

**APPENDIX 2**

**Dewch i  
siarad RhCT  
Let's talk  
RCT**



# **BUDGET**CONSULTATION**2022/23** ( P H A S E 2 )

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**RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC**  
**FEBRUARY 2022**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This section provides a summary of the main findings from the Phase 2 Budget Consultation 2022/23.
- The consultation was conducted in-house. The consultation period ran from the 28<sup>th</sup> January and ended on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
- A digital approach that included the following methods to consult with a range of stakeholders:
  - Publication of key information on the Rhondda Cynon Taf “Let’s Talk” website, which included;
    - A survey
    - Two “Quick Polls”
    - The option to leave longer responses as “Ideas”
    - A simplified “Easy Read” survey that could be downloaded and printed for use by any audiences that felt unable to engage with the full survey format
  - Promotion through social media
  - An online Older Persons Advisory Group Meeting (OPAG)
  - A meeting with the Pontyclun 50+ Forum
  - Correspondence with the Disability Forum
  - Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee virtual meeting
  - School Budget Forum virtual meeting
  - Joint Consultative Committee virtual meeting
  - Face-to-face and on-line sessions with young people in schools and youth groups
  - An email sent to key stakeholders and the Citizens’ Panel
- The Council provided a number of alternatives to online engagement, as it is important to continue to consider hard to reach groups, those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods.
- The majority of survey respondents felt that the proposed 1% increase in Council Tax was reasonable (80.2%).
- 91.2% of respondents agreed with the ongoing prioritisation of Schools and Social Services.
- 78.2% of respondents agreed with the approach for the delivery of efficiency savings for next year.
- 79.8% of respondents agreed with the proposals for fees and charges.
- 78.4% of respondents agreed with the proposed additional investment of £100K in the Local Business Rate Reduction Scheme.

- 81.1% of respondents agreed with the proposed £500K investment to support the Council' ongoing work on climate change and carbon reduction.
- 88.2% of respondents agreed with the proposed £550K investment to increase the minimum rate of pay for Council staff and contracted staff.
- 78.8% of respondents agreed with the proposed £200K investment to provide additional resources to Public Health and Protection Services.
- 87.4% of respondents agreed with the proposed £1.5M investment in Sustainable Social Services.
- 82.9% of respondents agreed with the additional £1M Funding for Investment proposal.
- 79.4% of respondents agreed with the additional £75k investment within the Detached Youth Service.
- 81.8% of respondents agreed with the use of £970K in transitional funding to address the remaining budget gap.
- Over 700 people were engaged in the phase 2 budget consultation.
- Overall (including Phase 1) over 1,700 people were engaged in the Council's budget setting process.

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the Phase 2 Budget Consultation 2022/23.
- 1.2 Section 2 outlines some brief background to the consultation process.
- 1.3 Section 3 details the methodology.
- 1.4 Section 4 provides the results of the Let's Talk engagement tools and the feedback received from the Older Persons Advisory Group.
- 1.5 Section 5 provides feedback on the young persons' engagement.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council undertakes a comprehensive approach to its annual budget consultation, involving a large number of residents and key stakeholders.
- 2.2 The widespread approach we use and the range of views we capture provides senior managers and Cabinet Members with the necessary information they need to set the budget for the year ahead.
- 2.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf's 2022/23 Budget Consultation is a phased approach, so that we can ensure residents and stakeholders have as much opportunity as possible to provide views on the budget and to make sure that views are informed by the most up to date and relevant information.
- 2.4 Phase 1 provided residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to feedback their views on some of the key strategic building blocks used to construct the Council's budget.
- 2.5 The Phase 1 consultation report was available to support the preparation of the budget strategy proposals and was presented to Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022, where a draft budget strategy was agreed.
- 2.6 This report presents the findings of **phase 2** of the budget consultation, which asked for views on the draft budget strategy for 2022/23.
- 2.7 Phase 2 of the consultation started on the 28<sup>th</sup> January and ended on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

3.1 This section provides a summary of the methodology used for the Phase 2 Budget Consultation 2022/23. The consultation was conducted in-house.

3.2 The consultation period ran from the 28<sup>th</sup> January and ended on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

3.3 The 'digital by default' approach included the following methods to consult with a range of stakeholders:

- Publication of information on the Rhondda Cynon Taf "Let's Talk" website, which included
  - A survey
  - Two "Quick Polls"
  - The option to leave longer responses as "Ideas"
  - A simplified "Easy Read" survey that could be downloaded and printed for use by any audiences that felt unable to engage with the full survey format
- Promotion through social media
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- Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee virtual meeting
- School Budget Forum virtual meeting
- Joint Consultative Committee virtual meeting
- Face-to-face and on-line sessions with young people in schools and youth groups
- An email sent to key stakeholders and the Citizens' Panel

The Council provided a number of alternatives to online engagement, as it is important to continue to consider hard to reach groups, those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods. This included:

- Paper surveys and information available on request.
- Consultation freepost address for postal responses.

3.4 The Team designed an Easy Read/Plan English Document in paper format and online, to simplify some of the consultation materials.

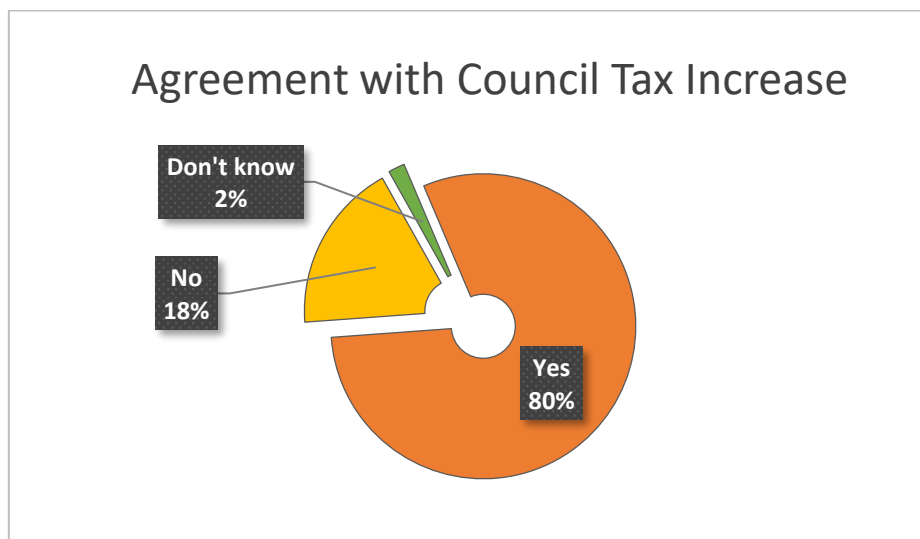
3.5 Over 700 people were engaged in the phase 2 budget consultation. Overall (including Phase 1) over 1,700 people were engaged in the Council's budget setting process.

