

Phase 1 budget engagement Detailed results



Stakeholders' priorities for SCC - ranking

Through the representative survey of 614 Surrey adults, by age and gender, they were asked to rank the importance of 11 outcomes the council is working towards over the next five years. Residents prioritised better roads and pavements, making communities safer and providing better care for adults and children. Organisations prioritised care for adults and children, health and wellbeing and stronger community relations.

Residents' priorities (1 = most important, 10 = least important)	Organisations' priorities (1 = most important, 10 = least important)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better roads and pavements 2. Making communities safer 3. Providing care for adults and children 4. Better public transport 5. Reducing waste and increasing recycling 6. Protecting and enhancing the countryside and biodiversity 7. Supporting local businesses 8. Reinvigorating town centres and high streets 9. Access to education and skills 10. Promoting better health and wellbeing 11. Stronger community relations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing care for adults and children 2. Promoting better health and wellbeing 3. Stronger community relations 4. Access to education and skills 5. Better public transport 6. Making communities safer 7. Protecting and enhancing the countryside and biodiversity 8. Better roads and pavements 9. Reinvigorating town centres and high streets 10. Reducing waste and increasing recycling 11. Supporting local businesses

Stakeholders' priorities for SCC - themes

Themes below came from the 891 residents who responded to the Surrey Says open survey exercise. N.b. survey respondents were self-selecting, so are not representative of Surrey's population.

Difficulties prioritising: Some stakeholders felt all outcomes were important and did not feel they should have to choose between them. Some reflected this was due to interconnectedness between outcomes.

"Such difficult choices for us and those making final decisions. They're all important."

"By supporting individuals to achieve in life, this will have knock-on effects in other areas".

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Demands for transport improvements: Including more, and better, public transport, enhanced road quality and more facilities and infrastructure for cyclists. Some residents wanted to use their cars more easily, while others wanted more incentives to reduce car use.

"Dangerous roads and pavements lead to accidents which result in health issues for constituents..."

"...Public transport must be improved if we are to move away from the current dependency on cars..."

Tackling climate change: Many residents said SCC's highest priority should be responding to the climate emergency, motivated by fear of the impact of climate change on current and future generations.

"As the above outcomes are about the Surrey community, however there will be no communities if we (residents, councillors, governments) globally do not do anything about climate change now, our children's children will suffer because we did nothing to combat this."

Supporting the most vulnerable: A consistent theme across stakeholders was a desire to support residents least able to support themselves. This cut across community safety, care for vulnerable adults and children and improved health and wellbeing.

"...the divide between those who can afford to live, and those who can't and need help is growing."

"People's health and wellbeing and care is so important and has a huge influence on so many aspects of how well society can function..."

Use of resources

We asked stakeholders how SCC should allocate resources. Most residents were more likely to support allocation to benefit all communities and a small majority wanted this focused on longer-term future resident needs.

