

Budget 2026-27 Consultation Results

February 2026

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1. Executive Summary

Introduction

Each year we run a public consultation on our budget proposals, including any potential rise in Council Tax. The Budget Consultation for fiscal year 2026-27 took place between Tuesday 20 January and Monday 16 February 2026. The annual public consultation sought to gain views on service priorities and appetite for any Council Tax changes ahead of the budget-setting Full Council meeting on Tuesday 24 February.

Responses

The consultation was conducted exclusively online and received **366 responses**. Based on an estimated population of 103,300, this represents approximately 0.35% of the community. Sample size calculations indicate that 272 responses would be sufficient to achieve 90% confidence, with a 5% margin of error, meaning the consultation exceeded the threshold required for results to be considered broadly representative. However, the total fell slightly short of the 383 responses needed to reach a 95% confidence level.

2. Consultation methodology and responses

The consultation was created in SurveyMonkey and hosted online exclusively. It was promoted to:

- Residents of Blaby District
- Elected Members
- Parish Councils
- Local Media

Communications reach

Press release: A new release was published on the website to coincide with the survey going live on Monday 20 January, and also sent out to the usual external media contacts and usual news release distribution list.

Social media: It was publicised on Facebook social media:

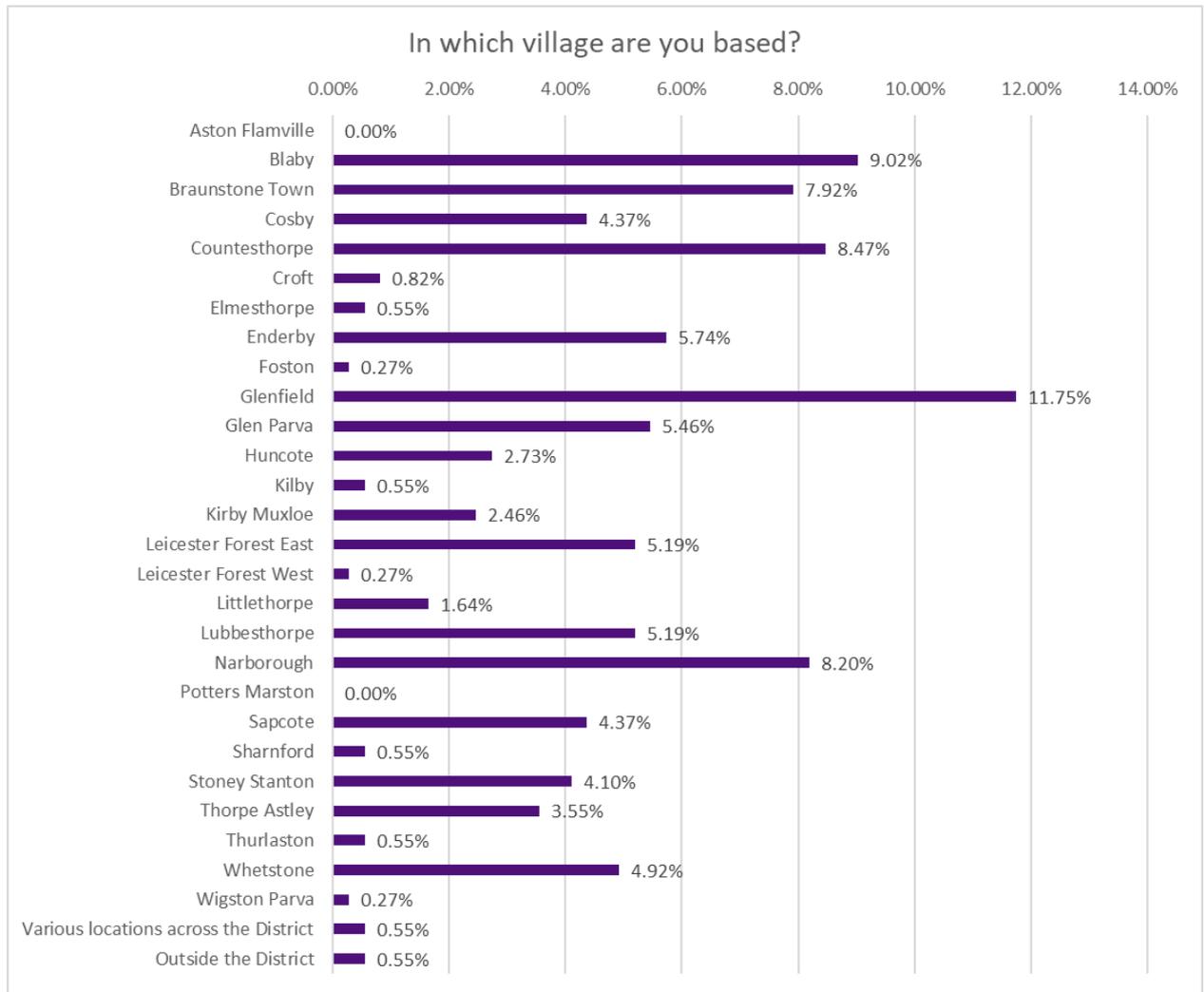
- 21 Jan (3 interactions)
- 27 Jan – with a video of Cllr Cheryl Cashmore (62 interactions and 6.6k views)
- 3 Feb (19 interactions)
- 12 Feb (two interactions).

