

Rutland County Council Draft Budget 2020/21 – consultation responses

Response number	Area of Rutland	Have you any comments or suggestions about the Council's draft budget proposals?	If the Council had to reduce spending, which areas would you choose to spend less in?
1	Central	50% of the budget on social care seems excessive. What's being done to reduce this?	Social care
2	Edith Weston	Nowhere is policing and security mentioned. With the growing population and reduced police cover, crime is increasing and Rutland is becoming less safe. This has to be tackled outside the sole quantities published in Council Tax.	Social care, which should be far more heavily provided by central government. It also needs far stricter control.
3	Oakham	You say that the demand for services has increased. Is this due in part to an increasing population? If so, has the increased council tax revenue from a larger working population been factored in? How has the government justified the unfair treatment of Rutland residents? Our tax is already near the highest in the country	Social Care
4	Oakham	That is difficult to do without a lot more information and background knowledge really.	Again, without a lot more knowledge it is difficult to say. Sorry.

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5	Lyddington	<p>I think that your explanations for budget increases are facile. An extra 1.3m for 'inflation' is not inevitable. What you really mean is that your staff costs and pension costs have risen and that you have utterly failed to control budgets so as to compensate for inflation. I do not see your staff numbers falling as they should be. And then you go and spend huge sums on care costs for people in my village who are playing the system, subsidise bus services with literally no one on them as paying passengers and so it goes on</p>	<p>First cut the bus services. Most of the ones that go past my door are empty most of the time and the only people getting on them are old and so have 'free' bus passes, which equates to a double subsidy (passenger and bus). Have some guts, save millions and cut them. Second, cut all of the grant schemes that you currently run. Third, cut your planning department since it seems to do no functional job except approving ridiculous and huge developments, allowing planning creep and irritating myself and neighbours by focussing on tiny things that don't matter while others get away with murder. Finally, set yourself a target to reduce headcount by 15%, with knock on effects for 'inflation' in these sense of stopping increment creep, reducing the gross impact of pay awards and reducing pension spend. There, that brings us to a position where we can have a council tax cut.</p>
6	Oakham	<p>Representations should be made to the Government for a fairer share of their grant. The increase in local housing should result in a higher tax yield to offset the increased expenditure</p>	<p>Greater efficiency all round and avoidance of overspend on bank staff</p>
7	Oakham	<p>No</p>	<p>Better controlling the contractors that work is outsourced to who appear to do substandard work at a high cost,</p>

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8	Oakham	Yes. Sell your massive offices for redevelopment into affordable flats for local people. Use that profit for health & education as well as local leisure & culture (for local people - not tourists). While you're at it you can convert the 'Museum' into a proper arts centre that we can all use. (I'd love to know how many people actually walked through its doors last year!) Then save us all another fortune by reducing your massive council staff - especially councilors. Any dealings I've had with various departments have always been ridiculous & defensive on their part. Merge us back with Leicestershire & then we'll get a bigger budget per head.	See all comments above. Plus: Local Plan - £200k & counting? Ridiculous. Customer services & Support services - Over £4.5 Million?! - On what? You spend £12.9m on health & social care & think 'Rutland is best for health'? Not by my recent experiences. God help the rest of the country if you are 'best'.
9	Ketton	The Budget should include funding to set up a Climate Change working group, with the goal of developing an action plan to ensure all Council functions and decision making is in line with a shift to carbon neutral by 2030. In line with many other local authorities the Council should declare a Climate Emergency.	Reduce energy costs in Council buildings through energy saving measures, including reducing the temperature.
10	Oakham	Yes spend less on public transport and more on highways maintenance example gulley cleaning, why do you need to spend 114k on pool cars?	Public transport ,pay
11	Village near Uppingham	<i>No answer given</i>	Social services where regulation allows

