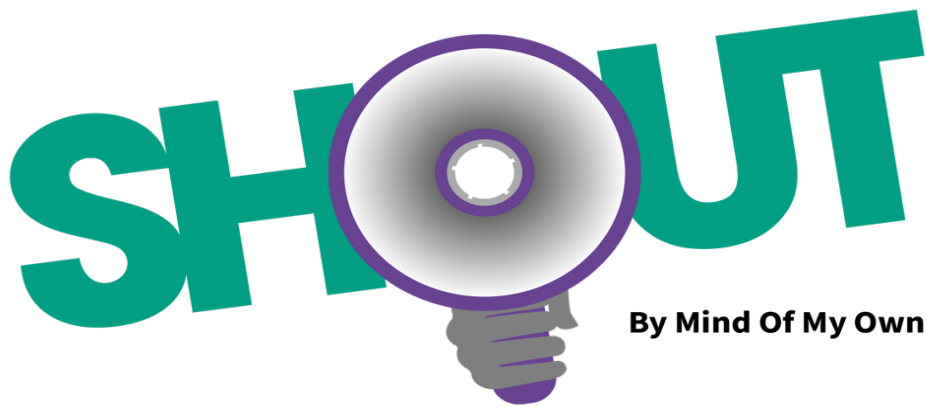




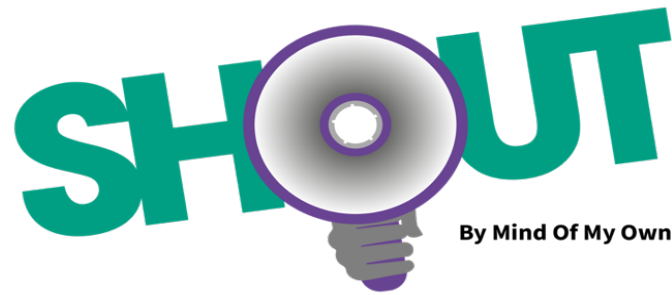
**Haverling**  
L O N D O N B O R O U G H



**SHOUT about the money**

**Haverling Council Budget Consultation  
with Children and Young People**

**November 2023 - January 2024**



Completed Responses

423

Other interactions

229

This survey consulted children and young people in Havering about ideas to improve the Council's financial situation. The questions and answers used throughout the survey were developed from the Budget Consultation for adults. This consultation was live for public access between the 27th November 2023 and the 2nd January 2024.

### **Key Findings**

This survey showed a significant amount of push back against the idea of increasing Council Tax. When asked directly, 75% of respondents did not think it should increase. This sentiment was reflected in other questions, and a large proportion of written responses signalled that Council Tax was already too high.

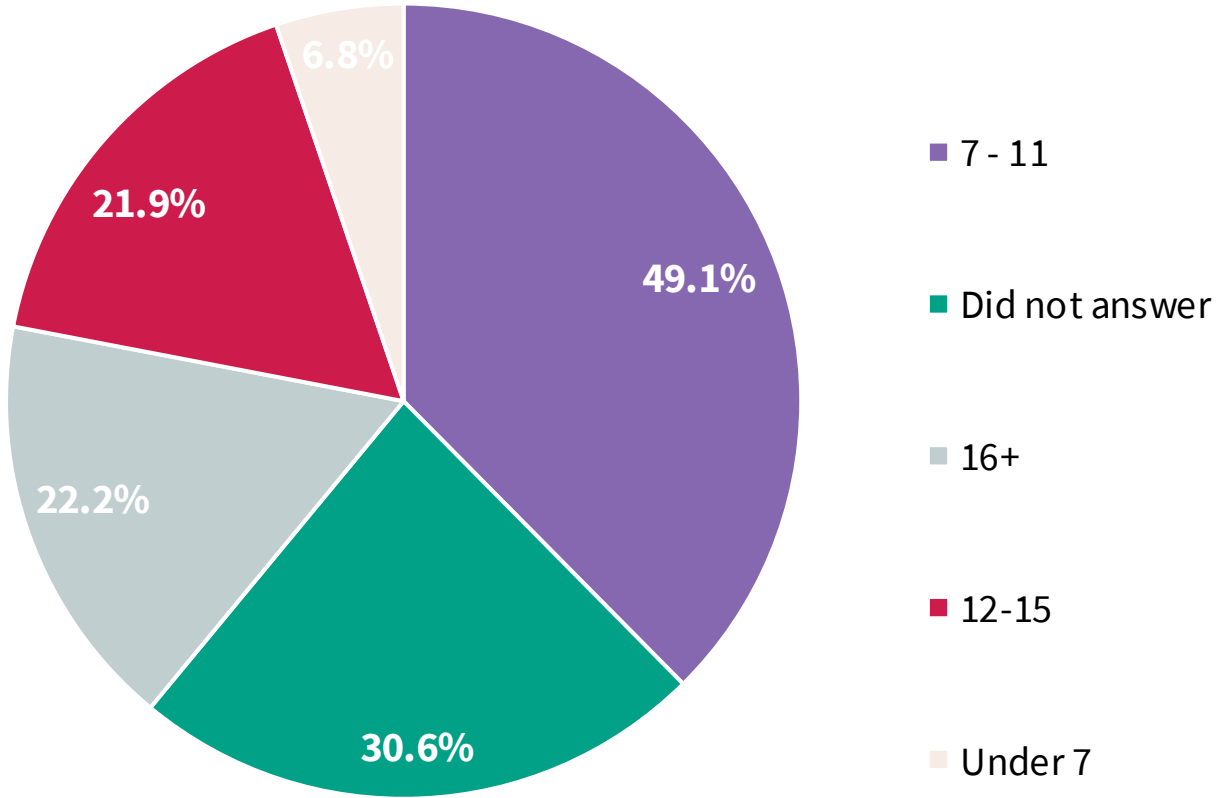
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Respondents to this survey indicated a desire for greater community engagement. 'Hosting big public events' was the most popular suggestion to increase revenue for the Council. Written answers suggested raising money through community donations and volunteering, as well as calling for more consultations with the public.