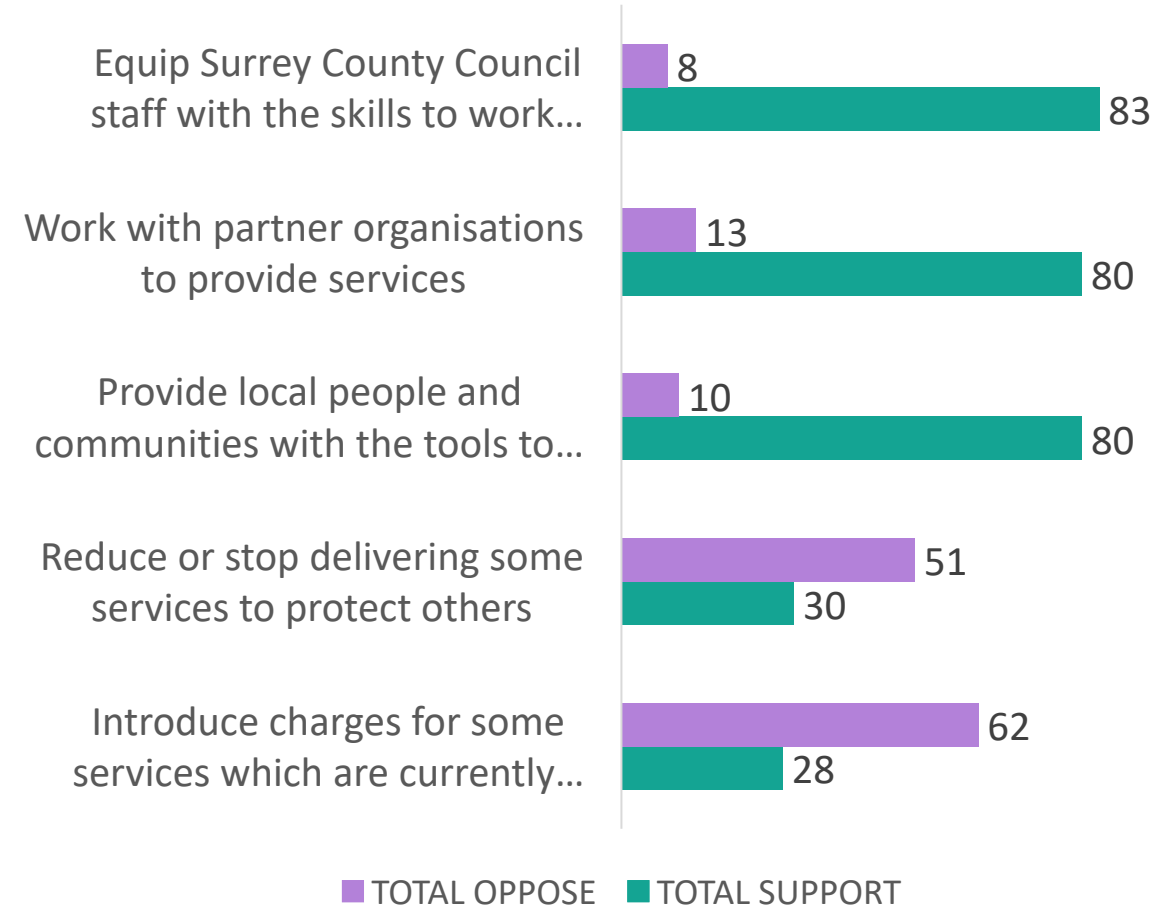
- 58% of residents wanted resources to be allocated for the benefit of the majority of residents in Surrey.
- 33% wanted resources allocated to services that benefitted those with the greatest needs. Respondents aged 18 to 25 and organisations were more likely to support this view.
- 65% of residents wanted resources to be allocated equitably across all areas of Surrey.
- 32% supported resources being targeted in places with the highest number of people in poor health. Respondents aged 18 to 25 and organisations were more likely to support this view.
- 47% of residents thought resources should be allocated with the long-term future needs of residents in mind. 65% of organisations that responded agreed with this.
- 45% felt allocation should focus on residents' current needs. People aged 65 and over were more likely to support this view compared to other age groups.

Source: representative (by age and gender) survey of 614 Surrey adults

Approaches to balancing the budget

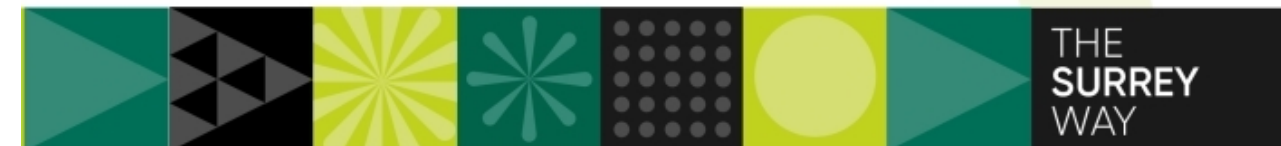


Approaches to balancing the budget (% , n=614)



- Residents were asked about the extent to which they would support or oppose tactics the council could use to help balance the budget.
- Most residents support SCC equipping staff with the skills to work together with communities and partners to deliver services across Surrey (83%); working with partner organisations to provide services (80%); and providing local people and communities with the tools to support others and set and deliver local priorities (80%).
- In contrast, most residents opposed the idea of reducing or stopping delivering some services to protect others (51%) and the introduction of charges for some services which are currently free/subsidised (62%).

Source: representative (by age and gender) survey of 614 Surrey adults



Council tax

- Residents were also asked to indicate the circumstances under which they would support or oppose an increase in council tax.
- The two scenarios that were most supported, and least opposed, were when opportunities to streamline services have been exhausted and to protect services for the most vulnerable and those without choices.
- The most opposed scenario was as an alternative to imposing/increasing fees and charges for services (56%).
- 38% of respondents indicated that council tax should not be raised under any circumstances, however, a larger proportion oppose this view (44%).

Circumstances for increasing Council Tax (%
n=614)

