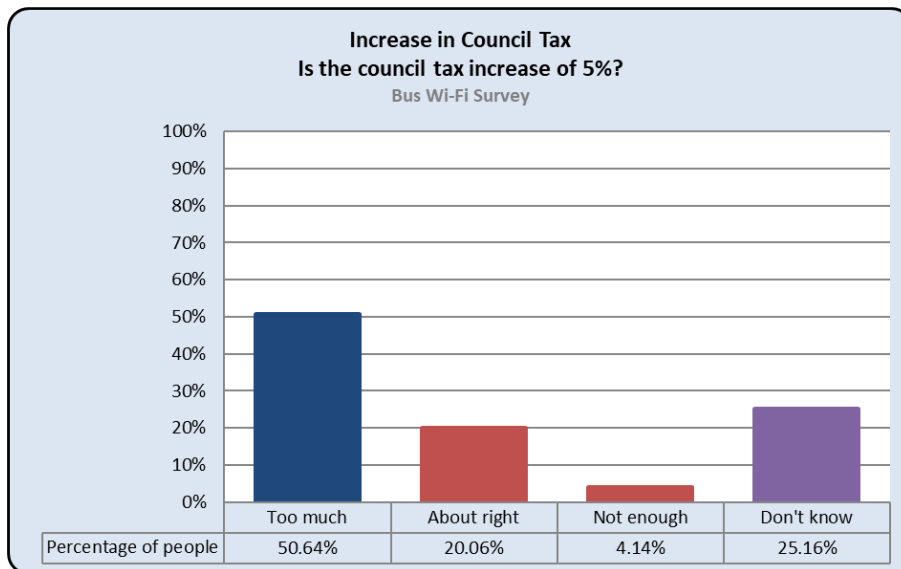
Increase in Council Tax

Q1: It is well documented that Newport's council tax is low compared to others in Wales, generating approximately 24% of our income, compared to around 25% for most Welsh councils. Newport continues to be one of the lowest council tax levels in Wales.

The council is proposing a rise in council tax of 5% (1% above the base increase of 4%). Given that over half of Newport's chargeable properties are banded A-C, the majority of household would see an increase of between £0.77 and £1.02 per week.

Is a council tax increase of 5%?

Is the increase	Number of people	Percentage of people
Too much	159	50.64%
About right	63	20.06%
Not enough	13	4.14%
Don't know	79	25.16%

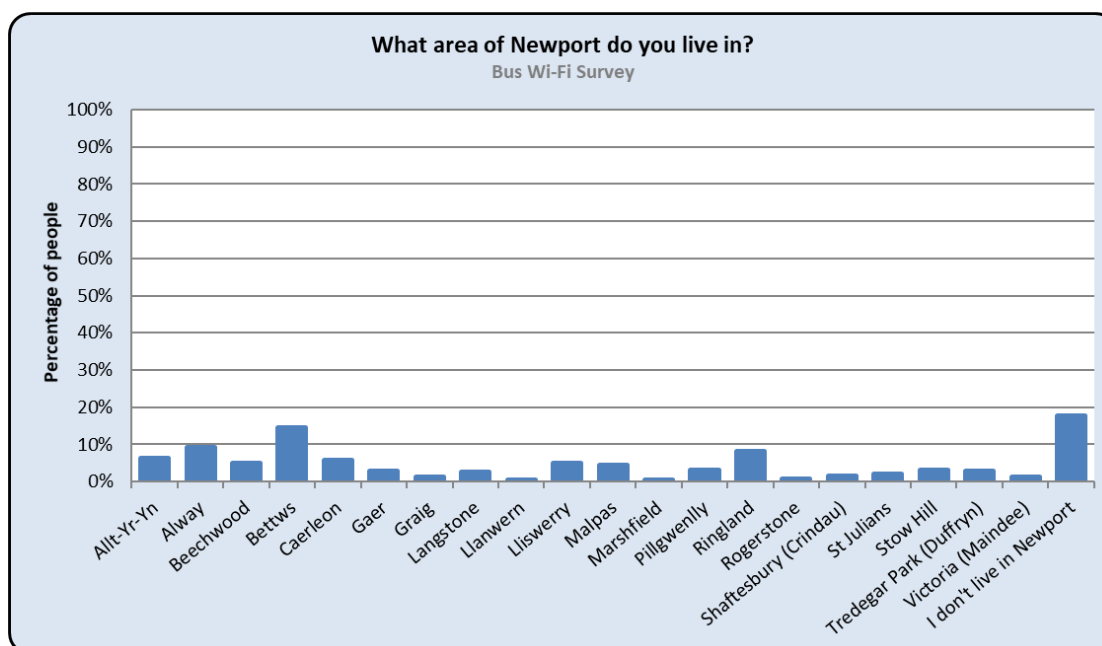


Equalities Monitoring

Q2: What area of Newport do you live in?