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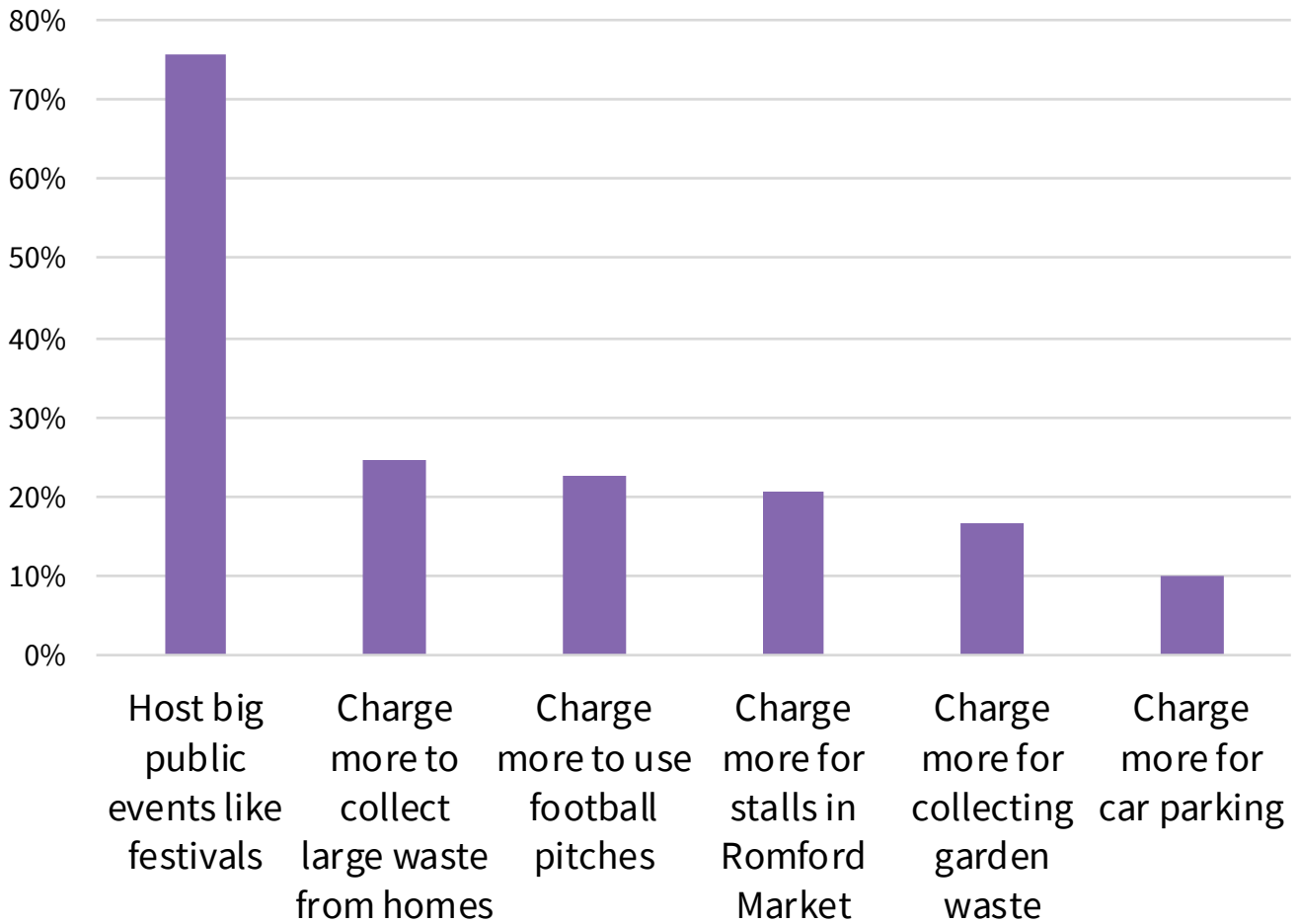
When asked about the best idea to save money, the option with the most responses was 'Reduce street lighting between midnight and 5am'. Responses to the same question showed that 'Collecting bins less often' was the least popular suggestion.