## 4. Consultation Findings

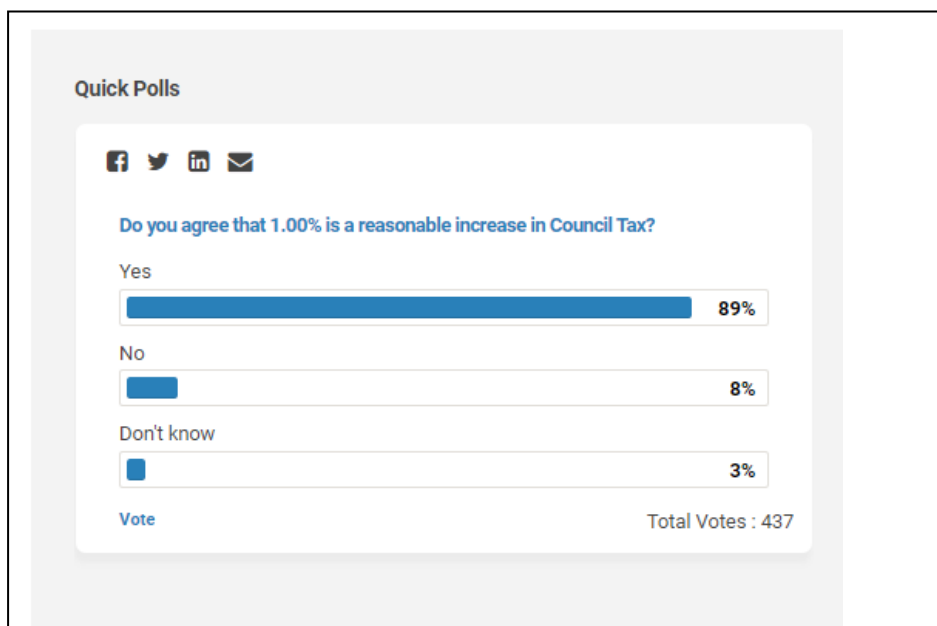
- 4.1 The following section outlines the results from the phase 2 budget consultation questionnaire, which received 172 responses, and also includes the feedback received from the Older Persons Advisory Group. A selection of comments are provided, and the full list of comments will be provided to Cabinet and senior officers to assist with decision making.

### Council Tax

- 4.2 The Council is proposing that Council Tax be increased by 1% for next year. **The majority of respondents to the questionnaire felt that the increase was reasonable (80.2%).**



The Poll question on the Let's Talk Budget Engagement site was completed by 437 people, with 89% in agreement.





- 4.3 Many comments were in favour of the proposed increase being lower than that previously consulted upon.

*“I would have been content with 2.65% but understand the need to reduce the cost on residents at this time”*

*“1% is very reasonable”*

*“Thought (the increase) would have been higher so really pleased”*

*“That’s very reasonable”*

- 4.4 A number of comments noted that any additional increase to the cost of living would be unwelcome.

*“With all the increases in other things energy Nat ins etc it is not the time for increase at all”*

- 4.5 Some comments raised concern with property bandings (noting that this is outside of the Council’s control) and relative Council Tax rates compared to other Local Authority areas.

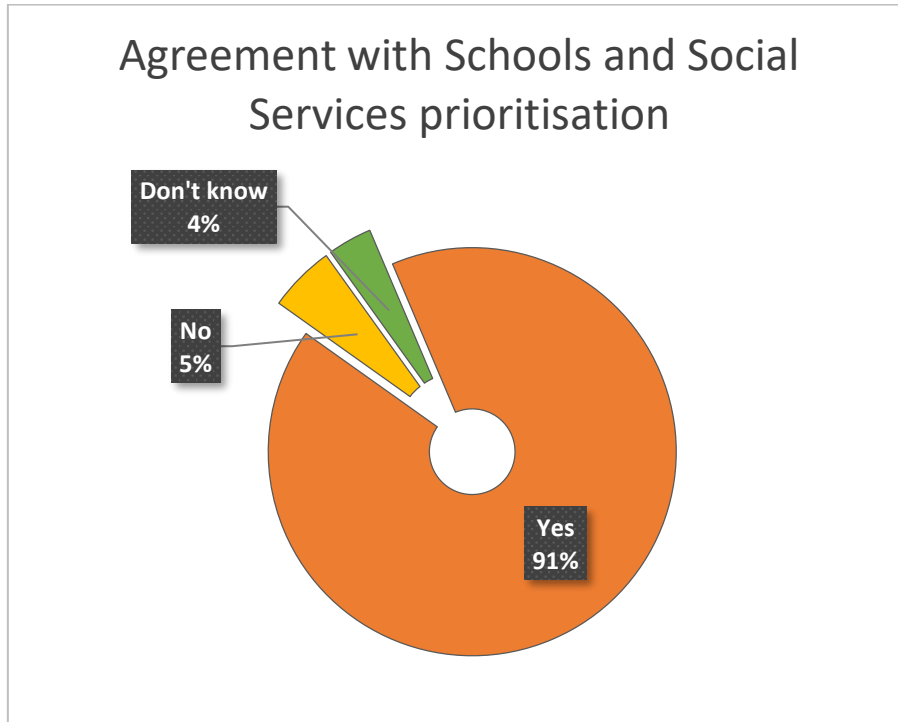
*“Increases in Council Tax should be kept at a minimum & there should be a fairer system for calculating council tax”*

- 4.6 OPAG members overall agreed with the proposed Council Tax level of 1%.

*“Obviously we’d prefer no increase at all, but in the real world this is better than the 2.65% mentioned before”*

### **Schools and Social Services Funding**

- 4.7 The Council is proposing to increase the Schools Budget by £11.2M (6.8%) to fully fund increased costs, and to increase the Social Services (Community and Children’s Services) Budget by over £15M (8.91%). **91.2% of respondents agreed with the prioritisation of these services.**



- 4.8 The majority of comments welcomed this proposal.

*“Schools need it for the future of the area”*

*“These services are vital”*

- 4.9 Some comments noted in respect of efficiency within these service areas:

*“Whilst priority should be given to funding in these areas, cost cutting and economic exercises should also be carried out to minimise wasteful expenditure”*

*“Schools and social services are important services within RCT, but efficiencies can still be made within these services”*

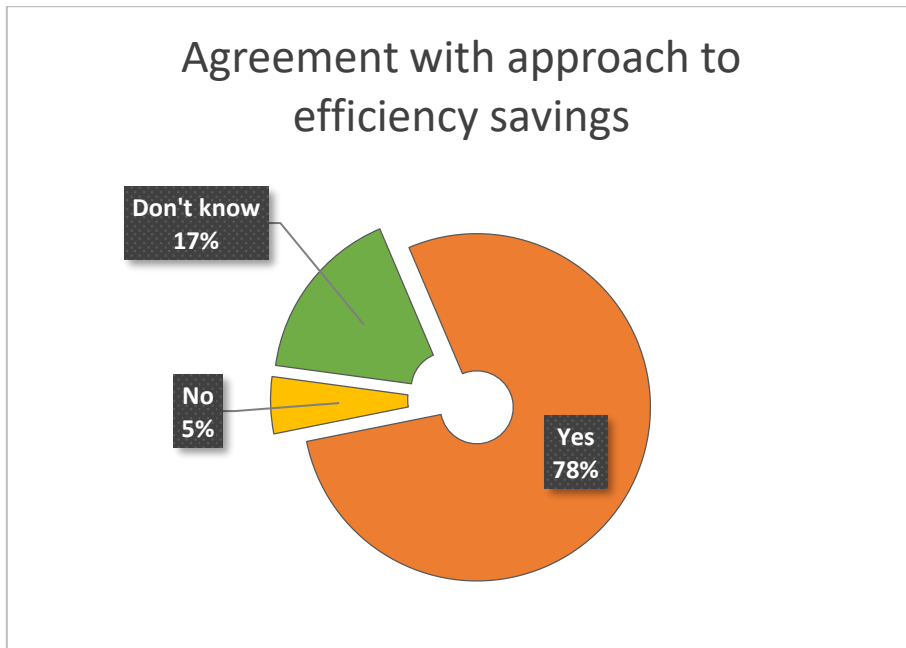
- 4.10 Further comments asked what other service areas would be deprioritised as a result of this proposal.

