



Council spending – have your say on Uttlesford District Council's budget for 2026/27

Research report January 2026

Budget 2026/27

Have your say on
council spending



Acknowledgements

Uttlesford District Council would like to thank all the participants who took part in the polling

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Summary

One of our 4 [Corporate Plan](#) aims is to put residents first by ensuring budgetary stability and value for money, embracing new technology and developing our workforce.

Each year we must prepare our budget and decide how much should be spent on the services we provide to the community.

Before we do that, we ask for feedback in the form of a public survey on what our spending priorities should be in the next financial year. This consultation asked for respondents' and preceptor's views on what we should be spending in the year from April 2026 to March 2027.

The feedback gathered from the survey will be presented to district councillors alongside the final budget proposals during February 2026.

Spending priority ratings on 6 statutory services and a further 6 discretionary services are used to measure where respondents think the council should be targeting spending. Other questions focus on value for money and the relative importance of the council's Corporate Plan objectives.

Key messages

'Putting residents first' is regarded as being the most important Corporate Plan priority by most people who responded to this consultation.

By comparison with last year, more respondents now agree that Uttlesford District Council provides value for money when spending the funds the council keeps when collecting Council Tax.

Support for the majority of services is up on that polled in 2024 with some, such as Council Tax and benefits administration, maintaining community areas and Saffron Walden Museum, returning to the levels of approval last seen in the 2023 survey.

Maintaining refuse and recycling collections, dealing with housing standards, dealing with issues such as fly-tipping and the new Local Plan all remain as spending priorities. These are much the same as in previous budget surveys.

Support for discretionary services is in general much lower than for statutory services. Approval for the funding of district-wide tourism has fallen this year and is now rated as the lowest priority in the council's portfolio. Community safety, though, is regarded as being crucial, perhaps reflecting some of the recent high-profile work carried out in Great Dunmow.

Generally, the responses to this survey show that local residents are significantly happier with the way Uttlesford runs its services than the national average.

Results summary

Summary results of the council spending survey to inform the setting of the Uttlesford District Council budget for 2025/26.

- ‘Putting residents first’ emerges as the headline priority from the council’s corporate plan with a total of 95 per cent of respondents ‘definitely agreeing’ or ‘tending to agree’. This continues an established trend in the 2023 and 2024 budget consultations, though this year overall support for all of the corporate priorities is up on that previously recorded.
- In all, 44 per cent of respondents tended to agree that Uttlesford District Council provides value for money with a further 24 percent definitely agreeing. In this targeted budget consultation respondents showed a significantly higher agreement rate than that seen in the 2024 budget consultation and the national residents’ satisfaction survey of all councils undertaken by the LGA in October 2025.
- For services provided by environmental health and licensing housing standards, private water supplies and pollution control were rated as being ‘very or fairly important’ by 89 percent of those who responded.
- Housing advice polled 84 percent of respondents who regard it as being ‘very or fairly important’. Temporary accommodation was ranked just a little lower with a 83 percent ‘very or fairly important’ rating. These results show a fair advance on the feedback in 2024.
- Both planning policy and development management (determining planning and building control applications) consistently score highly in importance surveying. Again, this year almost nine in ten respondents rating them as ‘very or fairly important’.
- Of all the council’s services refuse and recycling collections continue to poll the highest level of support (98%) as a spending priority.
- This year respondents gave street cleansing a 93 percent importance rating. This is up on the 85 percent registered for the same question in the 2024 survey.
- In the past, revenues and benefits services have been seen as being relatively low priorities for funding by respondents, when compared to services such as planning and waste. This year more respondents than before have rated these services as being either ‘very important’ or ‘fairly important’. Some 75 percent ranked ‘Council Tax and business rates collection’ as being important in some way whilst 79 per cent so ranked ‘Administering Council Tax and Housing Benefit’.
- When thinking about maintaining local amenity areas eight in ten respondents (80 per cent) regard this discretionary service as being important. This is another service that has returned to its 2023 level of satisfaction.