## How old are you?



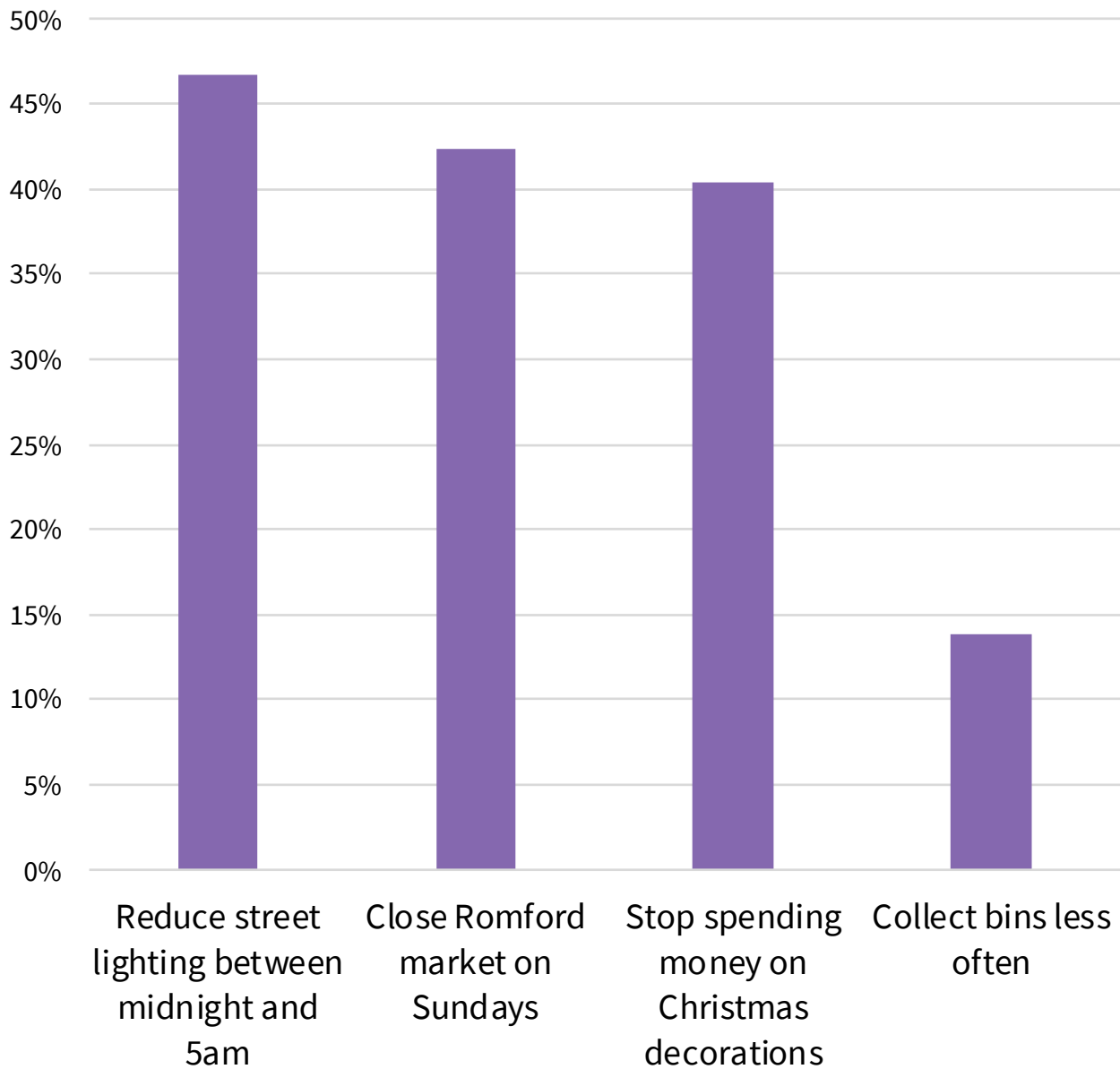
How old are you?			
	Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1	7 - 11	49.1%	159
2	Did not answer	30.6%	99
3	16+	22.2%	72
4	12-15	21.9%	71
5	Under 7	6.8%	22
		<b>answered</b>	<b>324</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>99</b>

## Which of the following do you think the Council should do to make money?



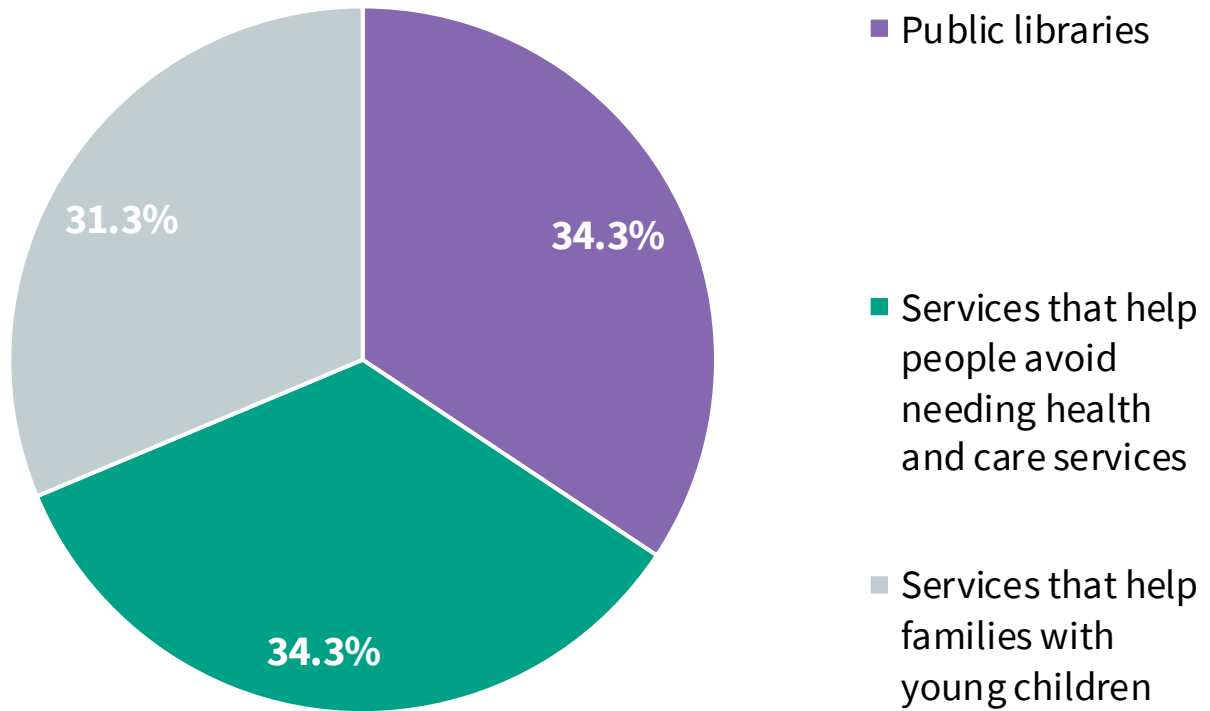
Which of the following do you think the Council should do to make money?			
	Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Host big public events like festivals	75.5%	315
2	Charge more to collect large waste from homes	24.7%	103
3	Charge more to use football pitches	22.5%	94
4	Charge more for stalls in Romford Market	20.6%	86
5	Charge more for collecting garden waste	16.5%	69
6	Charge more for car parking	10.1%	42
		<b>answered</b>	<b>417</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>6</b>

