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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Section 1: In what context are responding to this consultation?**  As a representative of a group or organisation  **If you are responding as a representative of a business, group or organisation, please provide further details in the box below**  **Your role:**  **Name of the business, group or organisation:**  Cowley Area Transport Group - www.catg.org.uk  **How did you find out about this consultation?**  Oxfordshire.gov.uk website  **Oxfordshire County Council alongside all other local authorities faces an uncertain funding situation. We want funding to go where it is most needed and invest in services that will have a positive long-term impact for our local communities. To do that, we plan to make £13 million of new savings in 2022/23 focusing on making services more efficient while protecting the frontline.**  **There are different approaches the council could take to make savings. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following?**  Reduce spending on frontline services     Strongly disagree  Reduce spending on services the council is not legally required to provide     Neither agree nor disagree  Reduce staff costs by supporting long-term flexible working eg working at home to reduce printing, energy costs etc.     Strongly agree  Reduce spending on staffing by redesigning services, using less temporary agency staff and/or holding vacancies     Strongly agree  Reduce the costs of the contracts we use to provide services     Strongly agree  Reduce costs by using digital technology to deliver services more efficiently     Strongly agree  Generate additional income from sales, fees and charges and maximise the use of assets (currently reduced due to impact of COVID-19)     Tend to disagree  Use one-off resources, such as grants, to provide further funding     Strongly agree  Reduce demand on services by looking for creative ways to meet needs at lower cost while also helping people to be as independent as possible (eg to live at home, managing their own finances etc)     Neither agree nor disagree  **What approach(es) to financial management to make savings would you prefer the council focuses on? Select your three most preferred options.**  **(Please tick up to THREE options only)**  Reduce the costs of the contracts we use to provide services, Use one-off resources, such as grants, to provide further funding, Reduce staff costs by supporting long-term flexible working eg working at home to reduce printing, travel and energy costs  **Do you have any ideas of any other approaches to financial management the council could take to achieve savings?**  Yes  **Comments (optional)**  Reduce expenditure on fossil fuel-powered transport as far as practically possible; reduce office space used by Council officers at County Hall as a result of strongly encouraging home working/hot desking; do not use County funds for road-widening in any location; maintain the use of Zoom/etc for staff meetings into the future beyond the pandemic.  **In 2022/23, we propose to increase council tax by 4.99 per cent, including three per cent specifically for adult social care. Would you be prepared to support this proposed increase?**  **An increase of 4.99 per cent is equal to an additional £78.50 per year or £1.51 per week in council tax on a Band D property.**  Yes  **Do you have any other comments on our** [**budget proposal**](https://emails.engagementhq.com/ls/click?upn=9vcdD193qA8wVAWAMcxkDbWSTPEVVXm2nL7VO4WpXZmsxigXPWB0-2FX8e2avrwDyl7dTwvHTBmd63gtvGgMwzIHL9p5pDbkvHzqRaC1aLxm4TrwkmDOP2fUoCOnfz7O8y-2FbrCBY1uFw5Y8JBacLRJFflqSLnu1M5N0z6boTuFhFom5nl0faJ71lZr-2FLBIRRS32dT7_BU88X-2Fcrex9ppM9NMQyzZYmaY2EWWn-2BcVfb5Az-2F47B1kJ2Ldnea-2FAf3sKhcFpyW2ua7-2BWSNNrffj5uX1wSVZogM0YLMITNO49rptTkpqnD17wU2Qia5mW4fJvE6CdFpEi7wLKk2kAfcqs-2FzuVnpj65srSDpNRZlW2ptpaFfKOAS3EnkqIrhImnWRplwh0E-2Bwk-2FwUE03P5-2FvHnQk8zdwicHJo0ZXFXHIe7TcdDsjCBX5Pp9jMernL9o6AZP6Sc628xt8VVppdiP1O3iTDE-2FtSpc2FhOsaA5EeM1IvrkG3XpltqzxG-2F7Vg7pHGCMvf2-2BXy-2Fj6tfcyDjXsmaQ3EqF6z6wUcgxYi0YRfjt-2FMF7PXrhTa-2BbxNdzGiNbWSgWRzxpG5eKtWUWMjQPIXbyRGjIn9kQ-3D-3D)**s you would like to share?**  Yes  **Comments:**  The referendum option to increase the headline budget increase for 2023-2024 should be exercised, since Govt compensation in the light of continuing pandemic costs, energy and other price increases, contract cost rises all appears to be continuing to be inadequate.  **Every year the council reviews its priorities as part of its budget setting process. Taking account of the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance’s nine priorities as they currently stand, which TWO do you consider to be most important for the council to concentrate on?**  Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work, Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network  **And why do you consider these to be the most important priorities for the council to concentrate on?**  The Climate Emergency is the greatest threat we face; transport is about 45% of surface level emissions in Oxfordshire, and more if aviation, shipping and embedded emissions in imports are all included. The failure of COP26, indeed of all such conferences to date, is going to require careful adaptation to continuing Climate Change. In view of this, see our Report on Adaptation to Climate Change - focussing on transport serving Oxford and green spaces, as a contribution to the development of an Adaptation Plan for the County: under REPORTS at www.catg.org.uk This has many multi-sectoral sources, allowing a wide range of matters to be accessed for consideration by County Officers drafting an Adaptation Plan.  **Do you have any other comments on the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance’s nine priorities you would like to share?**  Yes  **Comments:**  I am very concerned about the use of the term 'Net Zero' or 'Net Zero Carbon.' This has no agreed definition, no means in the UK or internationally to ensure correct implementation and the high risk of polluting activities continuing indefinitely whilst Net Zero is being pursued. I note that the Government has a Net Zero Strategy but no implementation plan or evidence of how it will achieve its targets. Net Zero is exceptionally questionable given the need for deep cuts in emissions. Relevant references: Absolute Zero - UK FIRES, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council – Julian Allwood et al, 2019. https://ukfires.org/absolute-zero/ Dyke, James, Watson, Robert and Knorr, Wolfgang – Climate scientists: concept of net zero is a dangerous trap, 2021: https://theconversation.com/climate-scientists-concept-of-net-zero-is-a-dangerous-trap-157368 Smolker, Rachel – Negative Emission Technologies: can they deliver? – December 2020, Biofuelwatch. Concise, cautionary piece about the problems of these technologies that have yet to be addressed: https://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BFW\_NETS.pdf Spratt, David and Dunlop, Ian – “Net Zero 2050: a dangerous illusion” – Breakthrough briefing note, National Centre for Climate Restoration, 2021: https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/nz2050 Stevenson, S, Horton, P, and Allwood, J M – Minus 45: delivering the UK government’s pledge to COP26: Cutting UK emissions by 45% from 2018-2030, 2021, UK Fires: Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council: https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/329709  **What is your age?**  65-74  **Are you...?**  Male  **Are you pregnant, on maternity leave or returning from maternity leave?**  No  **What is your ethnic group?**  White (British, Irish, Scottish or any other white background)  **What is your current religion, if any?**  Prefer not to say  **Are your day to day activities limited because of a long-term illness, health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?**  No  **Are you a carer?**  **A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. Both children and adults can be carers.**  No  **Are you....?**  Heterosexual / Straight  **Are you married or in a civil partnership?**  Yes  **Would you like to sign‐up to receive regular updates on news, events and developments from across the county by email?**  Yes  **Please provide your email address so we can contact you and send a link to our sign-up page where you can tailor which communications you receive.** | | | |