*“As opposed to prioritising what other areas?”*

*“Agree they are important, but other areas should not suffer”*

### **Efficiencies**

- 4.11 The Council’s budget strategy has identified efficiency savings of £4.9M for 2022/23 that will not impact on frontline services. **78.2% of respondents agreed with the proposal for the delivery of efficiency savings for next year.**



- 4.12 Most of the comments on this proposal noted the importance that efficiencies should not be found at the expense of staffing levels or support.

*“Any efficiency savings which do not impact services and jobs should always be at the forefront of savings strategy”*

*“Increasing efficiency is good as long as it doesn’t strain the system and the people who run it”*

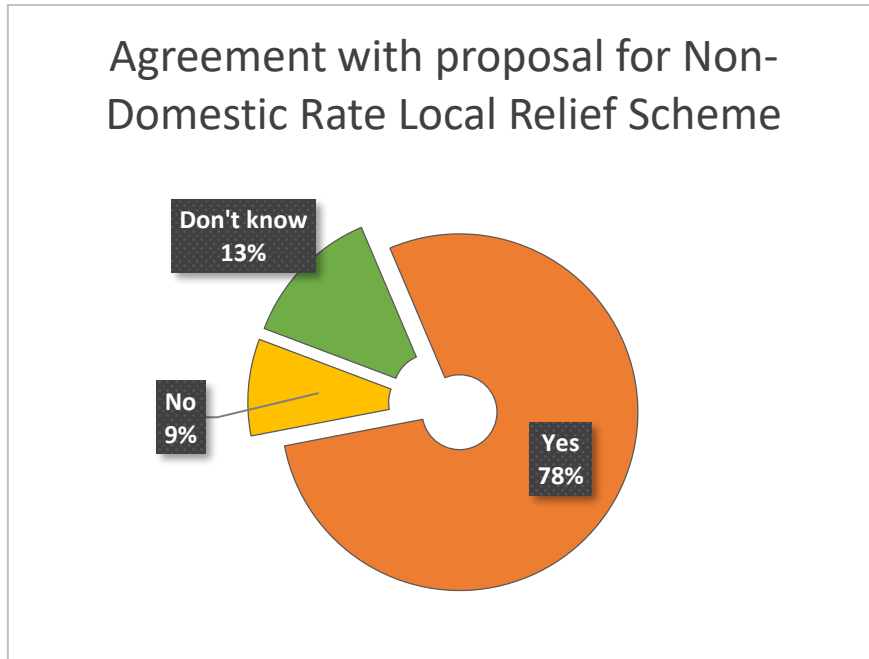
- 4.13 Some comments asked whether further savings are possible due to increased flexible working across the Council.

*“I think you are saving quite a bit of cash with employees WFH”*

*“Working from home should continue, it frees up council buildings”*

### **Non-Domestic Rate Local Relief Scheme**

- 4.14 The Council is proposing an additional £100K be added to the existing Non-Domestic Rate Local Relief Scheme implemented in 2021/22. **78.4% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



- 4.15 The majority of comments are supportive of this proposal, welcoming support for small businesses that have been hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

*“Businesses have struggled greatly in the pandemic, its lovely to see further support offered to them”*

*“People need to work and we need to support this as best we can”*

*“We need to help & encourage small businesses in our towns”*

*“This is an excellent initiative”*

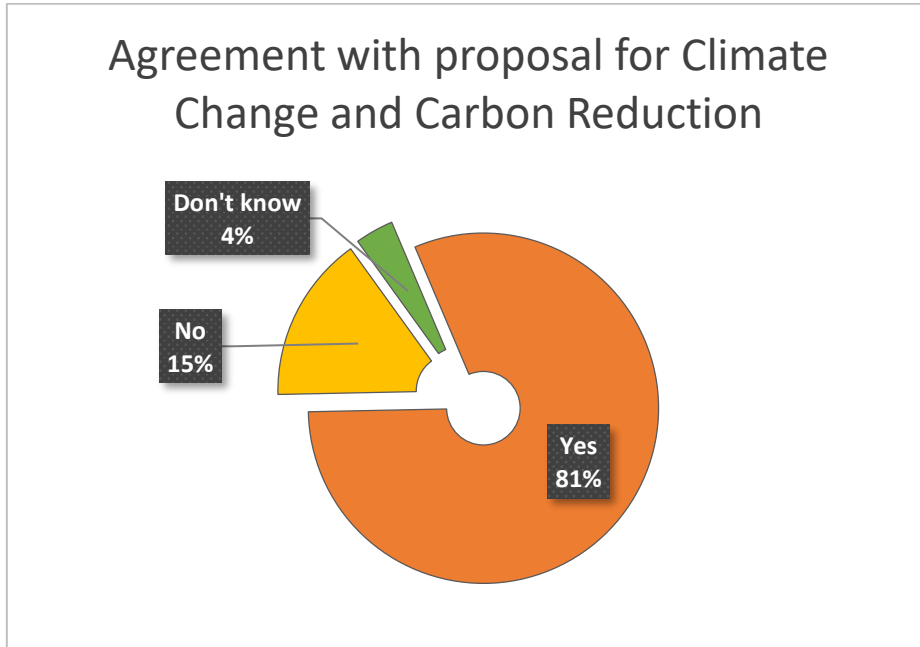
- 4.16 A number of comments provided examples over how funds should be allocated.

*“The relief scheme should be allocated depending on the profit the business is making”*

*“Would like assurances that any financial support is given only to employers who agree to an ethical charter”*

### **Climate Change and Carbon Reduction**

- 4.17 The Council is proposing £500K be put in place alongside existing resources to maintain and enhance delivery of work responding to climate change and carbon reduction. **81.1% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



- 4.18 There was a wide range of comments on this area, with some welcoming the investment and also calling for higher funding rates and more focus on this area.