## Which of these ideas do you think the Council should do to save money?



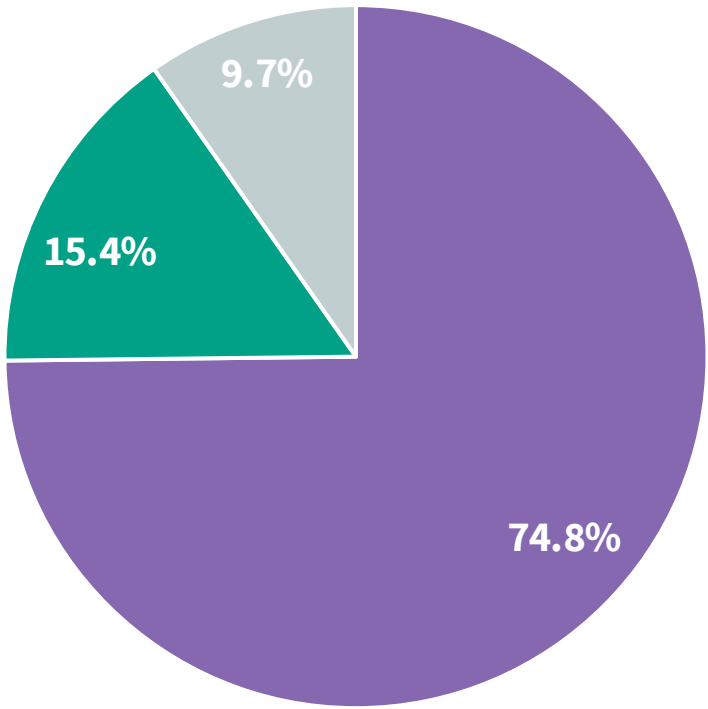
Which of these ideas do you think the Council should do to save money?			
	Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Reduce street lighting between midnight and 5am	46.7%	193
2	Close Romford market on Sundays	42.4%	175
3	Stop spending money on Christmas decorations	40.4%	167
4	Collect bins less often	13.8%	57
		<b>answered</b>	<b>413</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>10</b>

## Which of the following community services should the Council review its spending on?



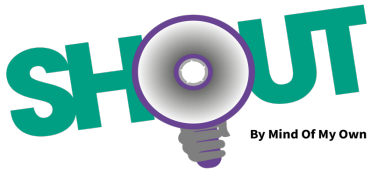
Which of the following community services should the Council review its spending on?			
	Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Public libraries	34.3%	136
2	Services that help people avoid needing health and care services	34.3%	136
3	Services that help families with young children	31.3%	124
		<b>answered</b>	<b>396</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>27</b>

# Havering are considering increasing Council Tax, how much do you think they should increase it by?

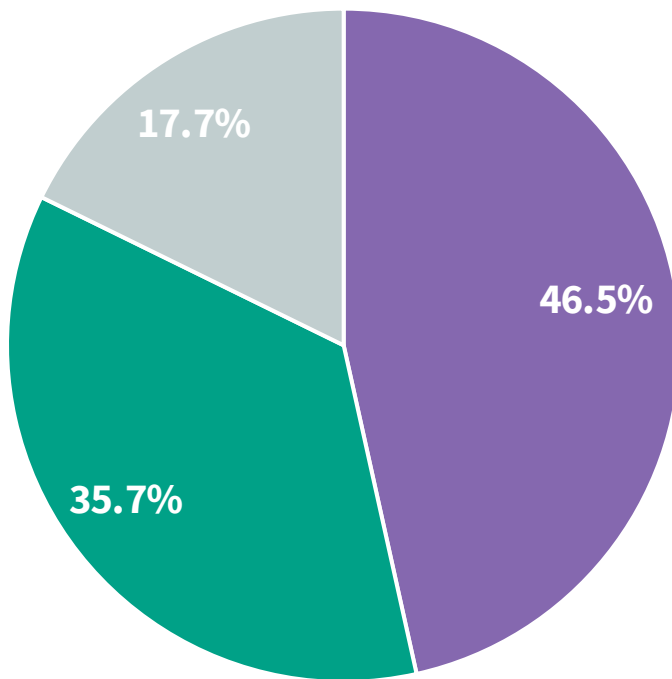


- I don't think it should be increased
- I don't know what Council Tax is
- Up to the maximum allowed

