

**East Lindsey District Council  
Budget 2025-26  
Consultation Report  
Published**



**East Lindsey**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Introduction to this consultation

1. This report details the responses received for the Budget 2025/26 consultation undertaken between 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
2. The exercise was performed to seek residents' views on the Council's Budget proposals for 2025/26.

### Methodology

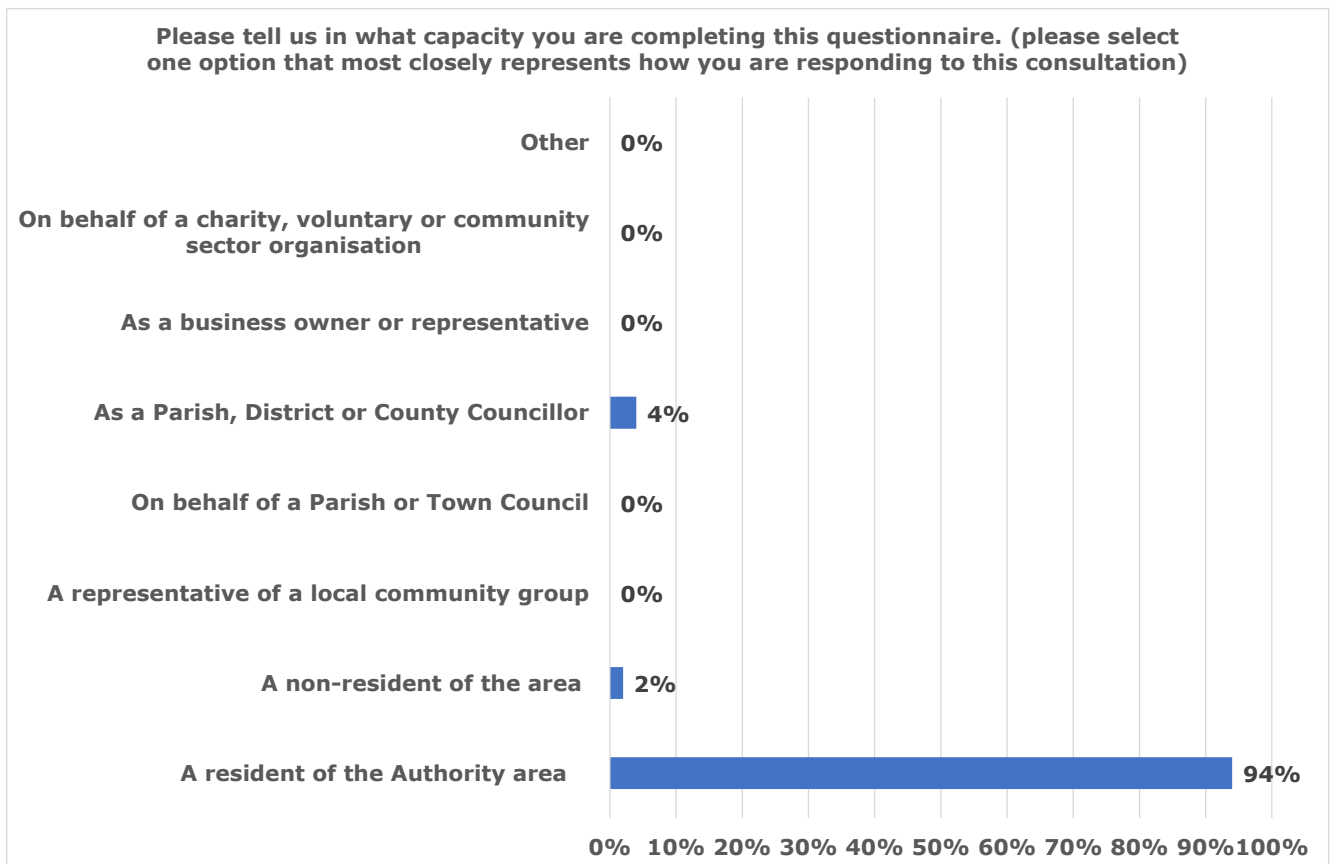
3. A media release was issued to local newspapers to promote the consultation and social media activity was ongoing throughout the consultation period.
4. A link to the electronic questionnaire was made available on the Council's website and in the e-Messenger. Paper copies of the questionnaire were available on request.
5. It should be noted that base data has been rounded to the nearest number (so may add up to between 99% and 101%).
6. No comparisons have been made to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2023/24 as the questions in this survey were different.

### Response Rate

7. 51 electronic responses were received; an increase of 14 responses when compared with the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2023/24.