*“This additional investment is a welcome one but will need to be increased in years to come”*

*“It’s important we support reducing the carbon footprint”*

*“Despite difficult times I agree Climate Change and care for the environment must be a priority”*

*“More needed to safeguard our future!”*

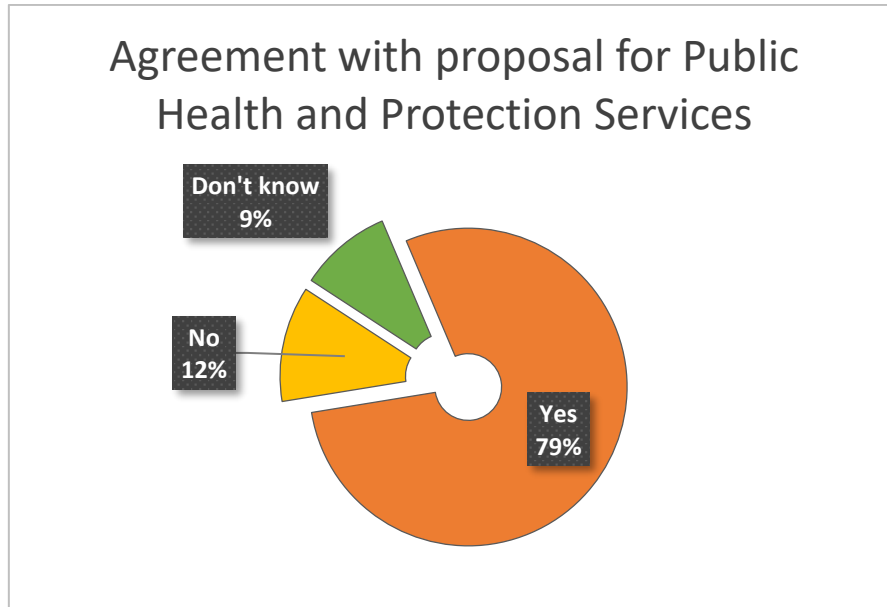
- 4.19 A number of comments noted that the level of investment detracted from other service areas.

*“Investment in viable schemes is justified but not to the amount of £500k when there are so many other services that would benefit from additional funding”*

*“This figure is far too high, when you have residents who have to choose to heat or eat”*

## **Public Health and Protection Services**

- 4.20 Additional investment of £200K is being proposed, further to the £200K invested in 2021/22, to support the Public Health and Protection Service. **78.8% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



- 4.21 There was praise for the Council's role during the pandemic and some comments that the funding may not be needed for this purpose in the future.

*"PH&P have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic and it is great to see further investment in the department."*

*"My experience of Rhondda Leisure Centre for vaccines and tests has been excellent. I commend the council and the staff & volunteers there for their efficiency and cheerfulness."*

*"sounds like money well spent"*

*"If this 200k investment is targeted towards Covid etc, then I feel going forward this money should be used elsewhere"*

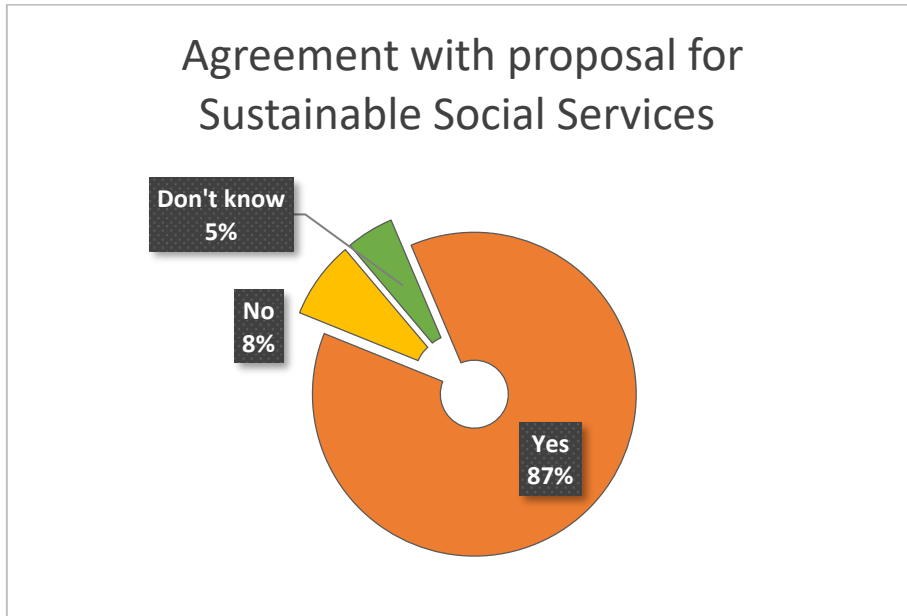
- 4.22 Some comments noted that other service areas should receive attention.

*"More needs to be done on dog fouling. Dog Patrols should not just finish at 3pm."*

*"Please concentrate on street cleaning"*

### **Sustainable Social Services**

- 4.23 The Council has proposed that additional investment of £1.5M is made to support our Social Services provision, developing different models of service provision and the remodelling and integration of community services with partners. **87.4% of respondents agree with this proposed investment.**



- 4.24 A number of comments raised the issue of partnership working and restructuring Social Service provision to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

*"(I) wonder if the monies would be better spent engaging with local communities and the voluntary sector"*

*"Third sector and community organisations play an important part in sustainability"*

- 4.25 Other comments expressed a desire to see social services and related work brought more fully into the Council's remit.

*"Would support this proposal as long as services are brought back into council control"*

*"Bring social care back under the council. No outsourcing."*

- 4.26 Multiple comments related to staffing levels and support for front line staff and services.

*"More front-line workers that are appreciated and valued are needed"*

*“Services have been overstretched and unable to meet the needs of individuals due to the number of people referred and the stagnant level of staff”*

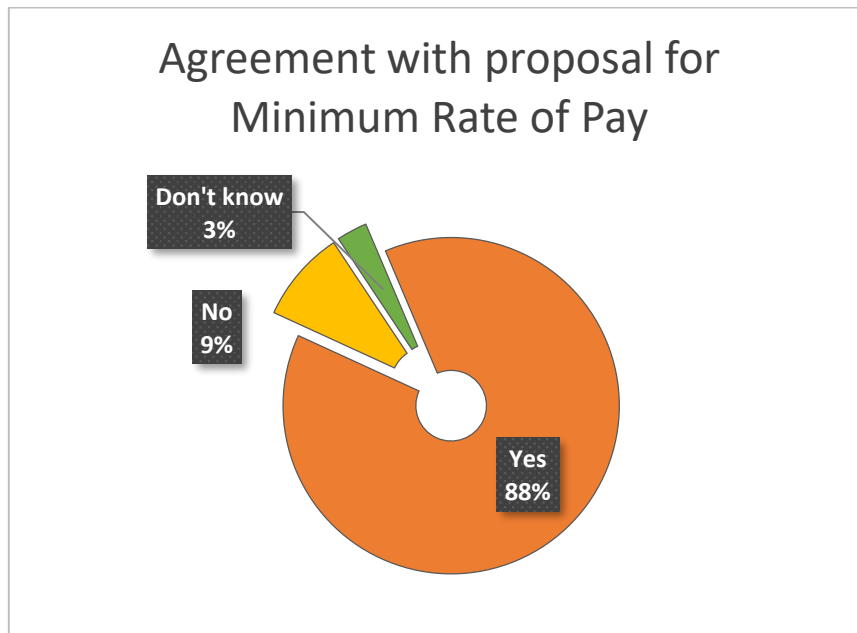
- 4.27 A number of comments praised existing staff and services and reflected the importance of Social Services across RCT.