- Almost eight in ten (77 percent) respondents regard the council's community safety work as being important.
- Support for local businesses and projects to support growth remains broadly on a par with that achieved in the 2024 survey. The only noticeable difference is in the overall ratings for tourism which has been on the wane for several years; this element of the service was given just a 36 percent importance support this year against 42 percent in 2024.
- Supporting community groups was rated as 'very or fairly important' by 63 percent of respondents. This result is 7 percent up that returned in 2024 (for the 2025-26 budget survey). Community grants were so rated by 60 percent; this again is a slight increase on the 2024 figure.
- The museum is another service is another service which returns to its 2023 level of support with 51 percent of respondents 'rating it very or fairly important'. In 2024 just 36 percent of respondents so rated it. Almost two in ten people (19 percent), though, think the museum service is 'very unimportant'.
- Just over half of all respondents (55 percent) rated the council's climate change activities as being 'very or fairly important'. Notably, this year in Uttlesford only 15 percent of respondents regard climate change as being 'very unimportant'; this is a drop from the 22 per cent who so rated this activity in 2024 and perhaps reflects the work the authority has done in the last 12 months to re-iterate the need for action on the climate crisis.

Introduction

This report outlines the results of annual budget consultation which gives citizens and businesses in Uttlesford the chance to feedback on the council's proposed budget and spending priorities for 2026-27. The survey ran from 17 December 2025 to 14 January 2026 and asked a standard set of questions that has been used in previous years.

The results of this survey can be compared with data from past surveys and other research such as the Local Government Association's (LGA) [residents' satisfaction survey](#).

Preparing the budget takes many months and gathering views from residents on how and where the council's resources should be allocated is an important part of the process.

The 2026/27 financial year will once again be filled with uncertainty for local government, particularly across Essex as we move towards [local government reorganisation](#) in 2028. At the same time there are increasing demands on the services we provide, and our costs are rising.

Polling on statutory services and discretionary services are used to measure where respondents think the council should be targeting spending. Other questions focus on value for money and the relative importance of the Corporate Plan objectives.

The results, together with other engagement with citizens, can provide valuable information on what residents and businesses regard as important and, therefore, what we can do to serve the needs of the local community better.

Comparison with previous surveys, local consultation and national polls¹ provides context, and trends can help to identify possible relationships with other variables.

Methodology

Between 17 December 2025 and 14 January 2026, residents, businesses and town/parish councils across the district were invited to respond to an open survey. Key preceptors were also asked to comment.

The survey was available online, though the council's website or, by request, as a paper form which could be returned in a reply-paid envelope. A total of 59 surveys were completed comprising:

- 59 online submissions
- 0 paper forms returned

¹ Questions about perceptions of overall value for money and the importance of council services are asked in the LGA Residents' satisfaction surveys, the most recent of which was conducted in October 2025.

It was promoted through social media, a press release, articles in enewsletters and on the council's website homepage. In all promotions reached over 4,000 people by social media and more than 11,000 recipients on the authority's newsletter distribution list.

Respondents were also advised to read the [draft budget for 2026/27](#) which was considered by councillors at Cabinet on 16 December.

The polling was based on an agreed set of questions² to reflect respondents' views on:

- the priorities for council spending in relation to the Corporate Plan visions
- whether the Council Tax precept for Uttlesford District Council represents 'value for money'
- the prerogatives for the future resourcing of specific service areas

Respondents were also asked for some profiling:

- in what role are you responding to the survey
- what age category do you belong to
- what is your gender
- what is your ethnicity
- do you consider yourself to have a disability
- what is your postcode

A full set of survey questions is included in Appendix B for information.

Data management

Note that:

- In the report percentages in tables may add up to more or less than 100 due to rounding
- During fieldwork, it is common for there to be a noticeable underrepresentation on the younger age groups and a skew to the older age groups. This survey has not weighted the data to rebalance the results.

² A similar question set was asked in 2023 and 2024 to inform the setting of the respective 2024-25 and 2025-26 budgets.

Survey of budget priorities for 2026/27

This section outlines the survey results. Not all of the 59 respondents answered all of the questions.

Tables showing the profiling of respondents for postcode and other profiling data can be found in Appendix A. A full set of the questions asked is available in Appendix B.

Corporate

The council's budget is designed to deliver the core services we provide and meet our priorities as set out in the council's Corporate Plan. In doing this we aim to provide the best value for money from the Council Tax we keep. In 2025/26 the council keeps £182.02 of the average £2,237.45 paid in Council Tax by an Uttlesford household based on Band D property.