Havering are considering increasing Council Tax, how much do you think they should increase it by?			
	Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1	I don't think it should be increased	74.8%	315
2	I don't know what Council Tax is	15.4%	65
3	Up to the maximum allowed	9.7%	41
		<b>answered</b>	<b>421</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>2</b>



## If the Council started charging people for parking a car at local Parks, would this affect you?

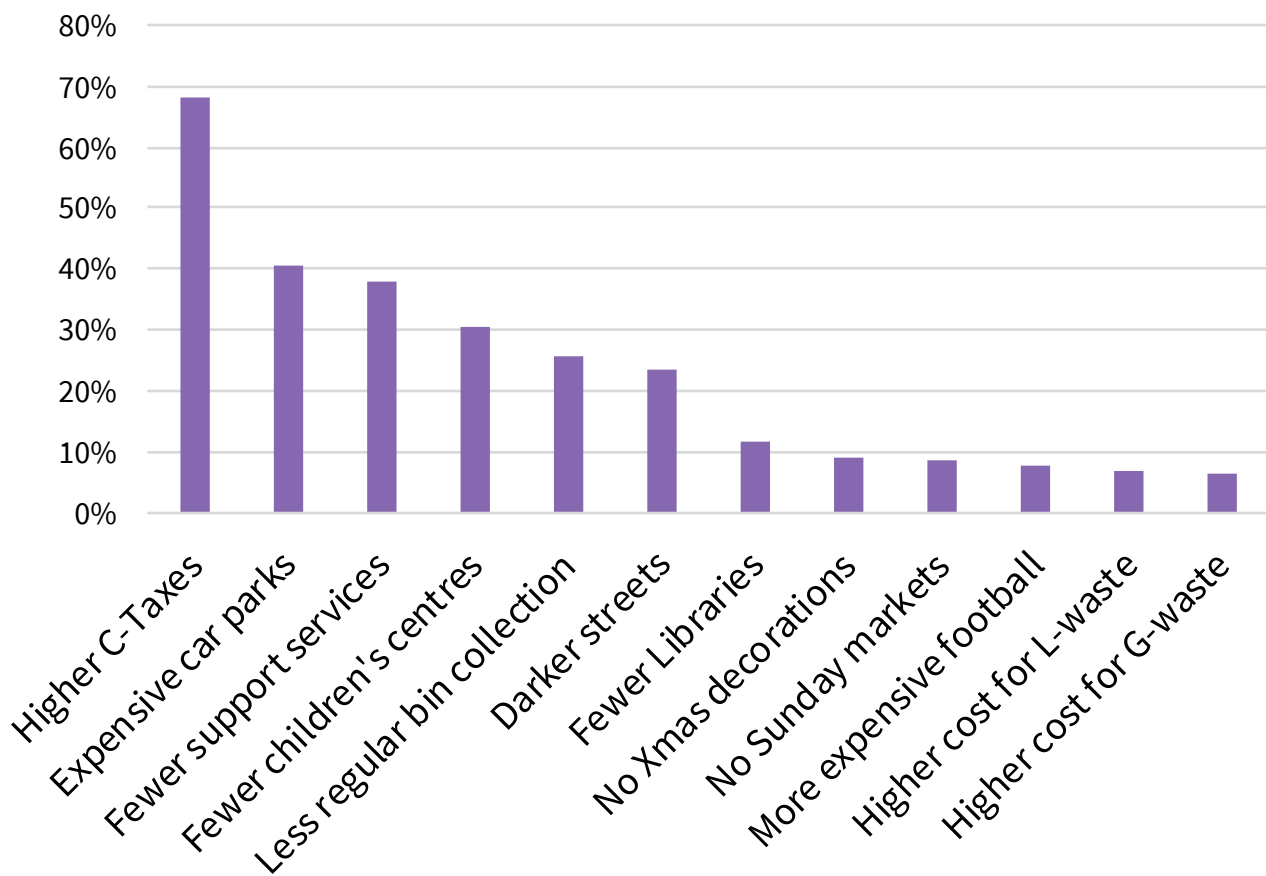


- My family would not go to the park because we would have to pay
- My family do not drive to the park
- My family would still pay to drive to the park

If the Council started charging people for parking a car at local Parks, would this affect you?			
	Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1	My family would not go to the park because we would have to pay	46.5%	194
2	My family do not drive to the park	35.7%	149
3	My family would still pay to drive to the park	17.7%	74
<b>answered</b>			<b>417</b>
<b>skipped</b>			<b>6</b>



