

## Redditch Borough Council - Budget Consultation for 2025/26

The budget consultation opened on Thu 5 December 2024. An email invite was sent to the Redditch Community Panel. The survey was also promoted on a variety of social media channels.

The survey closed at 12noon on Thursday 2 January 2025. The response rate for the community panel was 44%. There were a total of 323 valid responses received.

Q no.	Question	Responses	Total Responses	%
Q1 (322)	<b>Are you a resident of Redditch Borough and/or have a business based here?</b>	Resident of Redditch Borough	321	99.7%
		Have a business based here	21	6.5%
Q2 (320)	<b>Please tell us where you live or where your business is located.</b>  (Please note, if you live and have a business in the Borough, please only tell us where you live)	Abbeydale	7	2.2%
		Abbey Park	3	0.9%
		Astwood Bank	12	3.8%
		Batchley	27	8.4%
		Brockhill	7	2.2%
		Callow Hill	11	3.4%
		Church Hill North	10	3.1%
		Church Hill South	11	3.4%
		Crabbs Cross	8	2.5%
		Enfield	2	0.6%
		Feckenham	3	0.9%
		Greenlands	17	5.3%
		Headless Cross	27	8.4%
		Hunt End	10	3.1%
		Ipsley	4	1.3%
		Lakeside	6	1.9%
		Lodge Park	10	3.1%
		Matchborough East	16	5.0%
		Matchborough West	10	3.1%
		Oakenshaw	5	1.6%
		Oakenshaw South	7	2.2%
		Riverside	5	1.6%
		Smallwood	2	0.6%
		Southcrest	16	5.0%
		St. Georges	0	0.0%

Q no.	Question	Responses	Total Responses	%
		Town Centre	10	3.1%

Q no.	Question	Responses	Total Responses	%
		Walkwood	6	1.9%
		Webheath	31	9.7%
		Winyates East	11	3.4%
		Winyates Green	9	2.8%
		Winyates West	7	2.2%
		Wire Hill	1	0.3%
		Woodrow North	5	1.6%
		Woodrow South	4	1.3%
Q3 (322)	Which services do you think it is important for the Council to invest in?  Please note that Highways are not included as this is a Worcestershire County Council function  Please pick your top 3 most important.	Community and Voluntary Sector	46	14.3%
		Community Parks and Open Spaces	131	40.7%
		Community Safety	158	49.1%
		Environmental sustainability	50	15.5%
		Events and Arts Activities	43	13.4%
		Housing	135	41.9%
		Local Economic Development and Employment	112	34.8%
		Maintenance of the Landscape and Environment	148	46.0%
		Waste and Recycling	98	30.4%
		Welfare and Financial Support	80	24.8%
Q4 (321)	Do you agree that the Council should reinvest in technology in order to make services more secure, effective and efficient and to be digital by default?	Strongly agree	75	23.4%
		Agree	116	36.1%
		Neither agree nor disagree	87	27.1%
		Disagree	36	11.2%
		Strongly disagree	7	2.2%
Q5 (322)	Do you agree that the Council should invest in economic development in order to support local businesses, support start ups and prioritise local skills?	Strongly agree	89	27.6%
		Agree	159	49.4%
		Neither agree nor disagree	57	17.7%
		Disagree	13	4.0%
		Strongly disagree	4	1.2%

Q no.	Question	Responses	Total Responses	%
Q6 (322)	<b>Do you agree that the Council should be investing in events e.g. Christmas lights?</b>	Strongly agree	46	14.3%
		Agree	124	38.5%
		Neither agree nor disagree	91	28.3%
		Disagree	47	14.6%
		Strongly disagree	14	4.3%
Q7 (321)	<b>Do you agree that the Council should invest more in our front-line services to cover increases in fuel and utility costs e.g. fleet and bereavement services?</b>	Strongly agree	52	16.2%
		Agree	153	47.7%
		Neither agree nor disagree	90	28.0%
		Disagree	22	6.9%
		Strongly disagree	4	1.2%
Q8 (321)	<b>Do you agree that the Council should invest in its land and assets to ensure they are safe and fit for the future e.g. dealing with trees affected by ash die back?</b>	Strongly agree	85	26.5%
		Agree	185	57.6%
		Neither agree nor disagree	41	12.8%
		Disagree	7	2.2%
		Strongly disagree	3	0.9%
Q9 (322)	<b>Do you agree that the Council needs to involve young people more in decision making and local democracy?</b>	Strongly agree	74	23.0%
		Agree	137	42.5%
		Neither agree nor disagree	77	23.9%
		Disagree	31	9.6%
		Strongly disagree	3	0.9%
Q10 (321)	<b>Do you agree that the Council should invest in Rubicon (the company which provides leisure services for the Council e.g. Abbey Stadium and Arrow Valley Countryside Centre) in order to deliver better services for the community, increase income and ultimately reduce costs for the Council?</b>	Strongly agree	77	24.0%
		Agree	155	48.3%
		Neither agree nor disagree	52	16.2%
		Disagree	25	7.8%
		Strongly disagree	12	3.7%

