

## Our Challenges & Choices: Budget Consultation

**1. Would you be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect existing services?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	11.8%	154
Agree	40.1%	523
No opinion	6.0%	78
Strongly Disagree	18.2%	237
Disagree	23.9%	311
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1303</b>

**2. Would you prefer it if the Council reduced certain services or stopped them altogether, rather than increasing charges?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	16.3%	210
Agree	37.7%	485
No opinion	7.2%	92
Strongly Disagree	13.0%	167
Disagree	25.8%	332
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1286</b>

**3. In future Councils will have fewer employees. This means they will have to reduce, or in some cases, stop services. Reducing jobs could also have an adverse effect on the local economy. Should the Council try to minimise the reduction in the number of people it employs?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	35.0%	455
Agree	35.0%	455
No opinion	3.5%	45
Strongly Disagree	10.4%	135
Disagree	16.1%	209
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1299</b>

**4. Do you think the Council should look at how savings can be made by better use of its public buildings, for example reviewing opening hours, moving some services or sharing properties with public sector partners?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	56.0%	729
Agree	39.4%	513
No opinion	1.8%	24
Strongly Disagree	1.2%	15
Disagree	1.5%	20
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1301</b>

**5. More people are choosing to contact us by phone or email rather than visit offices in person. Should we review the number of local offices we have to save money?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	34.3%	447
Agree	41.7%	544
No opinion	3.5%	46
Strongly Disagree	6.3%	82
Disagree	14.3%	186

<i>answered question</i>		1305
<b>6. It is cheaper to provide services online, rather than in person or by phone. Should more services also be available online to reduce costs?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Strongly Agree	31.1%	389
Agree	39.1%	489
No opinion	4.1%	51
Strongly Disagree	7.0%	88
Disagree	18.6%	233
<i>answered question</i>		1250
<b>7. A small number of local schools are less than 50% full. Should these be merged with other local schools to reduce the money spent on school buildings?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Strongly Agree	37.5%	468
Agree	36.6%	457
No opinion	4.1%	51
Strongly Disagree	7.9%	98
Disagree	13.9%	174
<i>answered question</i>		1248
<b>8. Or should it keep them open but share headteachers?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Strongly Agree	13.8%	169
Agree	22.4%	274
No opinion	9.2%	112
Strongly Disagree	19.6%	240
Disagree	35.0%	428
<i>answered question</i>		1223
<b>9. Should the Council consider reducing opening hours for libraries, sports centres and</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Strongly Agree	15.1%	188
Agree	34.4%	428
No opinion	5.1%	64
Strongly Disagree	16.1%	200
Disagree	29.3%	365
<i>answered question</i>		1245
<b>10. The Council spends £5M per year supporting voluntary sector organisations. We value our partnerships with them but should their funding be reduced?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Strongly Agree	23.0%	287
Agree	40.2%	503
No opinion	9.4%	118
Strongly Disagree	11.8%	147
Disagree	15.6%	195
<i>answered question</i>		1250

**10. Free school meals are provided for all P1 pupils in 16 schools in areas of greater need. Should this be reviewed?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	33.1%	409
Agree	33.5%	414
No opinion	3.1%	38
Strongly Disagree	12.0%	149
Disagree	18.4%	227
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1237</b>

**11. Birkhill Clay Mine costs £50,000 to run each year. If it stays open it will need significant sums spent on maintenance. Should the Council consider closing it?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	33.6%	409
Agree	30.9%	376
No opinion	19.1%	232
Strongly Disagree	4.5%	55
Disagree	11.9%	145
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1217</b>

**12. Free swimming lessons are provided to all P5 pupils. Should these be discontinued and the money invested elsewhere?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	20.9%	257
Agree	21.6%	266
No opinion	4.5%	56
Strongly Disagree	23.1%	285
Disagree	29.9%	368
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1232</b>

**13. Should the Council reduce the amount it spends on summer play schemes?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	22.0%	271
Agree	36.7%	452
No opinion	10.8%	133
Strongly Disagree	8.9%	109
Disagree	21.5%	265
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1230</b>

**14. Should the Council consider introducing and charging for a factoring system for properties in areas with a mix of Council/private owners?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	20.7%	251
Agree	30.9%	375
No opinion	25.3%	307
Strongly Disagree	10.5%	127
Disagree	12.5%	152
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1212</b>

**15. Should charges be made for the garden aid service? The service is currently part funded by Council Tax and provided free of charge to 6,000 households, 50% of whom are owner occupiers.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	37.4%	448
Agree	44.1%	528
No opinion	5.3%	63
Strongly Disagree	4.4%	53
Disagree	8.8%	106
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1198</b>

**16. Most Councils charge for all special uplifts. Households in the Falkirk Council area get two free uplifts a year. Should Falkirk Council introduce a charge to bring in additional income?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	17.1%	207
Agree	31.0%	374
No opinion	4.3%	52
Strongly Disagree	18.2%	220
Disagree	29.4%	355
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1208</b>

**17. Should increased charges be made for sport, culture and community learning activities?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	16.1%	193
Agree	36.3%	435
No opinion	7.4%	89
Strongly Disagree	12.8%	154
Disagree	27.4%	329
Other (please specify)		244
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1200</b>

**18. Should floral displays and bedding plants be replaced less often to save money?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	34.5%	417
Agree	40.1%	485
No opinion	4.8%	58
Strongly Disagree	5.5%	66
Disagree	15.1%	183
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1209</b>

**19. The Council subsidises less popular bus services that are not commercially viable. This means that these services continue to run. Should this funding be reduced?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	16.3%	195
Agree	31.8%	380
No opinion	8.2%	98
Strongly Disagree	14.9%	178
Disagree	28.8%	344
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1195</b>

**20. Funding is allocated to other organisations, such as Town Centre Management and Falkirk for Business. Should we reduce this and invest the money elsewhere?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	28.7%	344
Agree	38.7%	464
No opinion	14.6%	175
Strongly Disagree	4.6%	55
Disagree	13.4%	161
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1199</b>

**21. Should parking charges be increased to bring in funding?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	13.0%	158
Agree	29.2%	354
No opinion	6.4%	77
Strongly Disagree	19.5%	236
Disagree	31.9%	387
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1212</b>

**22. Please provide your details**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Name	97.6%	526
Address 1	94.6%	510
Address 2	45.3%	244
Town	91.5%	493
Postcode	95.4%	514
<i>answered question</i>		<b>539</b>