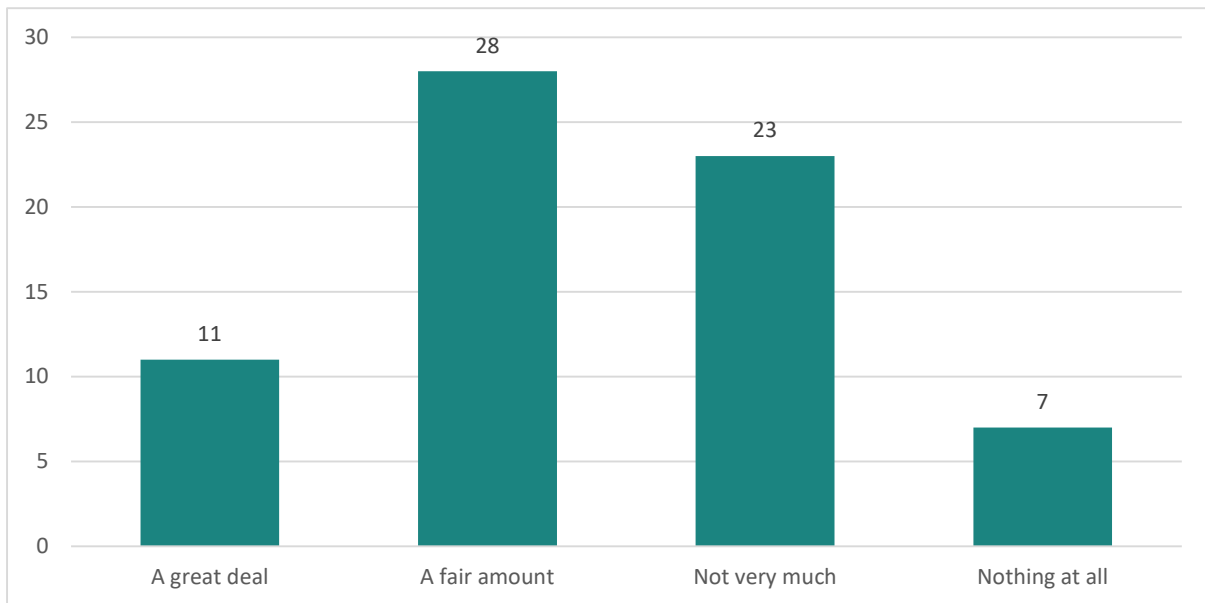


2025/26 Budget Consultation Survey Analysis

Responses

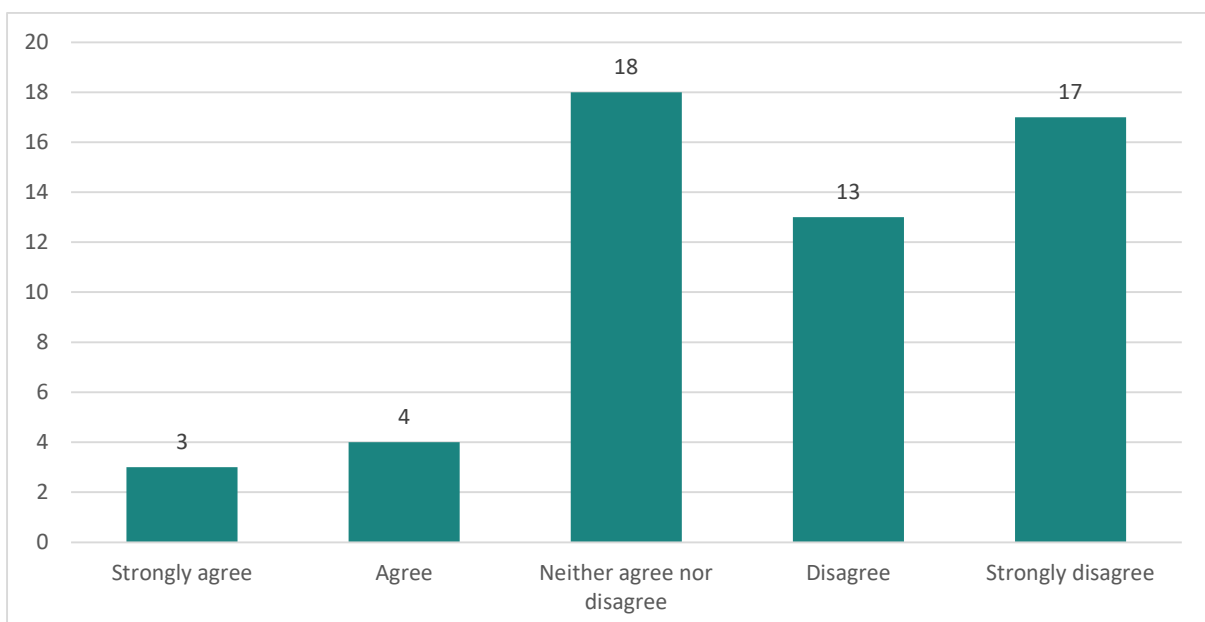
As of 28 January 2025, there were 69 responses to the budget consultation survey.