eNewsletters: Two articles on the consultation with links to the online survey were also included in the General eNewsletters

- 23 Jan - overall opens 3,126 and 381 clicks on the survey link – 24% of clicks.
- 6 Feb - overall opens 4,630 and 51 clicks on the survey link – 4% of clicks.

Note: Apple iPhone users may not be included in the stats due to privacy changes

Responses were received from all villages in the District apart from the hamlets of Potters Marston and Aston Flamville, with Glenfield (43 responses), Blaby (33) and Narborough (30) the most represented.

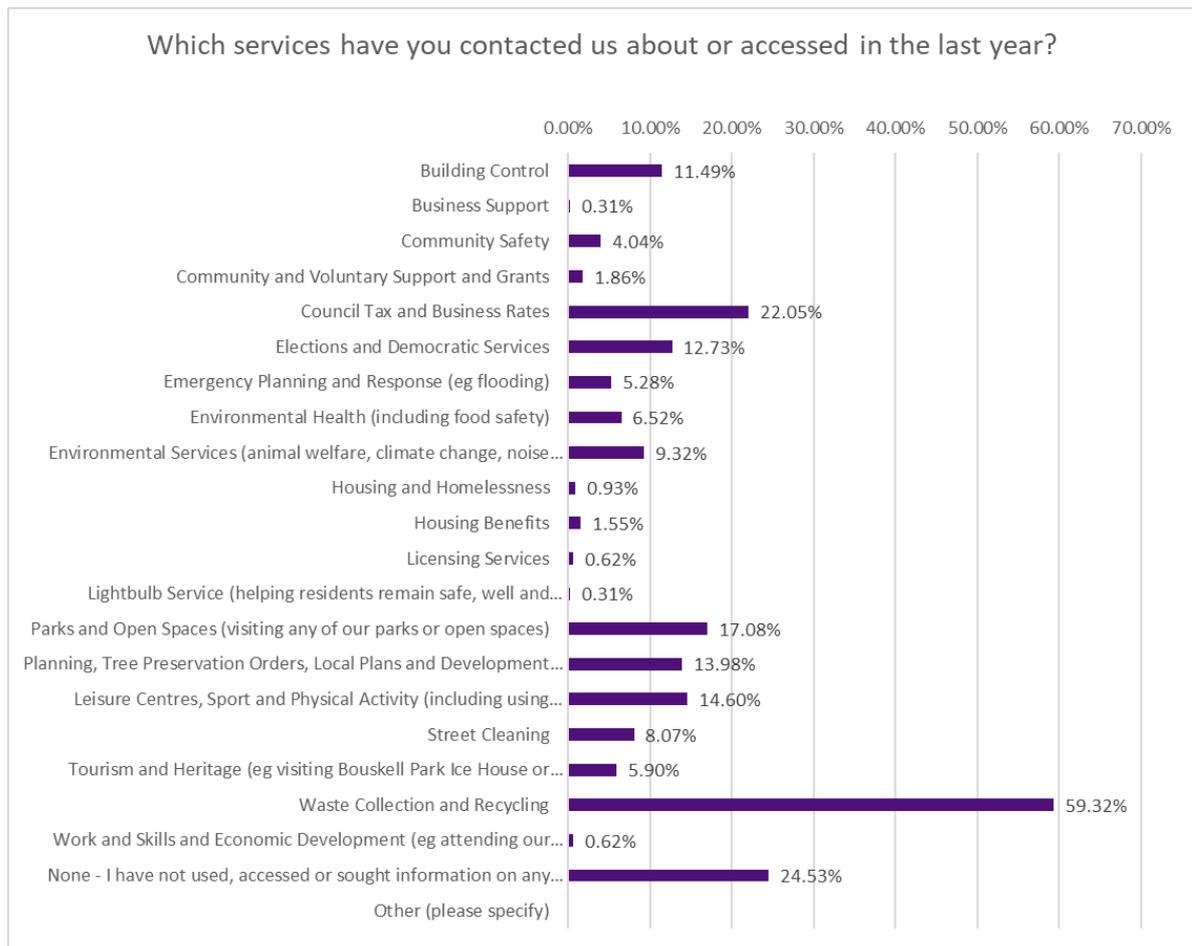