*“This service is vital to the community”*

*“Social services are relied heavily upon through all aspects of life”*

### **Minimum Rate of Pay**

- 4.28 The Council has been a Real Living Wage employer for many years and has proposed to increase the minimum pay for all Council staff and commissioned social care staff to £10 per hour from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. **88.2% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



- 4.29 In general comments were in agreement with the proposal, with a number of comments stating that the rate of pay is still too low.

*“This is an excellent move by RCT”*

*“This is a good way to retain staff”*

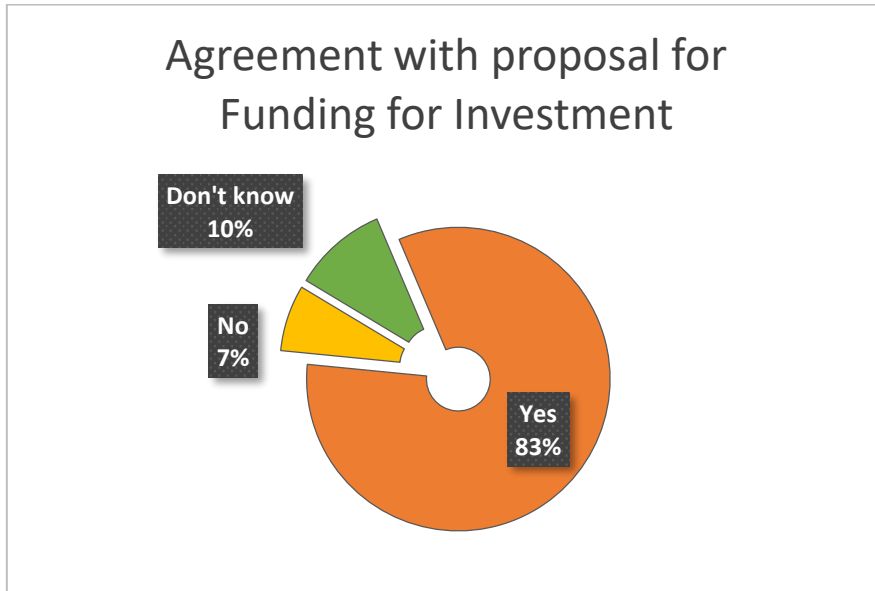
*“Probably needs to be more but a (good) start”*

*“The lowest paid jobs have been critical throughout the pandemic and should be paid accordingly”*



**Funding for Investment**

4.30 The Council has already invested over £129M since October 2015 in key corporate plan priorities and infrastructure developments. The proposal is for an additional £1M investment to further support ongoing and key projects. **82.9% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



4.31 Many comments offered suggestions on specific areas that respondents felt needed further investment and/or development.

*“Invest in the infrastructure of Tonypanyd which was once a vibrant town, now a ghost town”*

*“Llanharan bypass is much needed”*

*“A good investment (...) would be to provide lighting on the A4059 between Abercynon and Cwmbach”*

*“We definitely need more money invested in supported living accommodation”*

4.32 Some comments noted that new developments are diverting funds that could support key services.

*“We need to recover from the effects of Covid-19 before investing in further schemes”*

*“Coming out of the pandemic we need to divert funds to Social Services and schools”*

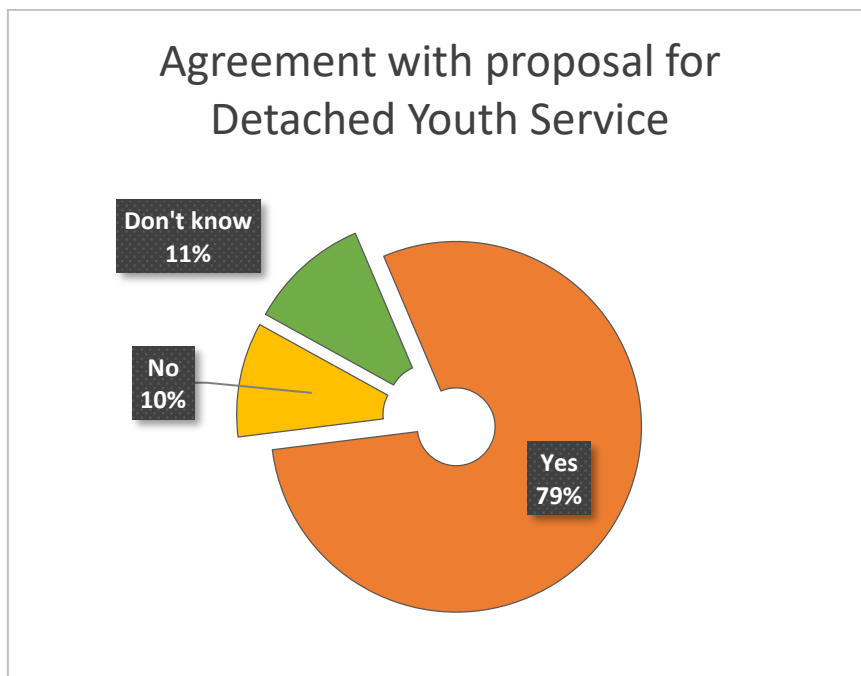
4.33 OPAG members were generally supportive of the proposal but raised some points.

*“Please consider extra funding to tackle dog fouling problems that are always brought up in community forums and groups as major problems”*

*“It is so difficult to find large venues to use for community events and groups – could the Council invest, for example, in a large marquee and hire this out/ put it up for community groups to use for events. Example: the Platinum Jubilee – no venues available for community groups to organise any celebrations”*

### **Detached Youth Service**

- 4.34 The Council has proposed an additional £75K investment to support the on-going work to support young people across RCT. **79.4% of respondents agreed with this proposal.**



- 4.35 A number of comments mentioned perceived increases in antisocial behaviour and many welcomed any investment to continue to address this issue.

*“The investment needs to deliver results. The amount of anti-social behaviour taking place at the moment is out of control”*

*“We should invest much more in keeping our youth out of drugs and antisocial behaviour”*

*“We need more youth club type activities to get the young people off the streets and away from anti-social behaviours”*

- 4.36 A large number of comments called for a greater level of investment in youth services and facilities.

*“Needs to be much more investment than 75k”*

*“This should be increased further. Children and young people need more support and services”*