Having read the draft budget proposals, how much do you now feel you understand the council's overall financial position and the need to both increase council tax and deliver savings in 2025/26 in order to deliver a balanced budget?



Slightly more residents felt they understood the council's budget proposals (57%) compared to those that didn't (43%).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the budget proposals?



14 residents declined to complete this question, leaving 55 responses in total. Residents were most likely to neither agree nor disagree with the budget proposals, with 33% selecting this option. Of those residents who did give a clear preference, they were more likely to pick 'Disagree' or 'Strongly disagree' (55%) compared to those who selected 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' (13%).

Cross Reference

		Level of agreement				
		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Level of understanding	A great deal	2	2		2	3
	A fair amount	1	2	9	4	3
	Not very much			6	7	7
	Nothing at all			3		4

The chart above compares the number of respondents that agreed with the budget with how well those respondents said they understood it. The segments with the highest response were those that felt they understood the survey a fair amount but neither agreed nor disagreed with its proposals (9 responses), and those that had not very much understanding and either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposals (14 responses).

Comments

Do you have any comments about our draft budget strategy?

This question received 36 comments. Comments or themes that occurred multiple times included:

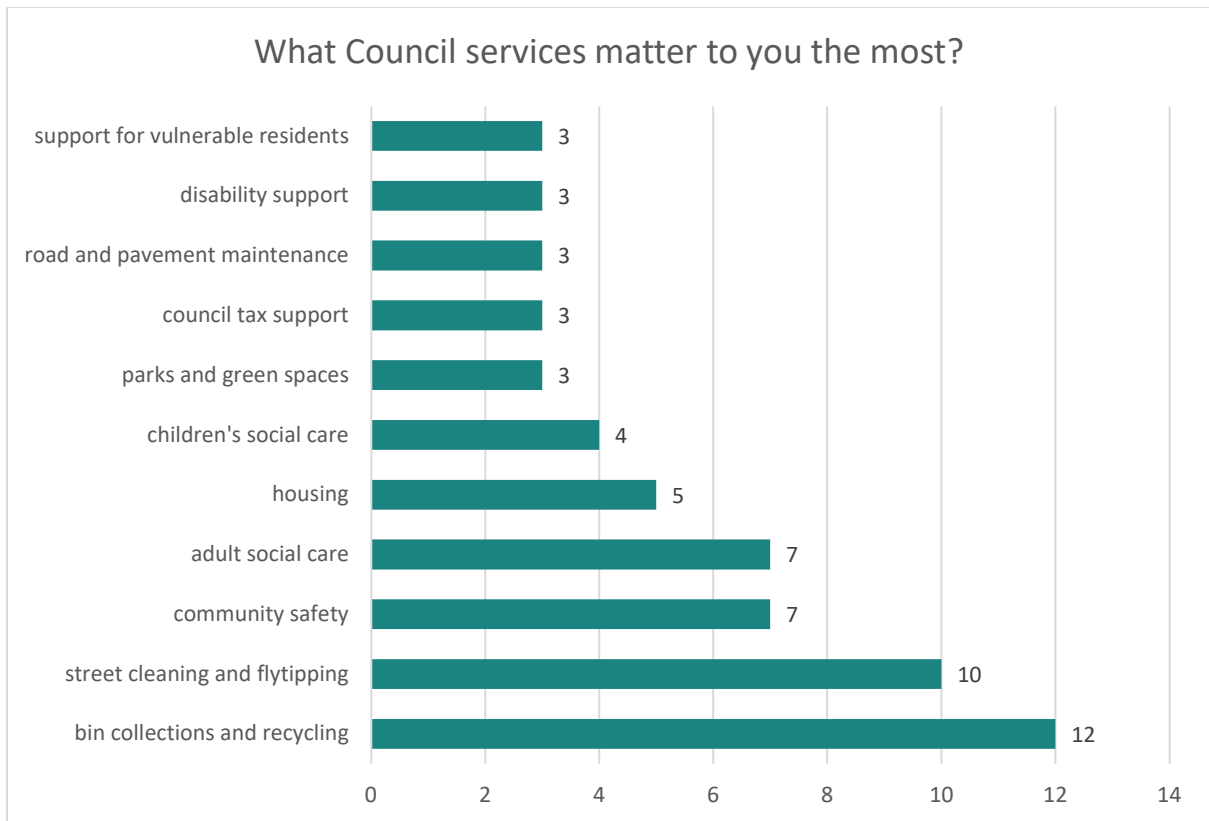
- References to difficult times ahead
- The feeling that the proposed increase of 4.99% on council tax was too much
- Concern about the impact on vulnerable residents as a result of changes to the council tax support scheme
- General concerns about housing provision, including the cost of temporary accommodation and the experience of those living in it
- A lot of emphasis on street cleaning, refuse collection and recycling, and that service should be of a higher standard and this could be impacted by the cuts.
- The impact of Wembley Stadium and Wembley Arena's events on local resources