## Results and Analysis

8. All respondents were asked in what capacity they had responded to the consultation. The chart below shows that the majority (94%) of all respondents responded as 'A resident in the Authority area'. It also shows that 4% responded as 'A Parish, District or County Councillor' and the remaining 2% responded to the consultation as 'A non-resident of the area'.



9. All respondents were advised that to deliver on the agreed priorities, both financial and non-financial; and to help direct and manage resources effectively and efficiently, the Council set an annual delivery plan (a link was provided to the current version on the partnership's website). They were then advised that following a period of high inflation and financial pressures that both residents and businesses were experiencing, the Council was looking to find different and innovative ways of working. All respondents were given the opportunity to state what changes they thought the Council could implement in order to support this. A number of suggestions were made such as reviewing the services the Council offered, exploring more funding opportunities, looking at new low risk ways of using reserves to generate revenue and increasing parking charges. A few respondents felt the Council should stop spending on vanity projects and another suggested that there should be a charge to use all toilets across the district and not just some toilets. There were two suggestions relating to roads which are not under the remit of the District Council but the County Council, and some negative comments

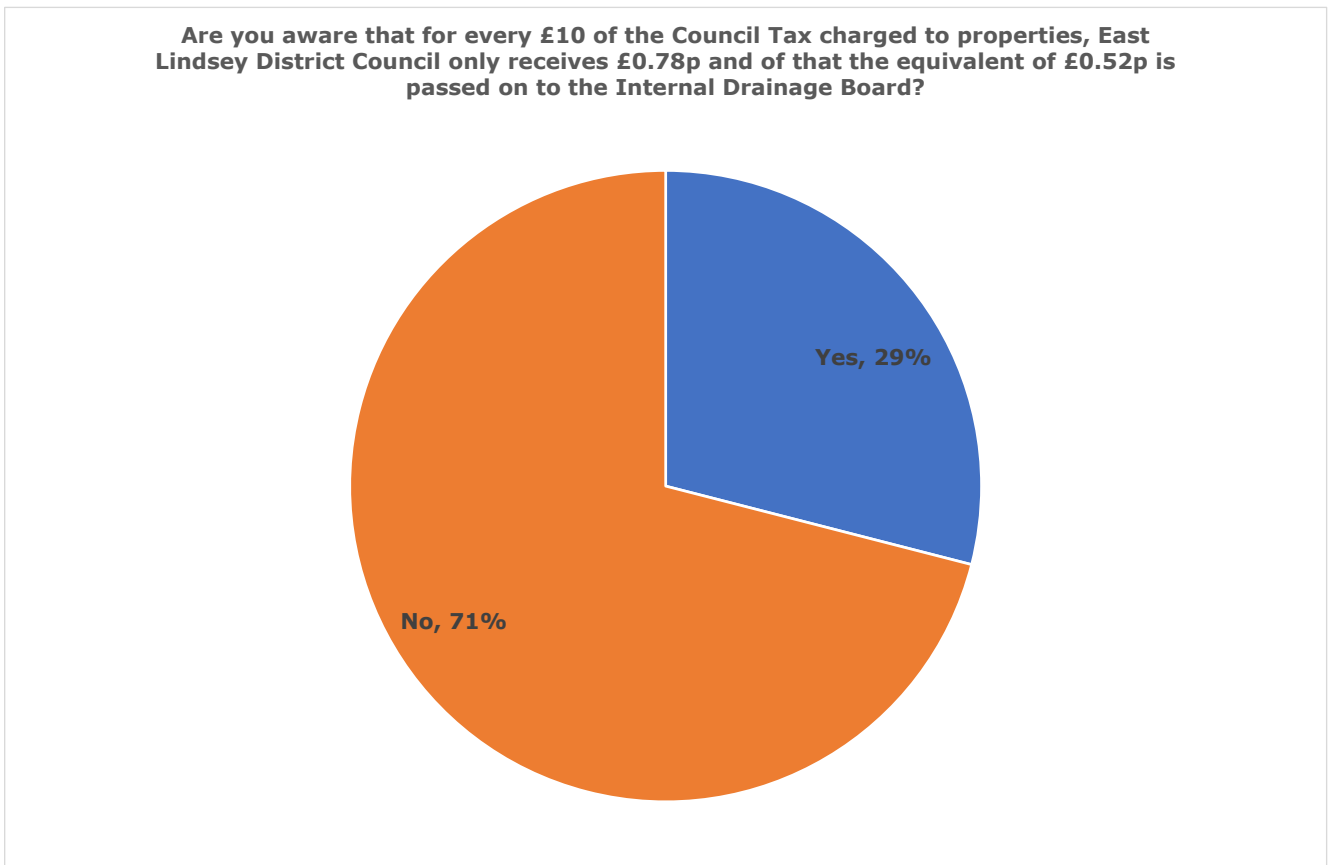
suggesting the Council should employ less staff and review pay structures. A full list of suggestions are included below.