*“Not enough money. More needs to be invested in youth facilities.”*

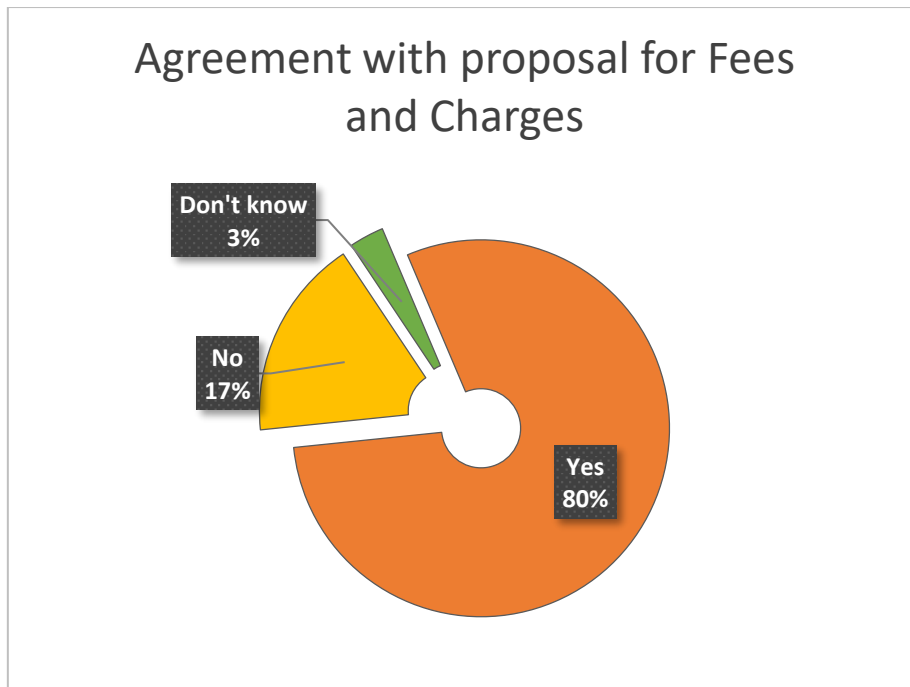
### **Fees and Charges**

- 4.37 A standard increase of 2.5% is proposed on all fees and charges with a number of specific exceptions.

<b>Area of Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Exception</b>
Leisure for Life – Membership	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
Meals on Wheels / Day Centre Meals	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
School Meals	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
Car Park Charges	Freeze
Summer and Winter Playing Fees (sports clubs)	Freeze
3G Pitch Hire	Freeze
Licenses (Hackney Carriage / Private Hire)	Freeze
Lido / Rhondda Heritage Park	Freeze

This proposal would lead to a reduction in income of £44K.

**79.8% of respondents agreed with the proposals for fees and charges.**



4.38 Comments on this point varied - some questioned the charges that are proposed to be frozen.

*“You could put some of these up, even slightly”*

*“Make sure charges keep pace with increased costs”*

*“I don’t see why a small increase cannot be considered as long as users of the facilities are warned in advance”*

4.39 Other comments welcomed the freezes or called for further areas to be frozen.

*“I think this will encourage people to access these facilities and in turn the town centres injecting life back into them”*

*“Pest Control fees and Bulk Collection charges should be frozen or reduced”*

*“Welcome lots of these fees being frozen due to the cost of living crisis everyone says is coming”*

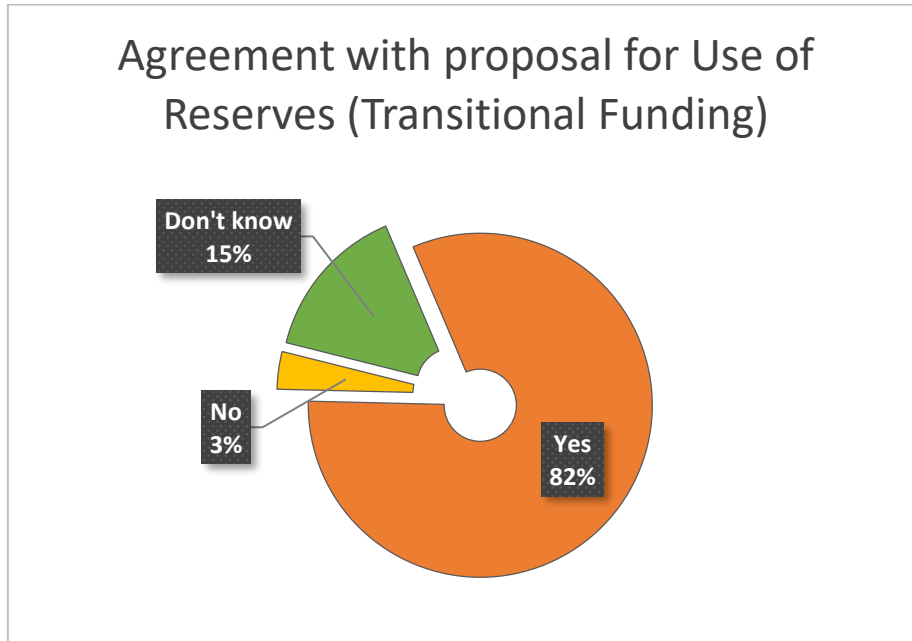
4.40 OPAG members agreed with the proposals, with the following comments.

*“Increases will still be out of reach for some, but realistically it is needed”*

*“We need to keep people active, so it is particularly important to freeze sports and leisure fees”*

### **Use of Reserves (Transitional Funding)**

- 4.41 After taking account of the above proposals, proposed level of Council Tax, the delivery of efficiencies and other budget requirements the remaining budget gap is £970k, which the Council proposes to be funded through Transitional Funding Reserves. **81.8% of respondents agreed with this proposal.**



- 4.42 A lower number of comments were received on this area, with some expressing confusion over how reserve funding is secured and maintained.

*“You shouldn’t keep spending more than the budget, eventually savings run out.”*

*“Eventually the reserves will runout... what then?”*

### **Other Comments**

- 4.43 A wide range of general comments were received regarding the budget. A number of them praised the proposals and the consultation exercise.

*“I have looked at what other councils do and Rct has one of the most inclusive and engaging processes for residents to make their views known”*

*“Setting a budget during the most scary time in our history and RCT has succeeded more than other councils but there will always be areas that require more attention than others”*

*“It appears to me that priorities are correct in the main”*

*“Seems the council is very socially minded which is how it should be”*

*“On the whole I am pleased with the value for money that the council provide”*

- 4.44 Some respondents commented that they felt specific areas were not directly addressed in the proposals.

*“Not sure if the higher allocation in 21/22 will be drastically reduced next year”*

*“I(n)vest in safety, research the structural integrity of the underground tunnels and the tips. Remove the tips”*

*“(I) would like the authority to have a strategy for taking over vacant properties which are empty and in disrepair as a way of supporting the homeless in the short term”*

*“The proposed budget strategy is on the whole very good but it could be improved by being more radical by bringing services back in house”*

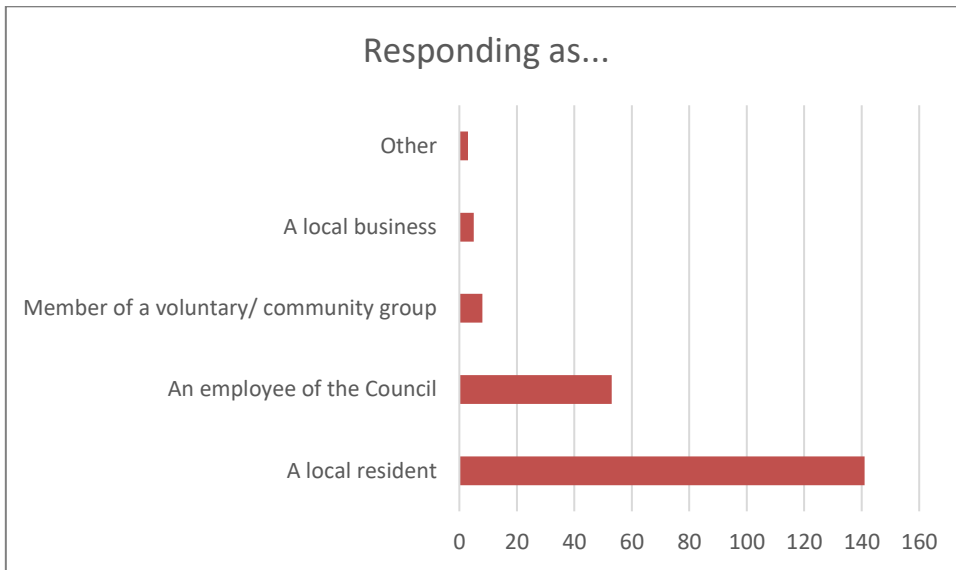
- 4.45 OPAG members raised the following comments outside specific focus sections.