Please provide any other comments you may have on the proposals for the 2025/26 Budget.

This question received 25 comments. Comments or themes that occurred multiple times included:

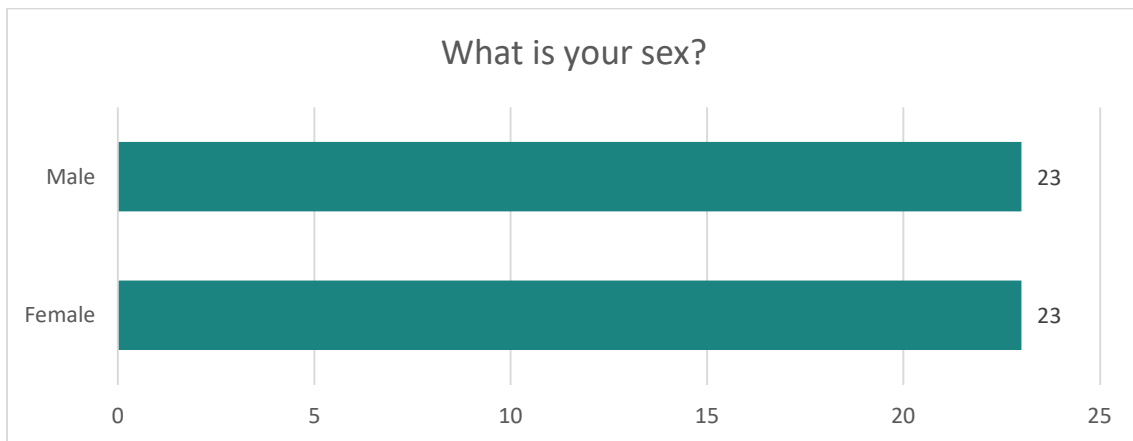
- Reiteration that the proposed council tax increase was too much of a burden on residents
- An anticipated increase in fly tipping with the proposed cost of bulk waste collections increasing

Responses from both questions asking for comments were combined into a word cloud showing the most common words used.