Corporate Plan priorities

'Putting residents first' emerges as the headline priority from the council's corporate plan with a total of 95 per cent of respondents 'definitely agreeing' or 'tending to agree'. This continues an established trend in the 2023 and 2024 budget consultations, though this year overall support for all of the corporate priorities is up on that previously recorded. See figure 1.

	Per cent			
	Protecting and enhancing our environment	Encouraging economic growth	Building strong communities	Putting residents first
Definitely or tend to agree	82%	86%	79%	95%
Definitely agree	66%	45%	43%	67%
Tend to agree	16%	41%	36%	28%
Neither agree nor disagree	3%	5%	13%	3%
Tend to disagree	14%	7%	5%	2%
Definitely disagree	2%	2%	7%	0%

Figure 1: Are these [Corporate Plan] priorities the right ones for 2025/26?
Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Value for money

In all, 44 per cent of respondents tended to agree that Uttlesford District Council provides value for money with a further 24 percent definitely agreeing. In this targeted budget consultation respondents showed a significantly higher agreement rate than that seen in the 2024 budget consultation and the national residents' satisfaction survey of all councils undertaken by the LGA in October 2025. See figure 2.

Per cent			
	Council spending (Jan 2026)	National satisfaction survey (Oct 2025)	Council spending (Jan 2025)
Definitely or tend to agree	68%	38%	55%
Definitely agree	24%	12%	20%
Tend to agree	44%	27%	35%
Neither agree nor disagree	10%	27%	10%
Tend to disagree	17%	21%	23%
Definitely disagree	5%	12%	12%
Don't know	-	1%	-

Figure 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree that Uttlesford District Council (your council) provides value for money?

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Base (all respondents): National 1001

Statutory services

In the next questions respondents were given a list of the statutory services the council provides. For each of these statutory services they were asked to tell us how important they think the service is.

To meet the continued financial pressures, we could look to reduce the amount we spend which may reduce the level of service provided, or where allowed, increase or introduce new fees and charges.

Environmental health and licensing

Housing standards, private water supplies and pollution control were rated as being 'very or fairly important' by 89 percent of those who responded. By comparison, only 53 percent of respondents regarded taxi licensing, liquor and gambling premises licensing as being important. These results are broadly in line with those returned in the 2024 budget consultation See figure 3.

Per cent				
	Action to develop cleaner neighbourhoods and to tackle environmental crime such as fly tipping	Food safety	Housing standards, private water supplies and pollution control	Taxi licensing, liquor and gambling premises licensing
Very or fairly important	89%	83%	92%	53%
Very important	61%	47%	57%	12%
Fairly important	28%	36%	35%	41%
Neither	9%	12%	3%	26%
Fairly unimportant	0%	5%	3%	15%
Very unimportant	2%	0%	0%	7%

Figure 3: Environmental health and licensing

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Housing and homelessness

Housing services generally attract a reasonable level of support in resident surveys. Here housing advice polled 84 percent of respondents who regard it as being 'very or fairly important'. Temporary accommodation was ranked just a little lower with a 83 percent 'very or fairly important' rating. These results show a fairly dramatic advance on the feedback in 2024 (for the 2025-26 budget survey) when housing advice achieved 71 percent 'importance' and temporary accommodation 77 per cent. Impact from changes in the housing market, high local rent costs and early anticipation of the Renters' Rights Act may be factors on this trend. See figure 4.

	Per cent	
	Housing advice	Temporary accommodation
Very or fairly important	84%	83%
Very important	46%	46%
Fairly important	38%	37%
Neither	12%	14%
Fairly unimportant	2%	3%
Very unimportant	2%	2%

Figure 4: Housing and homelessness

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Planning and building control

Both planning policy and development management (determining planning and building control applications) consistently score highly in importance surveying. Again, this year almost nine in ten respondents rating them as 'very or fairly important'. See figure 5.