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12	Barleythorpe	I am disappointed with the public transport costs. I know people who live in more outlying areas who have difficulty getting out of their area, particularly in the winter. Consequently they suffer from depression. This leads to using the very stretched medical facilities and the cost of drugs. More importantly their lives are compromised.	Leisure and culture would be my first choice but maybe some things could be 'tightened up' to save costs rather than making large cuts
13	Oakham	Whilst I agree it is a massive balancing act to put finances in the correct area, I am shocked to see that the funding for crime and disorder has been almost cut in half from the last budget which was £260,000 to £132,000 in this budget when the crime and anti social behaviour has increased dramatically. WHY has this reduction happened, surely it should be increased, yet Street Cleaning is £687,000, really this does not make sense.	Protecting County - Street cleaning, as we never see one, also look at Public Transport, is it really well utilised? What is the income from green bin subscription as not included? Look at Supporting front line services - Human Resources etc.
14	Oakham	No	<i>No answer given</i>
15	Ridlington	<i>No answer given</i>	None
16	Belton in Rutland	Why 4% - we already pay a huge council tax compared to Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire - and it is getting bigger - and how many new homes have been built in the last 5 years?!!	Bureaucracy - cut the cloth accordingly - drive out unnecessary costs

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17	Oakham	Why can't you cut the costs of running the Council i.e. cut staff and get cheaper premises?	Council Costs
18	Barleythorpe	There is absolutely no mention of supporting business within the budget, Oakham in particular is dying on its feet with no activity in improving the towns offering to ALL of its inhabitants. If you are over 55 then you are well catered for and with a council so welcoming of this demographic it is hardly surprising that the costs of elderly health are increasing. That said there needs to be a fair contribution from Government which historically Rutland has always suffered	Children social care
19	Oakham	No	Too difficult to assess.
20	Oakham	Time to put forward proposals to Government that Rutland is NOT one of the wealthiest counties anymore. High increase in housing isn't proportionate to council budget.	Can't cut funding any further. We still have pot holes, a poor bus service and an almost non-existent Police presence.
21	Ketton		Verge grass cutting
22	Wardley	Save money by not having the mobile library. Only 1 person uses it in our village and they could take the bus or drive to Oakham. The money could be better spent on keeping the bus route	The library , they are underused now as books easily downloaded
23	South	no	street lighting in villages e.g. up to 1am
24	Oakham	Too much spent on social care	Social Care

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25	Bisbrooke	No	Don't know
26	Uppingham	While understanding the funding difficulties a rise of 4% in total is far more than any salary increase we can expect so each year this tax makes us poorer and services are in decline.	The Council has already made too many cuts!
27	Ketton	Why is the increase always way above inflation and equal to the maximum allowable by the Govt.?	Adult social care us the only sector that a change would make any difference. Savings must be made here.
28	Oakham	Can we lobby central government in any way to raise our funding to come into line with similar councils?	I can't choose. It would be such a difficult decision and whatever was chosen, it would mean people suffering as a consequence.
29	Cottesmore	None	Not sure.
30	Empingham	Why do we not receive our fair share of government funds? Our council tax rates are already second highest in the country	Make more efficiencies in admin in council offices including adult learning. Try to recoup some costs from users of social care with adequate means
31	Uppingham	<i>No answer given</i>	Administration. With a population of only 38000? What's the ratio of administrators per 1000 population compared to other councils?
32	Tinwell	Why so little from the Government?	Adult education
33	Ketton	<i>No answer given</i>	Do not know but streets are dirty and grass verges are scruffy in my area. Maybe volunteers should be asked to help out where possible

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34	Oakham	It does seem necessary to increase the Council Tax since the Government contribution is disproportionately low compared with "like" counties. Social care and supporting the homeless/ rough sleepers is absolutely necessary. Could we do more?	None!
35	Morcott	Greater control is needed on awarding contracts to providers of services to the Council. In particular the standard of road repairs and surface dressing is currently appalling.	In common with other councils there is a need to address council staff pension awards and funding thereof.
36	Oakham	No	Town hall finances especially expenses paid to officials
37	Oakham	Happy with draft proposals	Difficult. Try to find areas where money is currently wasted or used inefficiently
38	Cottesmore	Demand versus income...an insoluble conundrum for a small county. We need proper national support from Government.	Weed control on estate roads, and housing areas....homeowners/residents should maintain their own areas.
39	Langham	Disappointing amount secured to cover demand for vital services. But this is what the country voted for!	That opportunity has passed. The barracks development is a waste of money and so was the one way system plans. Focus on what we've got.
40	Oakham	Interested about details of the 500k savings that are to be made.	Hospitality budget (but, to be fair, unsure of present figures but know that this has been a huge local government issue).