Equality Monitoring Questions

Sex

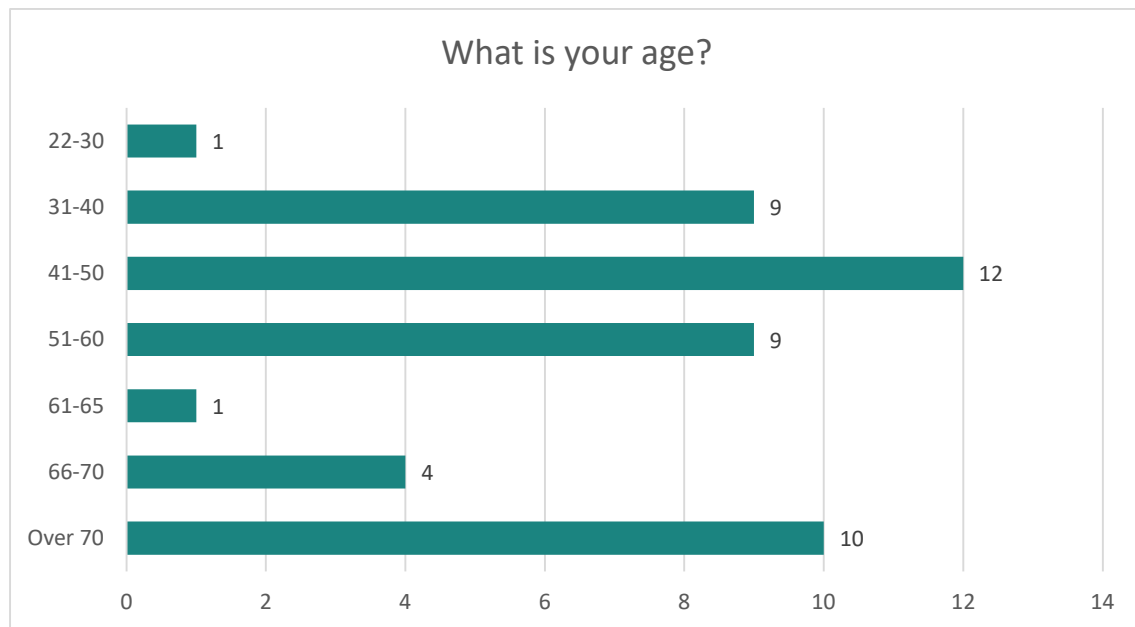


23 respondents identified as female and 23 as male. Three selected 'prefer not to state', and 20 declined to complete the question.

Gender Identity

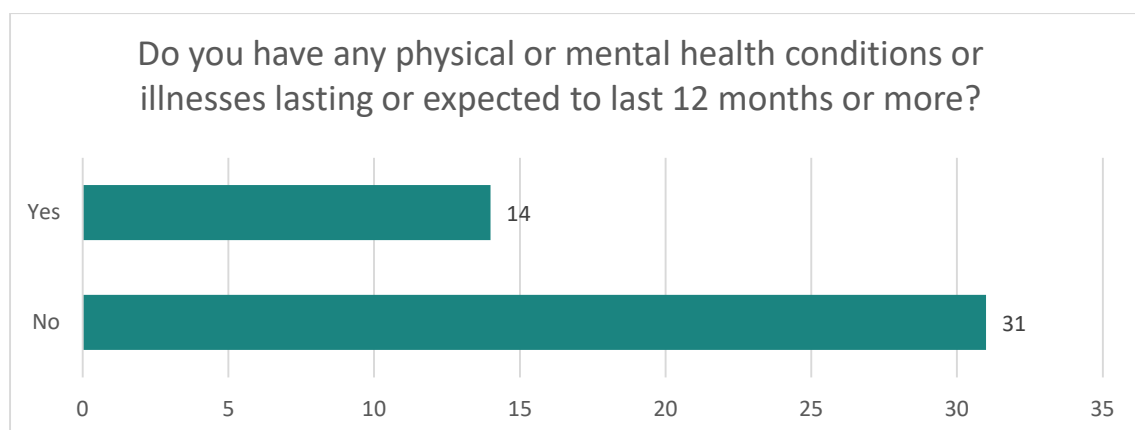
46 respondents said that the gender they identified with matched their sex registered at birth. Two selected 'prefer not to state', and 21 declined to complete the question.

Age Group



The greatest number of respondents (12) are aged between 41 – 50. Four respondents chose 'prefer not to state' and 19 declined to complete the question.