- I think that the wages structure in the new partnership should be reviewed and those on the higher scales should get lower pay rises so that the staff in PSPS who get very little can have more - this would lead to less wasted time interviewing staff who leave due to the dismal pay
- Ensure there is a charge on all ELDC toilets, not just some. Keep it fair for all users.
- Less officer's as they seem to only do what they want and not what is needed by the residents
- Explore more funding from alternative funding pots and encourage local people to take more ownership on their area and make changes to improve the district.
- Look for new low risk ways of using reserves to generate revenue.
- Ring fence the amounts of money for specific work. ie roads
- Cut the bureaucracy! Too many paper pushers on high wages doing nothing, yet customer service is horrible, wasted money on parishes (for what??)- let each parish support itself. I pay for what??? Review your services- do you really need to offer what you do. Council Tax is far too high for nothing!!!
- Support merger into greater council / combine into one council.
- Less high paid executives who don't represent the community they are elected in
- Ask councillors to take a cut in their financial awards/pay
- Stop wasting money on vanity projects!
- Road maintenance
- Don't waste on vanity projects
- Concentrate on the youth
- reduce staff, don't spend money on vanity projects, maybe not have Parish Councils
- Get people who are living in their caravans full time to pay Council Tax too.
- Continue as you are doing as far as possible, you do a good job
- charge caravans and holiday accommodation more to actually benefit local people with the burden of holiday makers /unlawful (non-contributing) residents
- Stop giving planning permission to people who never finish the house they are supposed to build. Leaving it like a dump, a large bird house with vermin coming and going.
- Increase parking charges. Drop some non-statutory duties. Look for engagement from the private sector. More efficient working practices and automation of tasks.
- Concentrate on a few core activities and offer quality provision on those. For example, a dog warden who works from home/office and can only act if she's/he sees the dog in question, is not a lot of use.

10. All respondents were informed that at times of high river and canal levels, pumping stations played a vital role in reducing the impact of flooding to homes, businesses, and farmland. Furthermore, these stations and some waterways were managed by public bodies called Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). Like households and

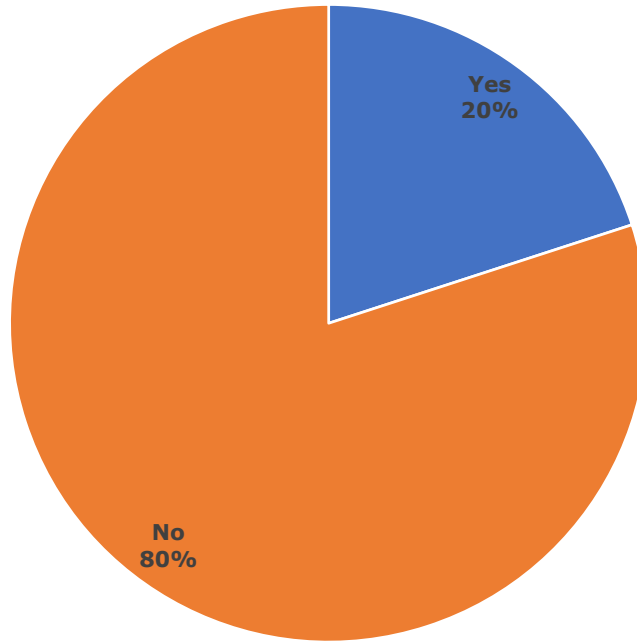
businesses, the IDBs have seen their costs and utility bills increase significantly, with these expecting to rise more next year. This would mean that even less money may be available for services through the money collected from Council Tax.

All respondents were asked if they were aware that for the equivalent of every £10 of the Council Tax charged to properties, East Lindsey District Council only received £0.78p and of that the equivalent of £0.52p was passed on to the Internal Drainage Boards? The pie chart below shows that 29% of all respondents were aware that for every £10 of the Council Tax charged to properties, East Lindsey District Council only received £0.78p and of that the equivalent of £0.52p was passed on to the Internal Drainage Board, with the remaining 71% stating they were not aware.



11. The pie chart below shows that 20% of all respondents were aware that the annual increase levied by Internal Drainage Boards had taken the majority of or been in excess of the additional amount collected from the Council Tax increase, with the remaining 80% stating they were not aware.