3. Contacting the Council

Question: Which services have you contacted us about or accessed in the last year? Including checking information on our website.

Residents reported a variety of services accessed with waste collection and recycling being the most popular – 26.83% (191 out of 712 total choices)

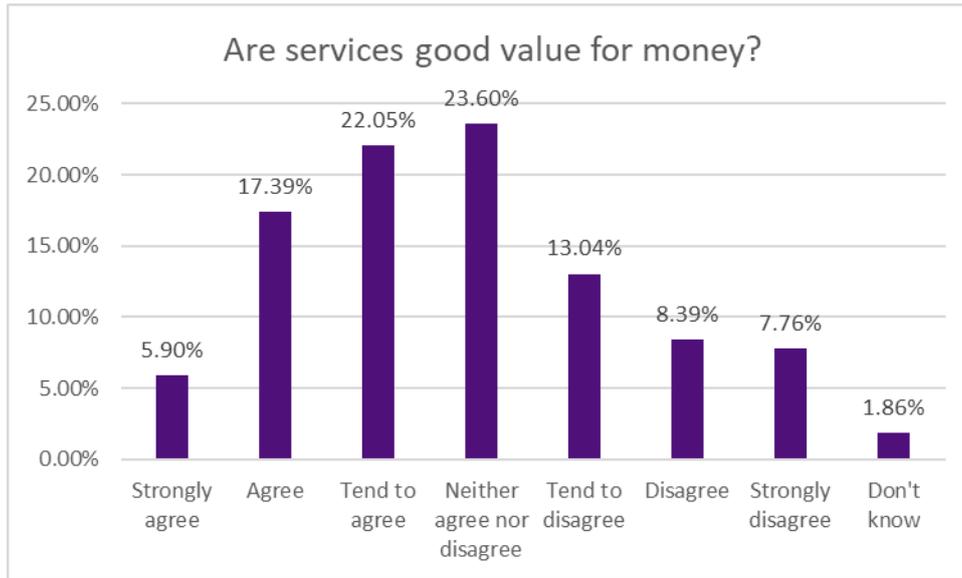
Surprisingly 11.10% of respondents indicated they had not used any Council services in the past year.



4. Are services good value for money

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that services provided by Blaby District Council are 'good value for money'?