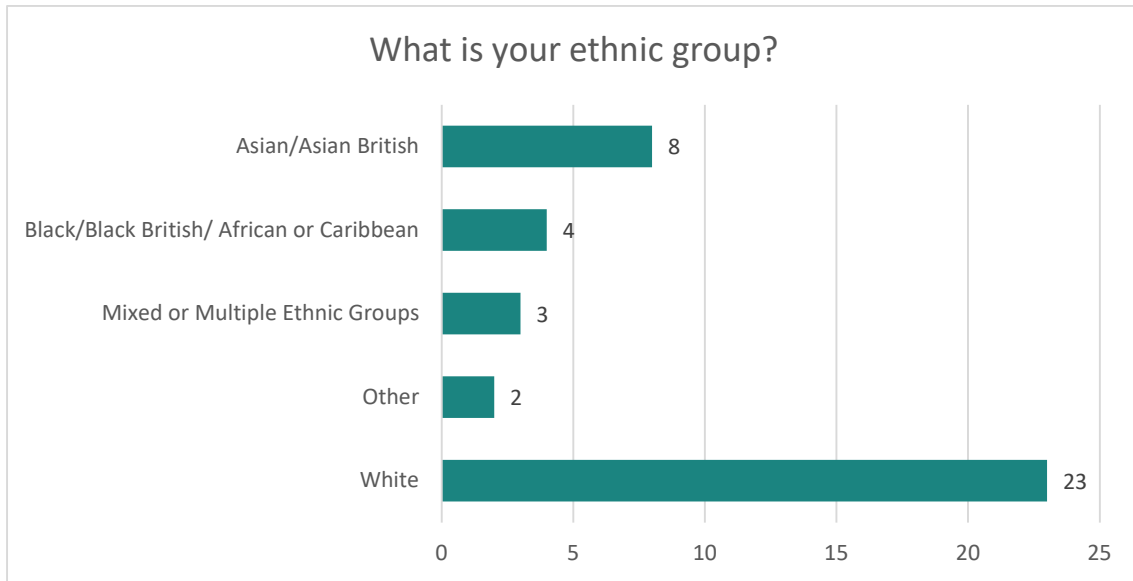
Disability



14 respondents said they have a physical or mental health condition or illness expecting to last 12 months or more, with 31 respondents saying they did not. Four respondents chose 'prefer not to state' and 20 declined to answer the question.

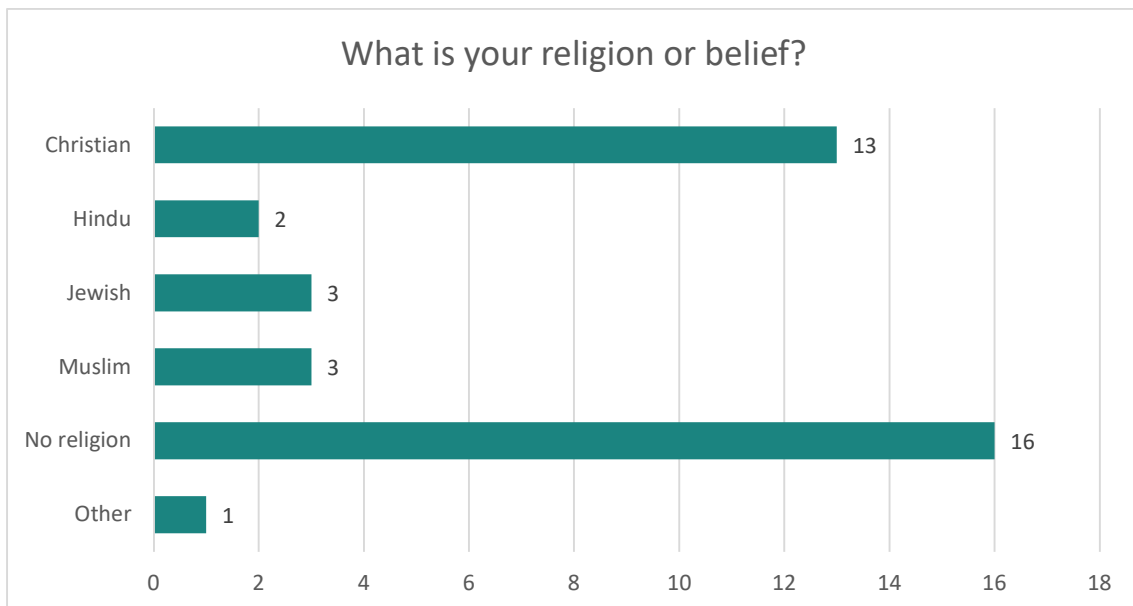
When asked for additional details, there were 18 responses. Six respondents chose 'prefer not to state', six selected mobility impairment and two selected physical impairment or hearing impairment. There was one response each for mental health or hidden impairment such as diabetes or epilepsy. No one chose multiple responses.