	Per cent		
	Planning policy including the new Local Plan	Determining planning and building control applications	Local land searches (such as when buying/selling a home)
Very or fairly important	92%	78%	61%
Very important	48%	48%	31%
Fairly important	44%	30%	30%
Neither	8%	14%	25%
Fairly unimportant	10%	7%	9%
Very unimportant	0%	2%	5%

Figure 5: Planning and building control

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Refuse and recycling collections

Waste and recycling collections always command high levels of interest. The 98 percent importance rating here is comparable to the ninety-nine percent registered for the same question in the Uttlesford satisfaction survey undertaken in November 2024. In the 2023 and 2024 budget consultations this service polled similar approval ratings. Though not directly comparable, in the LGA's polling on resident satisfaction

with councils, undertaken in October 2025, waste collection services across the country only received a 71 percent approval rating. See figure 6.

	Per cent
	Refuse and recycling collections
Very or fairly important	98%
Very important	84%
Fairly important	14%
Neither	2%
Fairly unimportant	0%
Very unimportant	0%

Figure 6: Refuse and recycling collections

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Street cleansing

The 93 percent importance rating here is up on the 85 percent registered for the same question in the 2024 survey. Though not directly comparable, it is also somewhat in advance of the 55 percent satisfaction with this type of service polled by respondents to the LGA research on resident satisfaction with councils in October 2025. See figure 7.

	Per cent
	Street cleansing
Very or fairly important	93%
Very important	44%
Fairly important	49%
Neither	5%
Fairly unimportant	2%
Very unimportant	0%

Figure 7: Street cleansing

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Revenues and benefits

In the past, revenues and benefits services have been seen as being relatively low priorities for funding by respondents, when compared to services such as planning and waste. This year more respondents than before have rated these services as being either 'very important' or 'fairly important'. Some 75 percent ranked 'Council Tax and business rates collection' as being important in some way whilst 79 per cent so ranked 'Administering Council Tax and Housing Benefit'. These results are comparable to those reported in 2023 (for the 2024-25 budget survey) when 'Council Tax and business rates collection' polled 75 percent support and 'Administering Council Tax and Housing Benefit' polled 76 percent. See figure 8.

	Per cent	
	Administering Council Tax and business rates collection	Administering Council Tax and Housing Benefit
Very or fairly important	75%	79%
Very important	36%	38%
Fairly important	39%	41%
Neither	19%	17%
Fairly unimportant	7%	3%
Very unimportant	0%	2%

Figure 8: Revenues and benefits
Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Discretionary services

In the next questions respondents were given a list of the discretionary services we provide. Discretionary services are those we choose to provide but do not have a legal responsibility to do so. For each of these services respondents were asked to tell us how important they think the service is.

We charge additional fees and charges for some of them. To meet the continued financial pressures, we could increase existing fees and charges and introduce new ones. Or we could reduce the level of service.

Maintaining amenity areas

Maintaining amenity areas includes such things as grass cutting and general maintenance of various areas of council-owned land. Eight in ten respondents (80 per cent) regard this discretionary service as being important. This is another service that has returned to its 2023 level of satisfaction (for the 2024-25 budget survey) when it polled an 81 percent importance rating, whereas in 2024 it only managed 67 percent approval. Though not completely comparable, in the LGA's polling on resident satisfaction with councils undertaken in October 2025, parks and open space provision across the country received a 70 percent satisfaction rating. See figure 9.

	Per cent
	Maintaining amenity areas
Very or fairly important	80%
Very important	34%
Fairly important	46%
Neither	17%
Fairly unimportant	2%
Very unimportant	2%

Figure 9: Maintaining amenity areas
Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Community safety

Community safety activities to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) with the police and others. Almost eight in ten (77 percent) respondents regard the council's community safety work as being important. In 2023 (for the 2024-25 budget survey) this service polled a near comparable 73 percent importance rating but in 2024 this had dropped to just 59 percent. See figure 10.

	Per cent
	Community safety
Very or fairly important	77%
Very important	41%
Fairly important	36%
Neither	15%
Fairly unimportant	8%
Very unimportant	0%

Figure 10: Community safety

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Economic development

Support for local businesses and projects to support growth remains broadly on a par with that achieved in the 2024 survey. The only noticeable difference is in the overall ratings for tourism which has been on the wane for several years; this element of the service was given just a 36 percent importance support this year against 42 percent in 2024. In 2023 (for the 2024-25 budget survey) tourism polled a 46 percent importance rating. See figure 11.