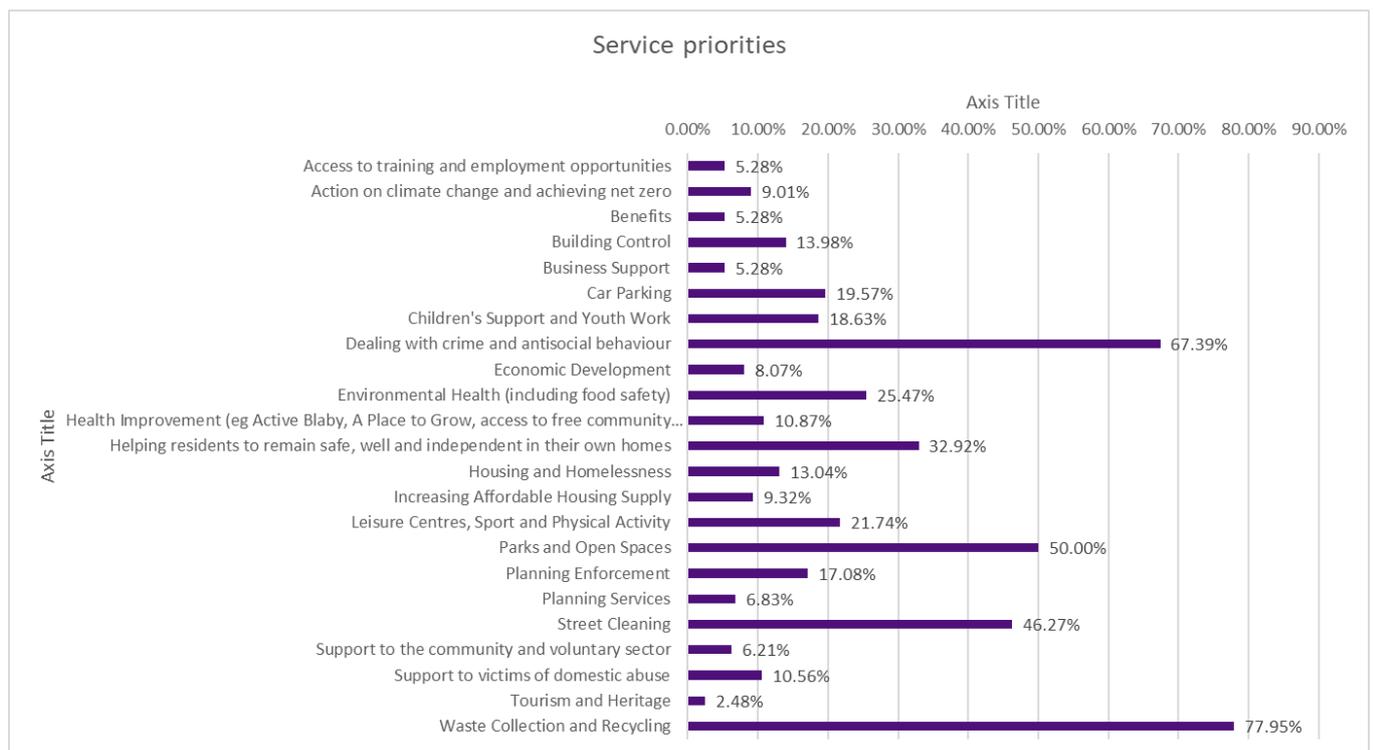
Overall there was a consensus that Council services are value for money with almost half (45%) of respondents agreeing, while almost a quarter (23.6%) being neutral.



5. Which services do you consider to be a priority

Question: The Council provides numerous services which are getting more expensive to run each year. Which of these services do you consider to be a priority when share funds across the whole of the Council? Please choose five priority services.

We asked people to pick their five priority services. Waste collection and recycling and dealing with crime and antisocial behaviour were clearly the top two priorities with parks and open spaces, street cleaning and helping residents remain safe, well and independent in their own homes also gathering strong support.