Ethnicity



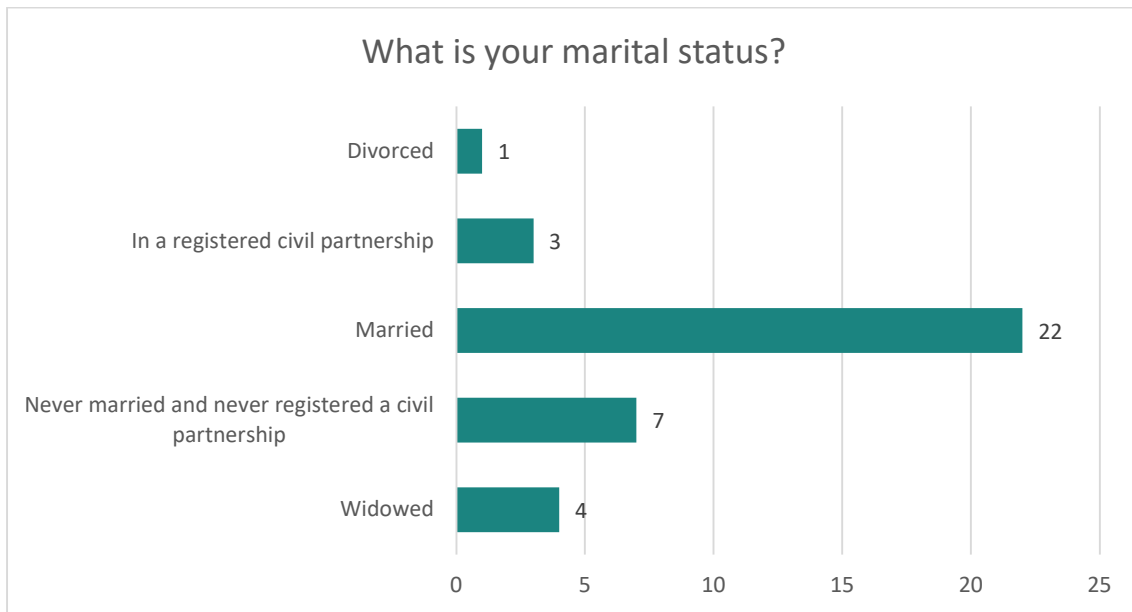
The majority of respondents were white (23 respondents). Six respondents chose 'prefer not to state' and 23 declined to complete the question.

Religion



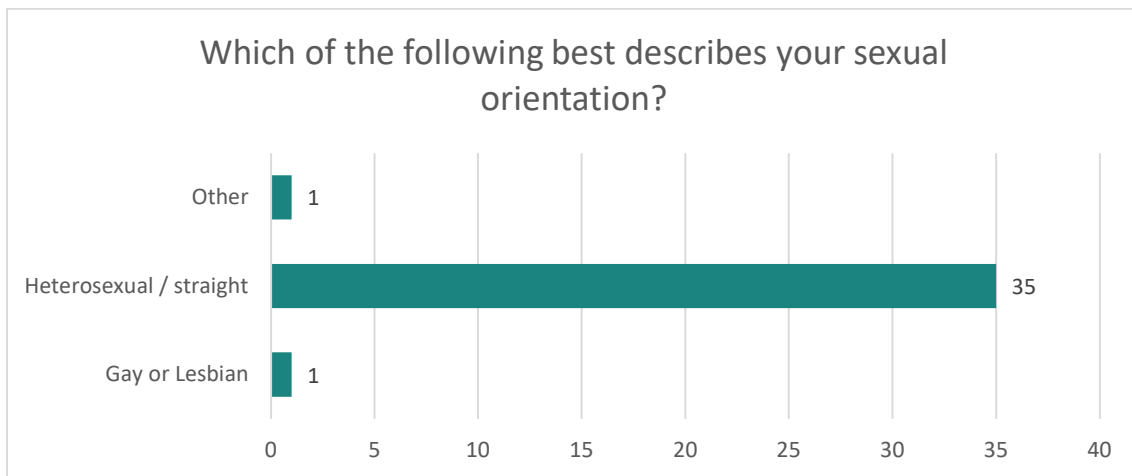
Most respondents specified their religion as Christian (13 responses) or no religion (16 responses). Seven respondents chose 'prefer not to state' and 24 declined to complete the question.