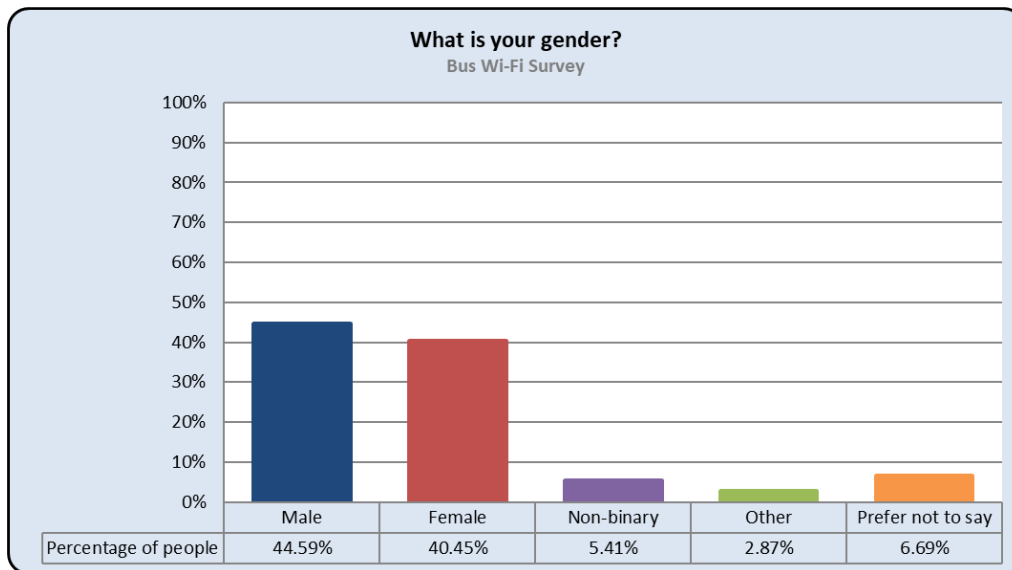
Ward	Number of people	Percentage of people
Allt-Yr-Yn	20	6.37%
Alway	29	9.24%
Beechwood	16	5.10%
Bettws	46	14.65%
Caerleon	18	5.73%
Gaer	9	2.87%
Graig	4	1.27%
Langstone	8	2.55%
Llanwern	2	0.64%
Lliswerry	16	5.10%
Malpas	14	4.46%

Ward	Number of people	Percentage of people
Marshfield	2	0.64%
Pillgwenlly	10	3.18%
Ringland	26	8.28%
Rogerstone	3	0.96%
Shaftesbury (Crindau)	5	1.59%
St Julians	7	2.23%
Stow Hill	10	3.18%
Tredegar Park (Duffryn)	9	2.87%
Victoria (Maindee)	4	1.27%
I don't live in Newport	56	17.83%



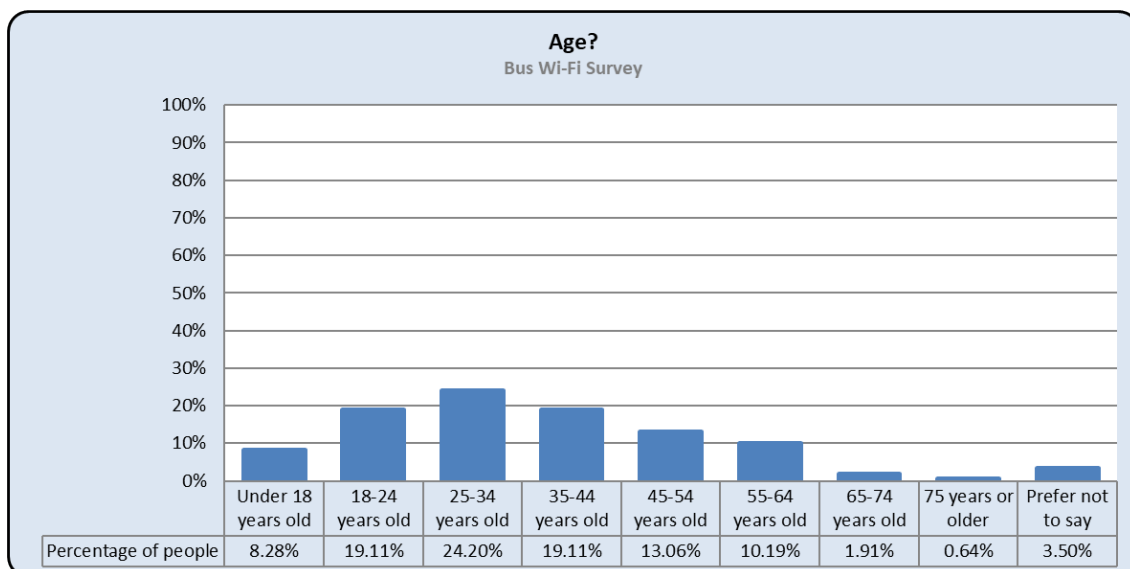
Q3: What is your gender?

Gender	Male	Female	Non-binary	Other	Prefer not to say
Number of people	140	127	17	9	21
Percentage of people	44.59%	40.45%	5.41%	2.87%	6.69%



Q4: Age?

Age	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 or older	Prefer not to say
Number of people	26	60	76	60	41	32	6	2	11
Percentage of people	8.28%	19.11%	24.20%	19.11%	13.06%	10.19%	1.91%	0.64%	3.50%



Q5: What is your ethnic group?

Ethnicity?	Number of people	Percentage of people
White - Wel / Eng / Sco / NI / British	200	63.69%
White - Irish	20	6.37%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	2	0.64%
Other White	23	7.32%
White & Black Caribbean	6	1.91%
White & Asian	4	1.27%
White & Black African	10	3.18%
Other Mixed	0	0.00%
Indian	10	3.18%
Pakistani	3	0.96%

Ethnicity?	Number of people	Percentage of people
Bangladeshi	4	1.27%
Other Asian	0	0.00%
Black African	8	2.55%
Black Caribbean	0	0.00%
Other Black	3	0.96%
Arab	1	0.32%
Chinese	1	0.32%
Other ethnic group	2	0.64%
Prefer not to say	17	5.41%