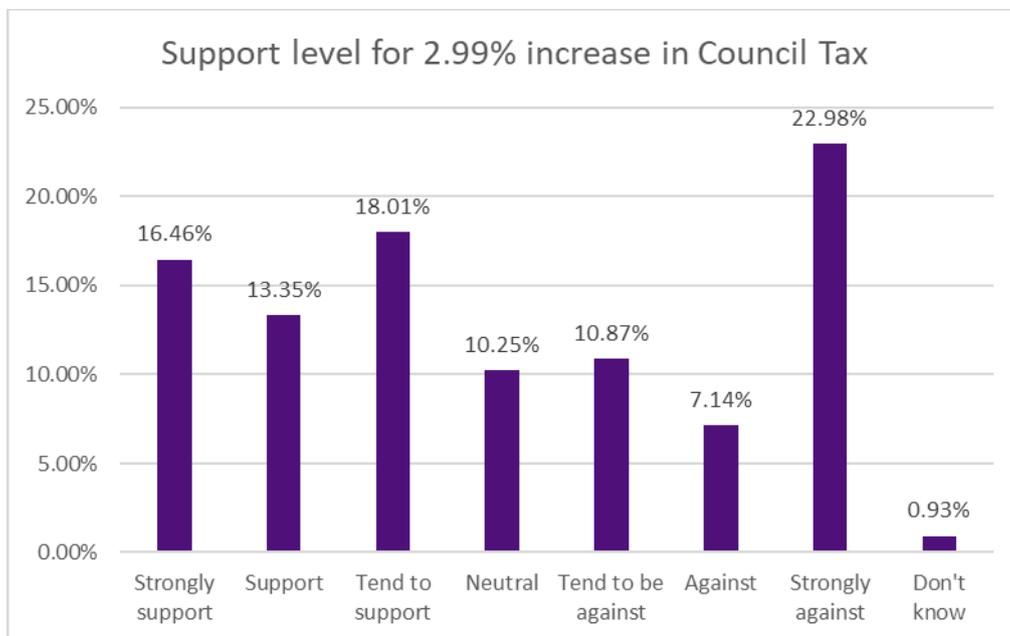


6. Do you support an increase in Council Tax

Question: The Council is required to set a balanced budget each year. In order to continue to maintain the levels of services currently provided, additional funds are required. One way of doing this is to increase Council Tax by 2.99% which equates to an extra £5.82 a year for the average Band D property. To what extent do you support this?

While a significant number of respondents (22.98%) were strongly opposed to a 2.99% increase in Council Tax there was general support for the rise.

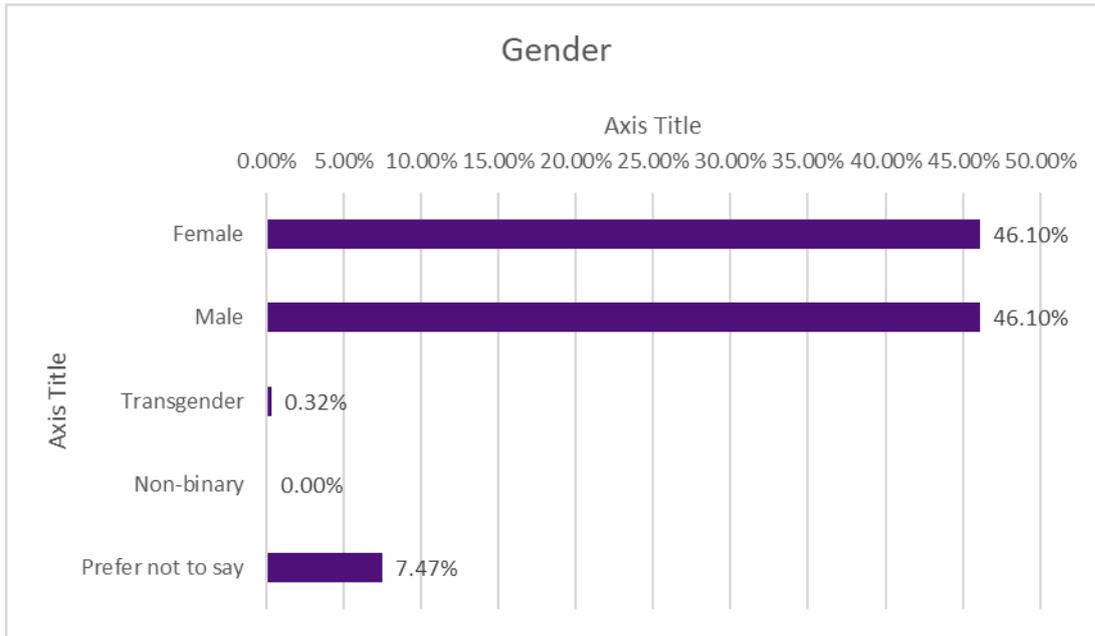
Those who replied in support of the increase amounted to 47.82% of respondents while those against were 40.99%.