	Per cent		
		Support for local businesses	Support for tourism
		Supporting projects to facilitate economic growth such as rural broadband	
Very or fairly important	73%		64%
Very important	34%		27%
Fairly important	42%		37%
Neither	10%		19%
Fairly unimportant	10%		14%
Very unimportant	3%		3%
			36%
			12%
			24%
			20%
			22%
			12%

Figure 11: Economic development

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Partnerships and communities

Supporting community groups was rated as 'very or fairly important' by 63 percent of respondents. This result is 7 percent up that returned in 2024 (for the 2025-26 budget survey). Community grants were so rated by 60 percent; this again is a slight increase on the 2024 figure. See figure 12.

	Per cent	
	Supporting community groups to deliver projects	Community grants
Very or fairly important	63%	60%
Very important	25%	35%
Fairly important	38%	25%
Neither	18%	21%
Fairly unimportant	16%	14%
Very unimportant	4%	5%

Figure 12: Partnerships and communities

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Saffron Walden Museum

The museum is another service which returns to its 2023 level of support with 51 percent of respondents 'rating it very or fairly important'. In 2024 just 36 percent of respondents so rated it. Almost two in ten people (19 percent), though, think the museum service is 'very unimportant' and another 15 percent were neutral on the matter. See figure 13.

	Per cent
	Running Saffron Walden Museum
Very or fairly important	51%
Very important	15%
Fairly important	36%
Neither	15%
Fairly unimportant	15%
Very unimportant	19%

Figure 13: Saffron Walden Museum

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Climate change

Just over half of all respondents (55 percent) rated the council's climate change activities as being 'very or fairly important'. Notably, this year in Uttlesford, only 15 percent of respondents regard climate change as being 'very unimportant'; this is a drop from the 22 per cent who so rated this activity in 2024 and perhaps reflects the work the authority has done in the last 12 months to re-iterate the need for action on the climate crisis. See figure 14.

	Per cent
	Climate change
Very or fairly important	55%
Very important	31%
Fairly important	24%
Neither	10%
Fairly unimportant	19%
Very unimportant	15%

Appendix A: Data tables – profiling

Status



Table 1: I am responding to the survey as
Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 59

Age

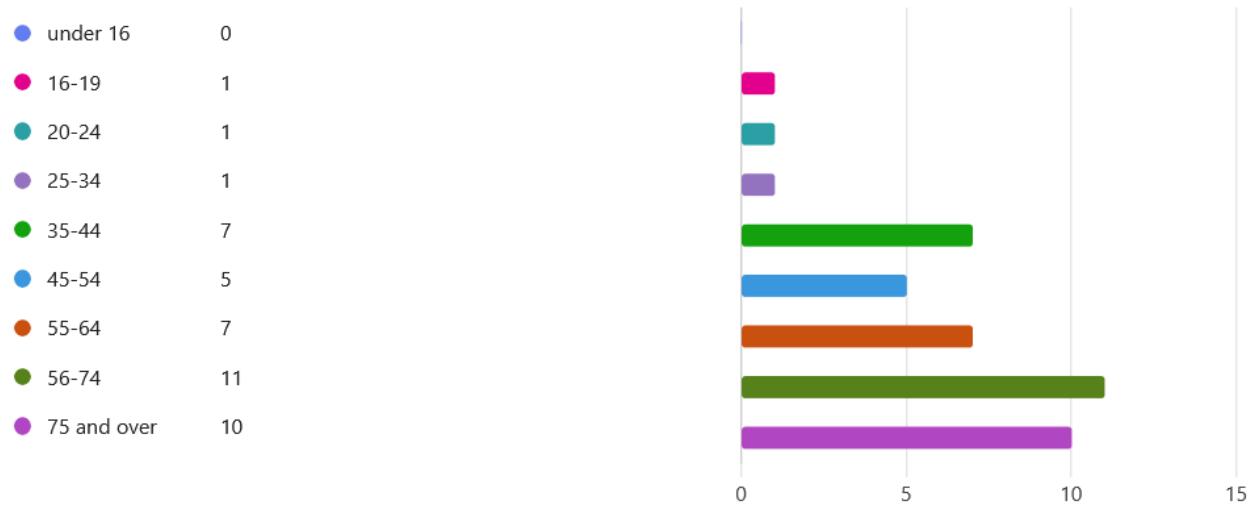


Table 2: Which age category do you belong to?
Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 43

Gender

Female	18
Male	23
Prefer not to say	2
Other	0

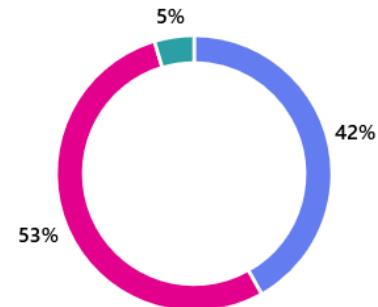


Table 3: What is your gender?