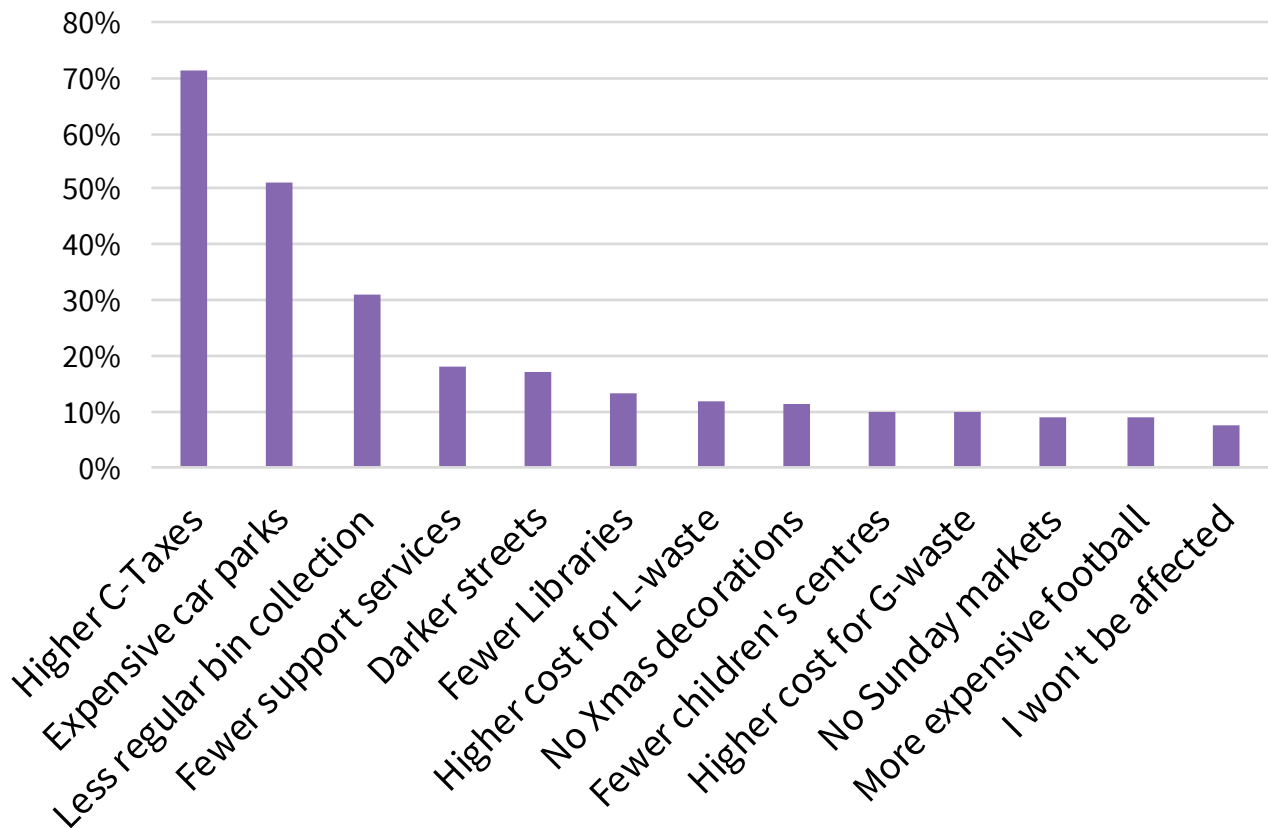
## Which of the following do you think will have the worst impact on the community?



### Which of the following do you think will have the worst impact on the community?

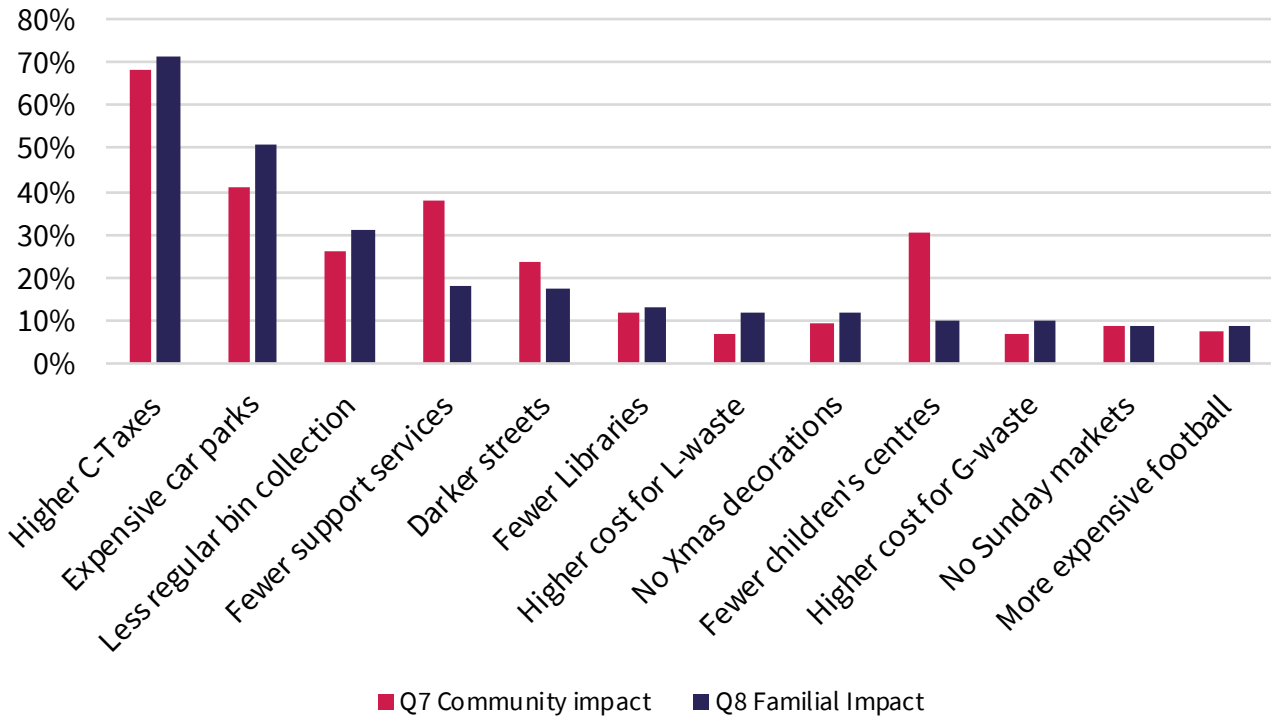
	Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Higher Council Tax	68.3%	289
2	More expensive to park a car	40.7%	172
3	Fewer support services	38.1%	161
4	Fewer children's centres	30.5%	129
5	Less regular bin collection	25.8%	109
6	Darker streets between midnight and 5am	23.4%	99
7	Fewer Libraries	11.8%	50
8	No Christmas decorations	9.2%	39
9	No Romford Market on Sundays	8.5%	36
10	More expensive to play football	7.6%	32
11	Higher cost for large waste	6.9%	29
12	Higher cost for garden waste	6.6%	28
		<b>answered</b>	<b>423</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>0</b>