Appendix 1: Demographic breakdown

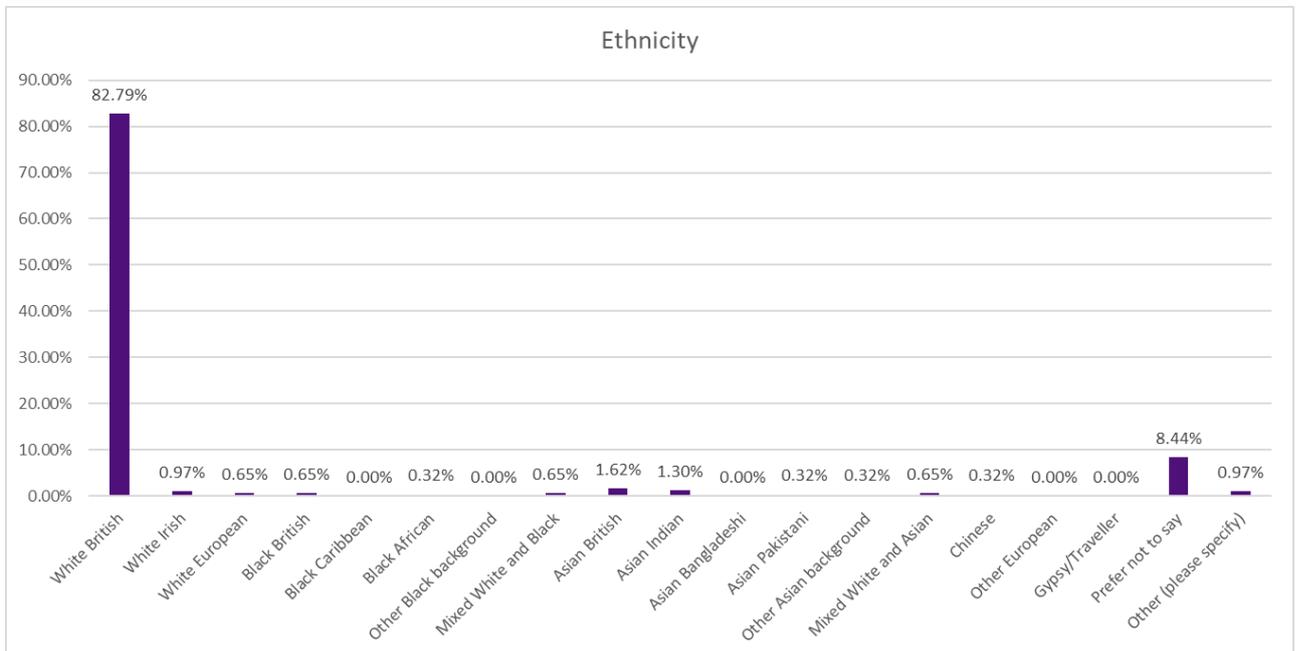
Gender

There was an equal split between male and female with 7.47% preferring not to say and 0.32% saying they were transgender.