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 43

Ethnicity

White	39
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	2
Asian or Asian British	0
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	0
Other ethnic group	0
Prefer not to say	2

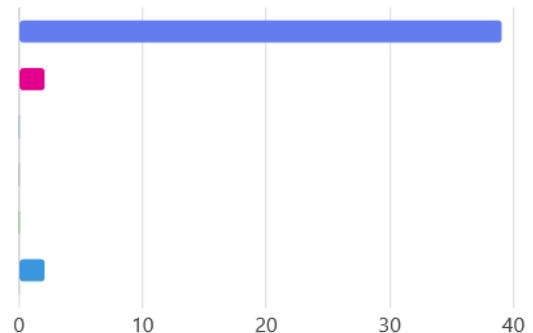


Table 4: What is your ethnicity?

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 43

Disability

● Yes	2
● No	41
● Prefer not to say	0

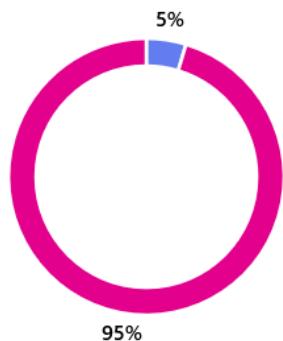


Table 5: Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 43

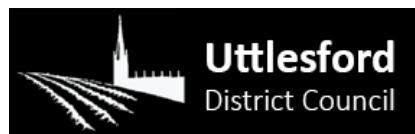
Postcode

Postcode data: respondents
CB10
CB10 2BB
CB10 2BN
CB10 2EE
CB10 2LG
CB11 3AR
CB11 3EX
CB11 3HR
CB11 3NJ
CB11 3PF
CB11 3UD
CB11 4BL
CB113QN
CB113XJ
CM1 4QZ
CM22 6DQ
CM22 6EG
CM22 7QY
CM22 7QZ
CM23 1AX
CM24 8SN
CM6
CM6 1ED
CM6 1HB
CM6 1PH
CM6 1TU
CM6 1WZ
CM6 2AZ
CM6 2SF
CM6 1RR
CM6 2BS
CM6 2RN

Table 6: What is your postcode?
Base (all respondents): Uttlesford 32

Appendix B: Polling questions

Council spending - have your say



Complete our short survey to give your views on Uttlesford District Council's budget for 2026-27.

Your information

Information you provide will be treated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679. Your contact details will be used solely for the purpose of contacting you about this survey. You should refer to our [corporate consultation privacy notice](#) (on www.uttlesford.gov.uk) for an explanation as to what we do with your personal information, how long we keep it and your right to withdraw your consent at any time you choose.

Priorities

Our budget is designed to deliver the core services we provide and meet our priorities as set out in the council's Corporate Plan.

With a vision for the council to make 'Uttlesford the best place to live, work and visit', the Corporate Plan has 4 priorities.

Protecting and enhancing our environment

We will protect and improve our environment by reducing our carbon footprint, promoting biodiversity, managing waste and recycling, and supporting green initiatives.

Encouraging economic growth

We will support and promote a vibrant and diverse economy by attracting investment, facilitating business growth, enhancing skills and employability, and improving connectivity and infrastructure.

Building strong communities

We will build strong and resilient communities by engaging with our residents, delivering new housing and tackling social isolation.

Putting residents first

We will deliver excellent services for the benefit of our residents by ensuring budgetary stability and value for money, embracing new technology and developing our workforce.

Corporate priorities

Question 1 Are these priorities the right ones for 2026/27?

	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Definitely disagree	Don't know
Protecting and enhancing our environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encouraging economic growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building strong communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Putting residents first	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Value for money

Only a small part of the Council Tax you pay goes to us.