*“The schools funding is vital – as a Chair of Governors, I understand the extreme budget pressures in some schools.”*

*“Congratulations to the Council on committing to the Real Living Wage – this is very important particularly in recruitment of staff in social care, which is in crisis”*

**About You**

4.46 The majority of respondents to the survey were residents (67.1%).



A local resident	67.1%
An employee of the Council	25.2%
Member of a voluntary/ community group	3.8%
A local business	2.4%
Other	1.4%

Note: This was a multiple response question.

4.47 A number of points were raised in the comments regarding impacts due to protected characteristics.

*“I’m disabled and the lack of investment in (my area) leaves people like myself isolated.”*

*“The budget could offer more support in regards to working class people and childcare... there should be much more support for working families”*

*“I am a pensioner and homeowner so increases in council tax really do affect me”*

*“As I’m getting older my reliance on public services increases so budget proposals are beneficial”*

4.48 There were also a number of comments regarding impacts on the use of the Welsh Language.

*“I think there should be provision for Welsh learners to be able to meet up with Welsh speakers to help them increase their confidence and hear the language being spoken in a natural setting”*

*“English is now treated as second class in wales, welsh speakers seem to get priority for good jobs”*

*“In my opinion too much money wasted on bilingual bills, signs etc”*

*“We should be doing more to encourage local cultural events which reflect the priorities of local communities”*

*“Positive effects could be increased with continued free Welsh courses”*

*“Supporting schools with additional funding will only strengthen the promotion of the Welsh language”*

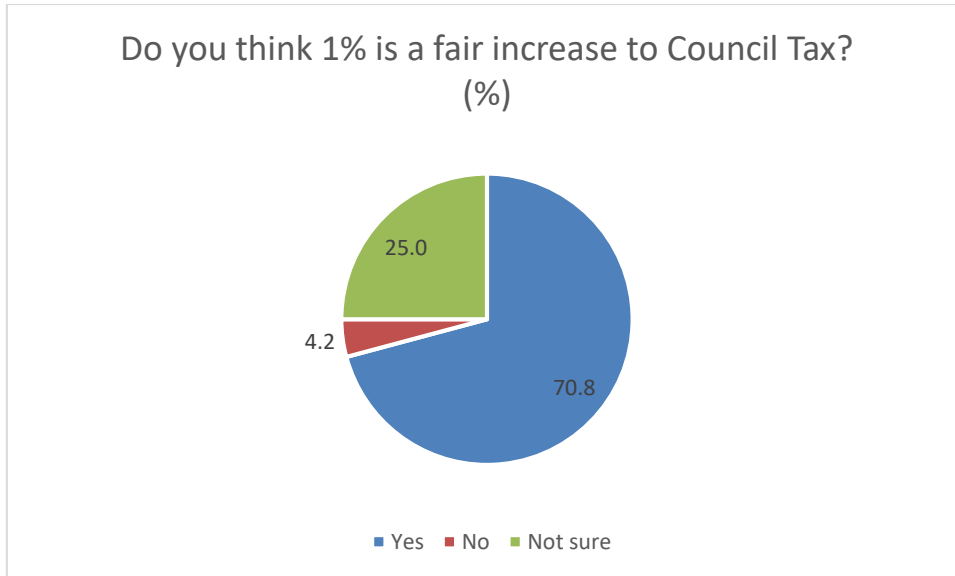


## 5. YOUNG PERSONS ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 In previous years the Consultation Team have held face to face sessions with secondary schools and young people across the Borough. Due to the restrictions because of the pandemic, we were unable to consult face to face in Phase 1 of the consultation. Phase 2 was slightly different, and we managed to arrange to meet with 4 groups of young people.
- 5.2 The Youth Engagement Participation Service (YEPS) arranged 2 school groups at Pontypridd High School (year 9 and sixth form) and 2 virtual sessions via Zoom, with the Environmental Youth Group and the Young Editors and Members of Youth Parliament. They also posted details of the phase 2 consultation on Instagram and other social media sites.
- 5.3 The sessions at Pontypridd High School were attended by a member of the Consultation Team along with the YEPS Communication and Rights Officer. During the sessions, the young people were shown the Easy Read consultation document which explained the Council's plans and proposals. The groups were asked questions which helped aid discussions.
- 5.4 The questions were centred around Council Tax levels, Efficiencies, Fees and Charges, Schools and Social Services budget, helping local businesses, Climate Change, Public Health & Protection, the Detached Youth Service and investments.
- 5.5 In total we engaged with 25 young people and a summary of their responses will follow in this section. The sessions were well supported, and all young people engaged well with the format.

### **Council Tax**

- 5.6 We asked the groups ***“Do you think 1% is a fair increase to Council Tax to keep services at current levels?”***



5.7 Of the 25 young people we spoke to, there was general agreement with increasing Council Tax by 1%, although they were only in favour of this after seeking confirmation that core services would not be affected. Some young people fed back that a 1% Council Tax increase was affordable and a reasonable increase. One person commented that the increase will hit less well-off families more and could cause them to struggle.

**Efficiencies**

5.8 We discussed the requirement for the Council to aim to be as efficient as possible and asked for the groups’ views on this approach and if they had any ideas of ways in which the Council could become more efficient. The groups all felt that looking for ways to become more efficient was a useful task and lots of ideas and comments were generated.

5.9 **Feedback included:**

*" Better quality items should be bought so they last longer."*

*"Investing in better quality equipment/resources that lasts longer, rather than getting cheaper things than need constant replacing."*

*"Savings should be used on community improvements such as bins or recycling points."*

*"The money that is saved should be used for other services like youth services etc."*

### **Fees and Charges**

- 5.10 We asked the young people **“Do you think it is a good idea to spend £44,000 to keep some fees the same?”**. 80% of young people responding agreed that £44,000 should be used to keep some fees the same. 20% were unsure.