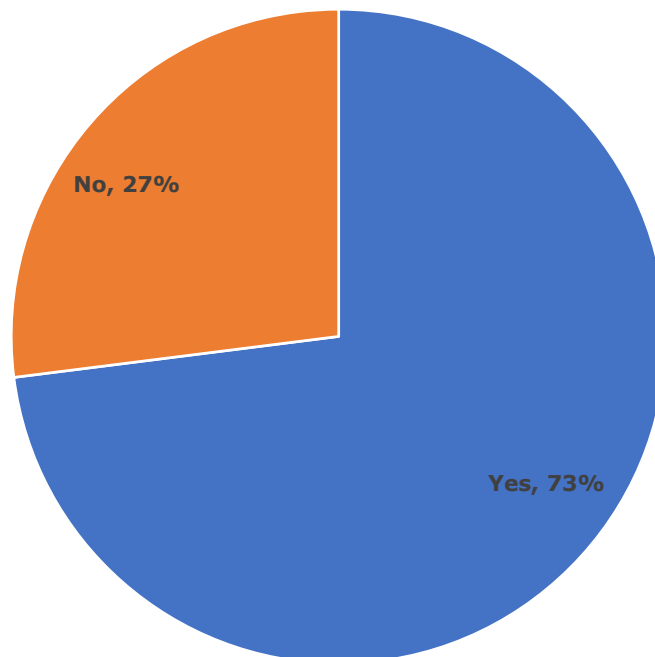
**Are you aware that the annual increase levied by Internal Drainage Boards has taken the majority of or been in excess of the additional amount collected from the Council Tax increase?**



12. All respondents were advised that the Council Tax Support Scheme provided financial assistance through a reduction in Council Tax bills for households on a low income or receiving certain benefits. East Lindsey's scheme for working-age applicants was means-tested, with special consideration for vulnerable groups, including families with children, individuals with disabilities, and those with caring responsibilities. Additionally, the scheme protected War Disablement Pensioners, War Widows, War Widowers and Care Leavers. They were also advised that since 2013, the Council had offered a support scheme that covered up to 75% of Council Tax for working-age households on low incomes. Currently, the scheme supported around 11,900 households at a cost of approximately £11.4 million annually. A link to the Council Tax Support Scheme web page was provided, should respondents need more information.

All respondents were then asked if they were aware that the Council directly funded the additional support to its vulnerable residents? The pie chart below shows that 73% of all respondents were aware that the Council directly funded the additional support to its vulnerable residents; with the remaining 27% stating that they were not aware.

Are you aware that the Council directly funds this additional support to its vulnerable residents?



13. All respondents were given the opportunity to make any comments. The majority of comments were about Council Tax Support; most respondents felt that families on low incomes and benefits were paid too much thus not encouraging them to be self-sufficient. A couple of respondents commented that there should be a reduction for pensioners, and another respondent felt that if there were good paid jobs available all year round then there would be no low incomes and people would be able to pay their own way. One respondent did not know what the Internal Drainage Board was, and a further respondent suggested there should be a public consultation on how the drainage board uses rate payers money, particularly as the vast majority of Council Tax is passed to them. A full list of comments are listed below.
- How on one hand ELDC say that they are wanting to promote more events in the area but have now decided to close the toilets in tower gardens which is the event area for Skegness does not make sense please ELDC come clean and tell the truth to the residents what is going on
  - Whilst this is desirable everyone is feeling the financial pressures and the amount in total, allocated here needs to be kept the same in coming financial year
  - Council Tax should be based on both a flat rate and variable elements, where the variable elements relate fairly to the services used by those that use them, with on-going safeguards to guard against genuine hardship.
  - Do not feel that the large grants you have received could have been better spent i.e. bowling green's. received, should have been for better

- I would like to see transparency in all things the council and the inland drainage board do in. Future planned maintenance improvements and emergency repairs
- Too much money is paid out for "low" income families and those on benefits, yet you only offer a lousy 25% discount for single occupants who use far less services! Hardly fair!!! By offering to pay so much money on benefit recipients you do not encourage them to become more self-sufficient, especially for families who have loads of kids and use far more services. On balance the system is very unfair.
- If there was good paying all year-round work & descent educational prospects wouldn't have low incomes & be able to pay their way.
- Council Tax should be zero for those on benefits that are unable to work
- A lot of these households don't need this support but prioritise their spending
- Never made aware. What is the criteria
- Stop building houses in Mablethorpe for immigrants and start looking after our pensioners who have paid into the system
- Lower the amount and make the tax lower fairness.
- I would be happy to pay more towards my Council Tax,
- The district attracts vulnerable/deprived people, this funding arrangement is trapped in a spiral of decline, change is needed
- Support the elderly and those who make the effort to work. Reduce the support for those who choose a benefits lifestyle rather than work.
- What is the Internal drainage board ?
- Perhaps a public consultation on how the drainage board is using our money might be useful, party as that is where the vast majority of our tax is being used. Or perhaps consider returning to the separation of ELDC and land drainage, so the public is more aware of how their money is being spent.
- There should be a reduction for pensioners