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41	Ryhall	One obvious point that stands out, is the low contribution from the Central Government, which affects the finances so significantly. With a new MP representing Rutland, I would propose a special task force/project is created to rectify this and that past unsuccessful attempt should not deter the Council to pursue this. I would propose the Council creates this 'special' project, involve the new MP and make this public to all, so we can also support you and keep abreast on the progress.	None.
42	Oakham	Does Rutland have a higher percentage of social care needs, per population than other counties?	Cycle/paths cycles still use the main roads, if cycle ways are there surely they should be compulsory to use or not waste money making them.
43	Oakham	More, more, more. Inflation yes .Precepts no! How about some efficiency gains, reduction in council numbers in every department.	Social care. McDonalds give away. Councillors. Council buildings. Oakham school. It's not just redirecting it need real reductions Do more with less. I wonder what that looks like in Latin. Get some real managers in and reward them based on keeping costs down. Sack all the councillors who forced through the McDonalds development.
44	Barrowden	It sounds as though a lot of thought has gone into the proposal	Children's social care
45	Whissendine	No	Councillors' allowances.
46	Uppingham	<i>No answer given</i>	Non-essential services where Volunteers could help

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47	Oakham	Re-visit, the proposed increase is far too high with respect to current inflation figures produced by HMG. I feel there are more savings that could be made which would not be to the detriment of services provided.	Highways, waste disposal, staffing costs.
48	Uppingham	<i>No answer given</i>	I don't think you can or should
49	Greetham	<i>No answer given</i>	Adult learning, school transport,
50	Oakham	Not enough detail on expenditure to really comment on more savings -	anything frivolous should be funded by those who want rather than all rate payers - e.g. leisure facilities
51	Oakham	Myself and husband are appalled at the dangerous state of the pavements in Oakham. The grass verges along Stamford road and pavements have become a mud bath, with both council worker and private contractors using the verges as parking. This must be stopped! Before someone has an accident and suing the council. Contractors should be made to pay for the cleaning and replacing the grass as contractors on new builds do.	Why pay double for town council and county council expenses .why duplicate? Doesn't make sense. Too many chiefs in the council office getting salaries and nothing getting done, the town looks like a deprived area!
52	Seaton	Consider merging all possible services onto the same sites (police, fire, ambulance). Also consider merging with Leicester all possible services, including getting rid of overheads such as chief exec.	All council overhead. There is no justification for duplicating roles that could be merged with those of Leicester.

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53	Ketton	Insufficient funding for infrastructure	Taking the Council's statements as accurate, only sensible savings are by being more efficient.
54	Le156es	No	No area of expenditure should be reduced but it would more acceptable if we saw an improvement in all areas. We pay for policing, highways etc. but the town always looks a mess with un swept roads unkempt verges and unnecessary footpaths built.
55	North Luffenham	<i>No answer given</i>	Council offices
56	Oakham	Show where you saved £500K	Health and care should be centrally funded
57	Oakham	What can be done to increase funding from government?	Don't know, they all seem pretty crucial!
58	Tinwell	Yes why do senior citizens pay so much council tax when they rely on so little of the council services?	Providing services for people who are too idle to look for work.
59	Uppingham	You have a difficult tax - but pensioners like me will not receive a 3.99% rise in state pension (which doesn't provide a living income already). Times are tight now - I have no idea how to make further savings in my household budget when CT and all other living costs continue to increase. When a living wage is deemed to be more than £10/hour (or £400/week) and state pension is £168/week where do you start? Desperate times.	Difficult to suggest anything other than what you're doing. No suggestion
60	Lyddington	Far too expensive	All areas

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61	Greetham	No	None
62	Ketton	Far too much spending on social care. Need to push for more government funding equal in percentage to other counties.	Social care
63	Braunston	Seems fair given increased demand yet less funding from central government	Reduce spending is not an option. Services must be maintained
64	Langham	Don't put it up	Roads
65	Uppingham	Do not know enough about the draft proposals to comment	Don't know
66	Warn Crescent	It is alright trying to increase funding but I am retired on a fixed income following my thriftiness during work and continued expenditure reduces my already low standard of living. I am sure a great number of people living in Rutland are far worse off despite taking the effort to provide for their families. Not all people in the area are rich as popular belief purports! Incomes are finite and councils should accept that and stop trying to get more blood out of a stone.	Social care and unnecessary art, craft and beautification projects
67	Oakham	No	None
68	Lanham	<i>No answer given</i>	Council bureaucracy
69	Clipsham	Roads and surfaces are important to me. Also the A1 section and the exits / entrance slipways concern me with the amount of development alongside the main artery road	Transport , local school transport and cleaning budget