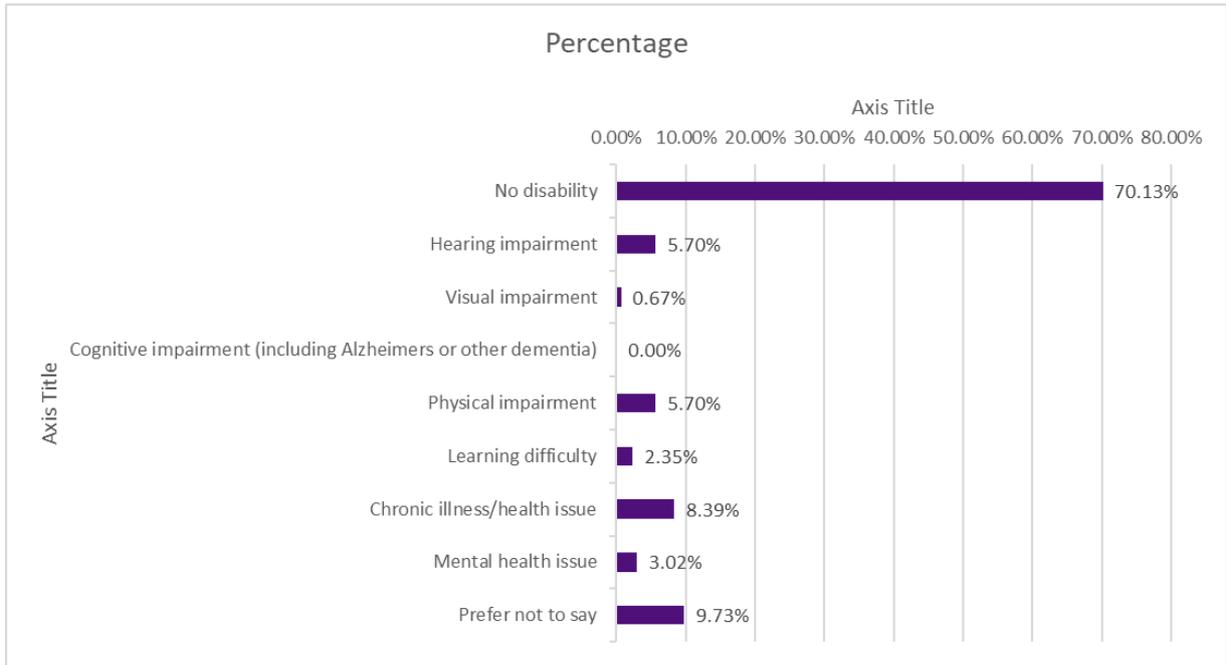
Ethnicity

The vast majority of respondents were White British (82.79%) with 8.44% preferring not to say. This correlates to the ethnic make-up of the District. In the 2021 census data 86.2% of residents identified as White.



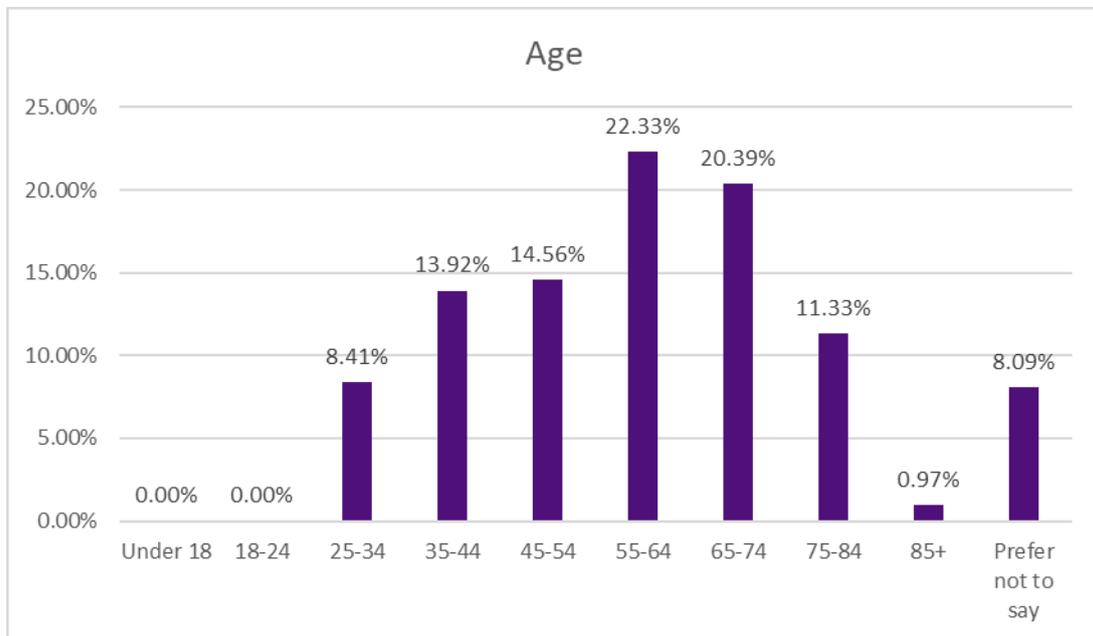
Disability

The vast majority of people (70.13%) cited having no disability. Chronic health issue (8.39%), hearing impairment (5.70%) and physical impairment (5.70%) were the most cited disabilities.



Age

More than half (55.02%) of respondents were over 55 while almost a third (28.48%) were aged 35 to 55. There were no respondents under 24. This broadly reflects the age of population regularly engaging with Council services.



Religion

Almost half of respondents (45.3%) said they were of the Christian faith but there was also a significant number (34.56%) who cited they had no religious belief and 13.76 preferred not to say, the highest percentage in the demographic questions.