Marital Status



The majority of respondents were married, making up 22 responses. Seven respondents chose 'prefer not to state' and 25 declined to complete the question.

Sexual Orientation



35 respondents identified as heterosexual, with one respondent choosing gay or lesbian and one respondent choosing other. Six respondents chose 'prefer not to state' and 26 declined to complete the question.

Budget Promotion

Engagement activity	Audience	Dates
Promoted across Brent's Have Your Say platform, Citizens Lab	7,581 registered users	November 2024
Promoted in Brent Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector newsletter	1,200 subscribers from over 500 organisations	November 2024
Promoted in Brent Business newsletter	Over 9,000 subscribers	December 2024
Budget Special Brent Connects – Autumn round	A total of 51 residents in attendance	Wembley 21 November 2024 Harlesden 26 November 2024 Kingsbury & Kenton 2 December 2024 Kilburn 12 December 2024 Willesden 9 January 2025

Additional representation

The council has received further comments from Brent Mencap, a voluntary organisation in Brent working with people of all ages with a learning disability, as part of the consultation and is attached in Appendix L (ii).

A response to the comments raised is set out below.

Response from Adult Social Care

In relation to CHW01 (Offer reablement service to a wider range of customers), CHW02 (Expand the Shared Lives programme), CHW03 (Modernise Adult Social Care Approach to Assessment and Review) and CHW04 (Implementation of Telecare Service Charges) we acknowledge the challenges and concerns raised, particularly regarding the length of time it takes to get a response from Adult Social Care, safeguarding, and housing departments. We understand that the current processes for assessment are not always efficient, flexible, or responsive enough to meet the pressing needs of residents however we are continually working to improve our process and reduce waiting times.

We are committed to exploring how we can work better together to address these challenges and improve our services for customers. We recognise the importance of valuing and listening to the lived experiences and expertise of our users and the voluntary sector. As result we have implemented coproduction across the service and have an active coproduction advisory board. We will continue to engage in joint meetings and collaborative efforts to ensure that the needs of our residents are met in a timely and effective manner.

We want to assure you that all customers will be assessed, and support will be right-sized to ensure that no one who needs support will be left at risk. We are exploring digital solutions to complement service provision and are willing to work with you to explore best practices.

We also want to assure you that our aim is to meet customer needs more appropriately by using various methodologies, including digital solutions and community resources. We are committed to being innovative and working in co-production with our customers to explore best practices. We believe that by leveraging these approaches, we can provide better support and ensure that no one who needs assistance is left at risk.

In relation to the case example used we are willing to look into this matter to understand what has not worked well. We are committed to working with you in the spirit of co-production to develop our processes and improve outcomes for our customers. By collaborating and leveraging innovative approaches, we can ensure that the needs of our community are met more effectively.

Response from Children & Young People

In relation to CYP01 (Reduction in weekend use of the Gordon Brown Centre) and CYP02 (Reduction in discretionary spend), we continue to work with the VCS to supplement support for our looked after and care experienced young people. We have worked with Barnardo's and are currently working with Grandmentors (for tenancy support) and are about to commence work with the Family Rights Group to promote family networks for young people. The Council's endorsement of care as a protected characteristic in November 2024 will ensure care experienced young people's needs are prioritised. Advice and support will continue to be provided by a young person's Personal Advisor as set out in the Leaving Care Act 2000.