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70	Oakham	Not really. But Councillors salaries should be looked at. Perhaps cuts could be made there.	Salaries for top management in the council.
71	Barleythorpe	I feel these proposals are the probably the best we can expect in light of the unfair amount of money you receive from the government.	I have no idea!
72	Oakham	<i>No answer given</i>	Roads/culture
73	Langham	Yes - as usual costs rise so just put up the already ridiculously high council tax	All of them - spend the money more wisely. With what cash is flooding in everything should be tip-top, but it's not. Too much waste and top heavy council staff
74	Essendine	While I feel the increase in Council Tax steep, I applaud RCC for its spending on social care	Leisure facilities
75	Ashwell	Not sure how 3.99% increase when inflation is decreasing is sending out the right message	Roads. Seems we spend un necessarily. Great roads, but are they unnecessarily good.
76	Uppingham	I would have perhaps if a proper consultation document had been offered. Battling through minutes of a meeting, appendices and papers is not an appropriate way to consult lay people about important decisions that will impact their lives. Phoney consultation.	Sports grants
77	Lyddington	Seems reasonable given the constraints	Increase charges including: parking, green bins, planning applications. Do not cut social care.
78	Essendine	No	Social care

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79	Barleythorpe	No	Social Care
80	Seaton	Well balanced and thought out - but what are the legal costs for?	Leisure and some areas of social support
81	North	No	Any non-statutory services
82	Oakham	Ask our MP to fight for bigger grant from Government - if not this year, for next year	<i>No answer given</i>
83	North Luffenham	No	Non-essential services such as libraries and other leisure services that could include volunteers
84	Oakham	You really do need to bare down on our new MP to lobby the Government for more funding! It is simply unacceptable to continue increasing our Council tax year on year by these large amounts. It is a huge burden on my personal budget, as I have had to cease working, and as you are aware, those of us who have savings are entitled to no support. Concerning the budget proposal. I am staggered to see the CEO receives a salary of 159k (incl. pension) to run a small authority like this! Also the budget for adult and child social care is over inflated for the services provided and for the number of people in receipt of these services.	Social care. It seems to me, providers can charge what they like, and the Council will pay inflated prices.
85	Greetham	Stop building MCarthy Stone properties. This will attract elderly people. We already have too many of these!	Contracts that the council gives to road works etc.

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86	Oakham	It's time proper funding for Rutland was sorted out - it is long overdue. I'm sure the budget proposals are necessary but this cannot repeatedly be met by council tax payers	All areas deserve it but it should come from correct central government funding and not council tax payers
87	Exton	Having to pay much more on top of the tax we currently pay would probably mean us having to move away from Rutland. I would also look to move my business out of the county at the same time. We get very little for the money we pay RCC. Terrible roads, poor access to NHS services, ineffective public transport.	Staffing.
88	Oakham	I still can't comprehend all the extra housing, over 50, 60, 70 apartments in county doesn't generate enough income to stop an increase in council tax.	Possibly policing as I don't believe we get value for money, don't see bobbies on the beat, haven't a police station just a desk in the corner of entrance to council offices.
89	Ashwell	I understand that with current government funding it's impossible to balance the books. I'm happy to see 50% of the budget being spent on social care. I think a 3.9% increase is fair to continue the work you are doing.	Road maintenance Travel for post 16 students reduced by asking bigger contribution from parents.
90	Oakham	More specifically why is Rutland council tax more expensive than other Counties? Nnd in particular Westminster London? Also I've seen reported that Rutland doesn't get the same level of funding that other Counties do, if this is true then why?	Tough one, not sure TBH.

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91	Whissendine	The increase is too high in a council where the council tax is already one of the most expensive in the country. The population in Rutland is not big enough to be a unitary authority...go back to being a district	Staff salaries across the board especially at the top tiers of management. Also cut down on the number of staff especially at management level
92	Greetham	Council wages are too high. Slash the money spent on management and anyone with an executive title. I would suggest that a plan be put in place to target the upper salary of 3x average UK wage.	Council salaries, executive positions. I would merge Rutland's council departments with Leicestershire. Anything promoting tourism, discover Rutland, non-legally compulsory should be scrutinised.