## Which of the following will have the worst impact on you and your family?



Which of the following will have the worst impact on you and your family?			
	Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Higher Council Tax	71.4%	302
2	More expensive to park a car	51.1%	216
3	Less regular bin collection	31.0%	131
4	Fewer support services	18.2%	77
5	Darker streets between midnight and 5am	17.3%	73
6	Fewer Libraries	13.2%	56
7	Higher cost for large waste	12.1%	51
8	No Christmas decorations	11.6%	49
9	Fewer children's centres	10.2%	43
10	Higher cost for garden waste	9.9%	42
11	No Romford Market on Sundays	9.0%	38
12	More expensive to play football	9.0%	38
13	I don't think my family will be affected	7.3%	31
		<b>answered</b>	<b>423</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>0</b>

# Which of the following will have the worst impact on the community, you and your family?



Comparison of the perceived impact from different spending decisions: Community impact vs Familial impact					
		Q7 Community impact		Q8 Familial Impact	
	Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Higher Council Tax	68.3%	289	71.4%	302
2	More expensive to park a car	40.7%	172	51.1%	216
3	Less regular bin collection	25.8%	109	31.0%	131
4	Fewer support services	38.1%	161	18.2%	77
5	Darker streets between midnight and 5am	23.4%	99	17.3%	73
6	Fewer Libraries	11.8%	50	13.2%	56
7	Higher cost for large waste	6.9%	29	12.1%	51
8	No Christmas decorations	9.2%	39	11.6%	49
9	Fewer children's centres	30.5%	129	10.2%	43
10	Higher cost for garden waste	6.6%	28	9.9%	42
11	No Romford Market on Sundays	8.5%	36	9.0%	38
12	More expensive to play football	7.6%	32	9.0%	38
13	I don't think my family will be affected			7.3%	31
<b>answered</b>				<b>423</b>	
<b>skipped</b>				<b>0</b>	

Do you have any new ideas for ways the Council could save money, or make sure it is spent well?

The following data and answers have been identified as a representative sample of all the responses provided.

	Answer Theme	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Other:	42.6%	89
2	I don't know	16.3%	34
3	Make things less expensive	7.7%	16
4	Do not increase / Reduce Council Tax	7.2%	15
5	Response reflects answers already provided	7.2%	15
6	Spend money more efficiently	6.7%	14
7	Engage more with the community	6.2%	13
8	Make changes to council operations	6.2%	13
		<b>answered</b>	<b>209</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>214</b>

**Answers:**

A lot of the services that the council provide could be delivered by volunteers. This borough has a huge amount of people in their 60s and 70s that are no longer working and would love to be useful to the community.

Better use of Community Service hours for offenders .  
Lower parking fees to encourage shoppers  
Better means testing for benefits .  
More policing to stop petty crime  
Encourage more re-cycling to generate income .

Buses being less often

Buying Christmas decorations is one of the reasons why the council is losing tons of money while we could ask children to donate. We could also spend more money on our stock of school items and start spending more in trading with smaller businesses, which can lead to development.

cohesive thinking re. roadworks. Roads are constantly, unnecessarily closed for roadworks that are not taking place, only to occur again a week or two later, this is mainly around the upminster bridge and hornchurch area. It is clear that this is wasteful.

council needs to invest in renewables to cut the cost of energy in council properties and council owned buildings.

arrange events to make money.

explore new ways where people in the borough can help shape the councils future.



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do NOT higher tax prices, its already high enough. my parents both work full time and struggle to pay for simple things because of tax (also bills but that cant be changed)

---

Do not put street care out to private contractors.  
Enforcement of planning breaches and utility companies enforcement.  
Enforcement of drop kerb breaches  
Redundancy of library staff 2 years ago and then recruitment to replace  
Purchasing of library books on internet sites such as amazon

---

Don't do free school meals for children because they just throw it in the bin.  
Get more traffic wardens near schools at 9am and 3pm to charge parents on yellow lines.  
Charge parents for leaving their engines on when they are waiting to drop off or pick up their children near schools.

Don't pay for children to travel to schools to different Boroughs.  
Do classes in parenting and supporting teenagers to stop so many people needing more support.

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Don't spend it on unnecessary things! Eg fixing pavements (which are in fine condition) when the money could go into more services for young people in the area. Do these surveys in schools to find out what young people really want and need

---

Don't waste money on that big firework display, don't get rid of lollipop ladies instead of doing that as I start walking to my junior school soon in year 6 and I'm scared I will get run over!

There are a lot of people who don't work who should and do nothing so they should work so we don't pay for them

Most people I know don't eat free school dinners and we can pay for ours so can't you use this money where does the money go if half the people aren't using it?