Q no.	Question	Responses	Total Responses	%
Q11 (321)	<b>Do you agree that the Council should invest in greater data and systems support in order to improve services and decision making?</b>	Strongly agree	45	14.0%
		Agree	122	38.0%
		Neither agree nor disagree	111	34.6%
		Disagree	33	10.3%
		Strongly disagree	10	3.1%
Q12 (322)	<b>Do you support fees and charges (such as hire costs) rising by 4% to keep them in line with inflation and rising staffing costs?</b>	Strongly agree	44	13.7%
		Agree	110	34.2%
		Neither agree nor disagree	71	22.0%
		Disagree	61	18.9%
		Strongly disagree	36	11.2%
Q13	<b>In order to maintain services, what level of increase to Redditch Borough Council's proportion of Council Tax do you support?</b>			
Q13a (266)	<b>Increase of 1.99%</b>	Agree strongly	72	27.1%
		Agree	92	34.6%
		Neither agree nor disagree	46	17.3%
		Disagree	25	9.4%
		Disagree strongly	31	11.7%
Q13b (247)	<b>Increase of 2.99%</b>	Agree strongly	45	18.2%
		Agree	49	19.8%
		Neither agree nor disagree	28	11.3%
		Disagree	41	16.6%
		Disagree strongly	84	34.0%
Q14 (182)	<b>Please let us know your suggestions for investing in the Borough to increase prosperity and enhance appeal for residents and businesses alike.</b>	This was an open question and the comments will be analysed separately		
Q15 (132)	<b>Please let us know any other comments on the budget or ideas for reducing costs or increasing income to ensure Council services remain sustainable.</b>	This was an open question and the comments will be analysed separately		

Q no.	Question	Responses	Total Responses	%
<b>About You</b>  Answering these questions is optional. Any answers are completely anonymous and confidential. The reason why we ask you these questions is so we can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make our council services open to everyone in the district</li> <li>- Treat everyone fairly and appropriately when they use our services</li> <li>- In consultations, make sure that we have views from all across the district</li> </ul> The Equality Act 2010 makes these aims part of our legal duties. Your answers help us check that we have met the law and help improve our services.				
Q16 (316)	<b>What is your current housing status?</b>	Owner	158	50.0%
		Mortgaged	87	27.5%
		Part rent/part buy	2	0.6%
		Private renting	14	4.4%
		Council tenant	40	12.7%
		Social housing	5	1.6%
		Living with relatives	4	1.3%
		Private renting	5	1.6%
		Other (please specify)	1	0.3%
Q17 (317)	<b>Which of the following best describes your age?</b>	16-19yrs	0	0.0%
		20-29yrs	6	1.9%
		30-39yrs	35	11.0%
		40-49yrs	47	14.8%
		50-59yrs	79	24.9%
		60-69yrs	59	18.6%
		70-79yrs	72	22.7%
		80+ years	13	4.1%
		Prefer not to say	6	1.9%
Q18 (317)	<b>Do you have any long-standing health condition or disability?</b> (The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as 'a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities')	Yes	105	33.1%
		No	192	60.6%
		Prefer not to say	20	6.3%

Q no.	Question	Responses	Total Responses	%
Q19 (317)	<b>Which best describes your gender?</b>	Male	142	44.8%
		Female	157	49.5%
		Prefer not to say	13	4.1%
		Other (please specify)	5	1.6%
Q20 (316)	<b>Which best describes your ethnicity</b>	White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British	283	89.6%
		Any other White background	5	1.6%
		Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	2	0.6%
		Asian or Asian British	4	1.3%
		Black, African, Caribbean or Black British Arab	0	0.0%
		Prefer not to say	20	6.3%
		Other ethnic group	2	0.6%
Q21 (317)	<b>Which best describes your religion or belief?</b>	Atheist	35	11.0%
		Buddhist	1	0.3%
		Christian	167	52.7%
		Humanist	3	0.9%
		Hindu	1	0.3%
		Jewish	0	0.0%
		Muslim	2	0.6%
		Pagan	1	0.3%
		Sikh	1	0.3%
		No religion/belief	79	24.9%
		Prefer not to say	23	7.3%
		Other (please specify)	4	1.3%
Q49 (315)	<b>Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?</b>	Bisexual	11	3.5%
		Heterosexual	262	83.2%
		Lesbian or Gay	7	2.2%
		Prefer not to say	29	9.2%
		Other (please specify)	6	1.9%