#### **Comments included:**

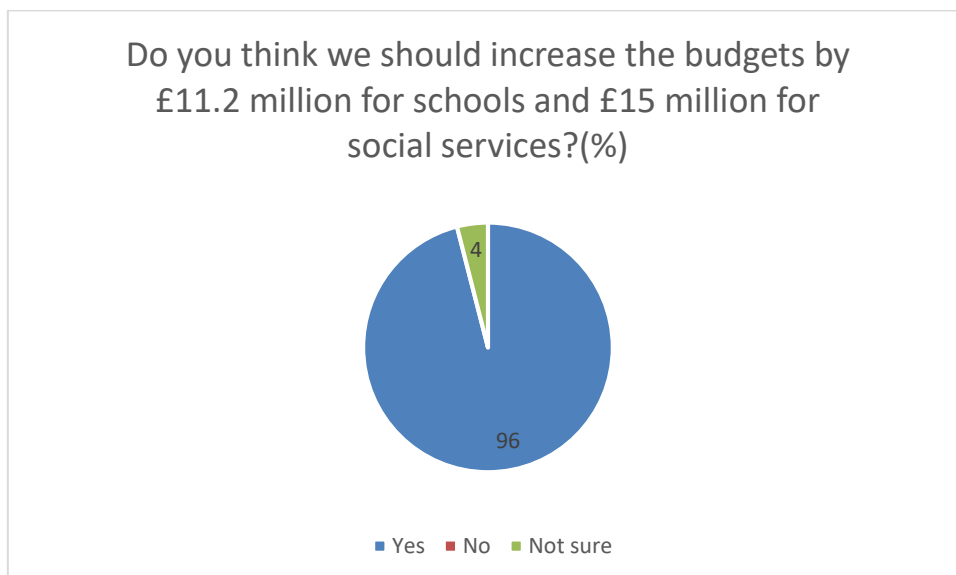
*“Keeping prices, the same will help those on low incomes to afford things like school dinners or leisure activities.”*

*“Some services should stay the same such as meals on wheels and day centre meals.”*

*“However, things like Rhondda Heritage Museum and Lido entry could be charged more for.”*

### **Schools and Social Services Budget**

- 5.11 When asked whether the groups agreed with the Council’s approach to protect and prioritise the Schools and Social Services budget, **“Do you think we should increase the budgets by £11.2 million for schools and £15 million for social services?”**, 96% of young people agreed with this. There was agreement that education is an important service area for young people and is something that should continue to receive adequate funding. The groups acknowledged that the increased budget could be used to provide better buildings and school equipment, specifically better IT, to give learners the best experience possible.



5.12 **Feedback included:**

*“Schools should have more spent on them.”*

*“We need more laptops to get on with work. There aren’t enough laptops for us.”*

*“Toilet facilities in this school need to be maintained better.”*

*“More equipment such as pens etc are needed.”*

*“We feel teachers should be paid more because without them we don’t get a good quality education.”*

*“We feel that funding for schools should be increased by more than £11.2 million.”*

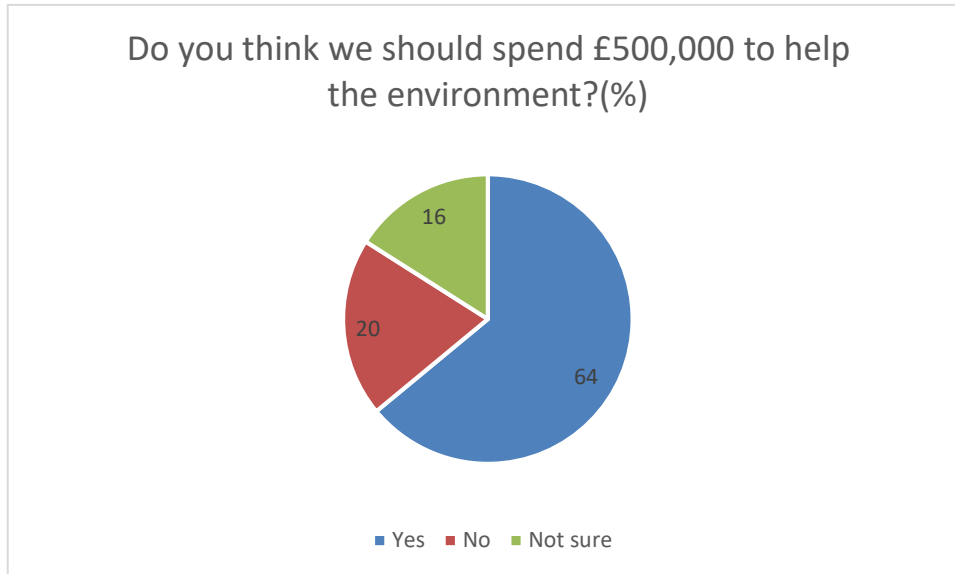
**Helping Local Businesses**

5.13 The conversation moved on to helping local businesses. We explained to the young people that the Council started a local Business Rate Reduction Scheme two years ago which helps local businesses with some of the costs they have to pay. We asked, ***“Do you think we should spend £100,000 more on helping businesses?”***

5.14 96% of young people agreed that the Council should help local businesses, however comments received suggested that £100,000 doesn’t seem so much to help all businesses in RCT and whether more money could be spent - a young person asked *“How is the money spent to support local businesses?”*

**Helping the environment / Climate Change**

5.15 We asked the groups ***“Do you think we should spend £500,000 to help the environment?”***



5.16 64% of young people agreed with the £500,000 investment to help the environment, however 20% disagreed and 16% said they were unsure.

5.17 **Feedback included:**

*“Use money to help businesses reduce their CO2 footprint. Individuals can make changes themselves to help. More effective recycling for people, fines for those who don’t comply, like people who leave dog mess.”*

*“More money should be spent on helping tackle climate change now to help with the future.”*

*“We think that more than £500,000 should be spent to help save the environment and reduce everyone’s’ carbon footprint.”*

**Public Health & Protection Services**

5.18 The Public Health and Protection service has played an important role this year in making sure the public health and wellbeing of our communities is protected. They have provided advice and help and are leading on things such as the Test Trace Protect programme. We explained to the group that more money will help us employ more people, making sure we are able to help as many people as possible and making sure we are ready for any challenges this year.

We asked the groups ***“Do you think we should spend £200,000 on this service?”***

5.19 The majority of young people agreed with the Council’s approach to spend £200,000 on Public Health and protection; however they felt that more money could be spent on these services.

### **Detached Youth Services**

- 5.20 The Council wants to make sure young people across RCT have services and activities to support them and would like to spend £75,000 to let the Detached Youth Service organise this.

We asked the groups ***“Do you think we should spend £75,000 to help the Detached Youth Service?”***

- 5.21 96% of young people agreed that £75,000 should be spent to help the Detached Youth Service but they agreed that more should be spent.

### **Investments**

- 5.22 We explained that the Council has invested in buildings, projects, and schemes for a long time. This has let us create new buildings and improve others, to help people and businesses across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

We asked, ***“Do you think we should spend £1 million to invest across RCT?”***

- 5.23 Again, most young people agreed that money should be spent to invest across RCT, but they agreed it should be more than £1 Million.

- 5.24 **Feedback included:**

*“Potholes and pavements to be fixed.”*

*“More than 1 million pounds should be spent to regenerate older buildings so they can be enjoyed by people again.”*

### **Instagram and Facebook**

- 5.25 Budget content was created and shared on the YEPS' Instagram account. 2 posts went out on February 7 advertising the Budget Consultation and detailing how young people could take part. There was a link to the Consultation's Let's Talk website which had a dedicated Budget project page consisting of web polls, an 'Idea' tool and the Council's main survey.

- 5.26 The Council's Budget Content was also shared by YEPS' Facebook account.