My mum said you pay loads to taxi people to school and appointments why isn't there just a big bus like we use on school trips then it's only one big bus one driver and some helpers and less traffic and pollution on the roads

---

Engaging with local businesses to pay / sponsor events or repairs which otherwise would be paid for by council. E.g Christmas decorations or repairs to a library. A leaking roof May cost several thousand, a local company may be willing to provide free labour to support the community, have business mentioned in library, photo present with councillor etc. Promote a greater sense of community

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Higher fines for parking or bad driving, invest in making sure hospitals and other services can run smoothly and effectively so money can be saved in the long run

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Higher council tax will be detrimental to all families especially those who are struggling during Christmas and high price times. Especially since some people may not be able to afford both council tax and weekly food shopping. If the council need more money, they should hold more festivals and markets as these raise lots of money and people enjoy them, so this would boost tourism, the economy and the general feel about the council. Additionally, higher car park fees affect my family greatly and many others, and if we are not parking in Havering because of the cost, we shall go somewhere else, and this would reduce the amount of money coming into the council primarily, causing them to lose money.

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I believe that the Council should not support the elderly with transport deductions as most have their own cars and instead it should help building more playgrounds for existing children. Also, local pubs should be charged more, as this is not a necessity and spend on necessities for the community. Also some money could be gained from renting venues, which could be increased.

Local churches I believe also should pay more taxes, as they gain normal rents, but instead they pay probably no taxes.

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i dont know but all i can say is that many people struggle greatly with tax payments. and im just watching my poor parents struggle besides the fact that they both work full time and still arent earning enough too pay bills and tax. It needs to be lowered!!!

---

I think y'all should make an environmental website that will encourage people not to waste so much money on Christmas decorations, Cars, Waste, etc. And let it all go to the Children's Hospitals because they are just so important to me and just to see all those struggling/abused children being cared for at those kind of hospitals just warms my heart, really. ❤️

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I'm not really sure how they could without affecting the public in different ways.

---

Stop investing money on statues and floral decor, they could spend more money fixing roads and helping families financially and struggling families in need

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No. the council look like they are doing a great job with all of the decorations and clean parks but, what is that really doing for us? its nice to look at but not much else. you are taking almost half of my parents monthly payment. i see my mum absolutely sobbing sometimes because she works way too hard (full time) and still is not barely earning enough to pay bills and your stupid tax. if those people arent going to work and get automatically paid, you may as well get no one to work, at LEAST make them get a job, because otherwise they really are lazy and LOWER OUR TAX PAYMENT.

PLEASE I AM BEGGING

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I work in Romford, but we have moved out of Havering to Norfolk. Where we live the street lights turn off at 1am & come back on at 6am, i think its a good idea, stops light pollution too. However, it gives criminals the chance to walk around undetected. Is it possible to have lights that come on through movement? .

I think theres no need for a sunday market. But if Romford shopping area is open, maybe make car parking free on sunday and for longer periods than the 2hrs given in the market place.

Do we need as many councillors for each ward, 2-3 cllrs, thats extra money being spent & what do they do for their wages? Also do they get charged for their parking ?

Where we live in Norfolk, my council tax is a band E, we lived in harold hill before & paid a band D. The council tax should go up to the maximum, if spent correctly, like improving the roads etc, people would pay it.

Alot of money goes towards schools, libraries etc, but alot of Havering residents are child free, so what will you do for those that pay into the schools etc but dont use them ?

What is happening with Mercury House ? Its been empty for ages, can it not be sold off surely that will bring money back into the pot ?  
Sell off buildings that arent making any revenue.

I think Havering should keep the Christmas decorations, this is a Christian country, so we should celebrate it in style, but not over the top.

In Norfolk, the tips have a '2nd hand shop' which generates revenue which is used for the council, the waste team & also puts funds into charities, which is cancer research, win, win, win situation. They also give a small bonus to the crew selling the items which helps enthuse them, thus less ground fill & more recycling. Brilliant idea.

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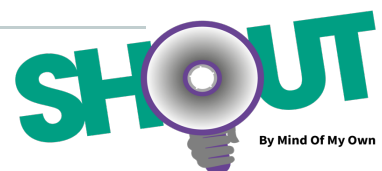
Stop paying the top bosses of Havering stupid money and getting out side company's to deal with pensions. Stop taking in people from other countries and paying to keep them. When we have people in our Havering who have lived there all their lives and Havering will not help them.

---

Stop wasting money on Ulez cameras  
Make the swimming pools warmer at everyone active  
Lower the council tax a lot  
Make some decent parks for older children rather than just for little children

---

The council could make it so that there is a vote before changing something. Therefore, it wouldn't have a bad result as the community know what they need to make the place a better community. For example, the council could make it so that there is a vote on if the price for parking should go up. If the majority thought that there should be an increase of the price, they know that it wouldn't affect them negatively throughout daily life.



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The havering council could do better recycling, give money to people to recycle plastic, bottle, paper ect as to engage more activity (not much, just around £1.00-2.50) They should begin to employ more part time people in certain jobs other then full time.

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There need to be an injection of money from the government to improve this area.

---

these ideas are all awful

if you want to earn more money, don't cut things we need or increase taxes. Reducing streetlights is dangerous. If you want to save money, stop spending money on things that were not needed (like resurfacing roads) and start reinvesting in local infrastructure and connections.

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We need to make a petition so it can be discussed in the parliament. All the children can write handwritten letters to government to make an impact

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