Uttlesford District Council currently keeps £182.02 of the average £2,237.45 paid in Council Tax by an Uttlesford household based on Band D property in 2025/26.

The rest goes to:

- Essex County Council
- Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
- parish and town councils

In this survey we are only asking for your views about the Uttlesford part of the Council Tax bill. We have no say in setting the tax levels of the other bodies.

We are also responsible for collecting business rates. But we have no say in their level and we keep only a small percentage of the rates that we collect.

Question 2 Bearing in mind Uttlesford householders only pay £182.02 per year for services provided by the council (based on average Band D Council Tax 2025/26), to what extent do you agree or disagree that Uttlesford District Council provides value for money?

- Definitely agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Definitely disagree
- Don't know

Statutory services

We deliver a number of statutory services. These are services that we have to provide by law.

We are allowed to, and already do, apply additional fees and charges for some of them.

To meet the continued financial pressures, we could look to reduce the amount we spend which may reduce the level of service provided, or where allowed, increase or introduce new fees and charges.

In the next questions we have given a list of the statutory services we provide. For each of these statutory services please tell us how important you think the service is.

Question 3 Environmental health and licensing includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Action to develop cleaner neighbourhoods and to tackle environmental crime such as fly tipping	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Food safety	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Housing standards					
Private water supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pollution control					
Taxi licensing, liquor and gambling premises licensing	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Question 4 Housing and homelessness includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Housing advice	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Temporary accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Question 5 Planning and building control includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Planning policy including the new Local Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Determining planning and building control applications	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Local land searches (e.g. when buying/selling a home)	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Question 6 Refuse and recycling collection

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Refuse and recycling collections	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Question 7 Street cleansing

Very important **Fairly important** **Not so important** **Not important at all** **Don't know**

Street cleansing

Question 8 Revenues and benefits includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Administering Council Tax and business rates collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administering Council Tax and Housing Benefit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discretionary services

These are services we choose to provide but do not have a legal responsibility to do so. We charge additional fees and charges for some of them. To meet the continued financial pressures we could increase existing fees and charges and introduce new ones. Or we could reduce the level of service.

For each of these discretionary services please tell how important you think the service is.

Question 9 Maintaining amenity areas, such as grass cutting and general maintenance of various areas of council-owned land. (This does not include council housing or sheltered accommodation)

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Maintaining amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Question 10 Community safety activities to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership with the police and others

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Community safety activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Question 11 Economic development includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Support for local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Supporting projects to facilitate economic growth such as rural broadband	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Support for tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Question 12 Partnerships and communities includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Supporting community groups to deliver projects	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Ward member grants	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Question 13 Running Saffron Walden Museum

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Running Saffron Walden Museum	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Question 14 Climate change activities

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Climate change activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Survey respondents

We want this survey to be open to everyone who lives and works in Uttlesford. It would greatly assist us if you would select which of the following statements best describes you.

Question 15 I am responding to this survey as:

- an Uttlesford district resident - Council Tax payer
- an Uttlesford district resident - but not a Council Tax payer
- a local business representative
- a local community organisation representative
- a neighbouring local authority or partner organisation representative
- a local town or parish councillor
- an Uttlesford District Council member
- an Uttlesford District Council employee
- a visitor to the Uttlesford district
- a person who works in the Uttlesford district
- Other (please specify)

About you

Before you finish this survey, we'd like to ask some equality questions.

We want to make sure that all our services are delivered fairly. We are therefore asking the following questions about you, so that we can make sure our services consider everyone's needs.

⚠ You do not have to answer any of these questions.

Question 16 Which age category do you belong to?

- under 16
- 16-19
- 20-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 and over

Question 17 What is your sex?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

Question 18 What is your ethnic group?

- White
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- Asian or Asian British
- Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
- Other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

Question 19 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes

No

Question 20 What is your postcode?

Now send your survey

Please return this survey in the reply-paid envelope by
14 January 2026

If you require this publication in an alternative format or language or
you have any questions about this survey, please contact our
consultation team at Uttlesford District Council.

Telephone: 01799 510510

Email: consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk

Budget 2026/27

Have your say on
council spending





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