

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the South Gloucestershire Viewpoint newsletter.

Thank you to those of you who completed the November 2016 survey about the council budget and devolution. We received **794** completed surveys which is a response rate of **48%**.

The panel aims to be as representative of the population of South Gloucestershire as possible and where this is not achieved any over- or under-representations are balanced by weighting the data.

As the Viewpoint survey was run alongside the budget consultation, the results are included in one report which is available from the council budget page on: www.consultations.southglos.gov.uk.

The main findings of the Viewpoint survey are summarised below.

Council Tax Options

The majority of respondents (74%) were in favour of some level of council tax increase in 2017/18.

The highest proportion of respondents (45%) stated a preference for a 1.99% increase in council tax and a 2% adult social care levy in 2017/18.

Use of council services

Respondents were asked which council services they had used in the past year. The services which were most used by respondents were:

- ❖ Waste and recycling services: used by 89%
- ❖ Highways and roads: used by 72%
- ❖ Parks and open spaces: used by 66%

Satisfaction with council services

The services with the highest satisfaction ratings were:

- ❖ Parks and open spaces: 77% satisfied (7% dissatisfied)
- ❖ Libraries: 76% satisfied (9% dissatisfied)
- ❖ Waste and recycling services: 75% satisfied (12% dissatisfied).

Congratulations to our gift voucher winners:

Frances – Severn Beach,
Sarah – Yate,
Anne – Patchway,
Sarah – Chipping Sodbury and
Sue – Staple Hill.

Would you like to change your contact details?

If you would like to change your contact details, or no longer want to be part of the panel, please let us know by:

- ❖ Tel: 01454 868408
- ❖ Email: Viewpoint@southglos.gov.uk
- ❖ Write to: Freepost Plus RTCT-JXLE-EETT, South Gloucestershire Council, Viewpoint Panel, Consultation and Research, Civic Centre, High Street, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 9TR

Tell a friend

Do you know someone who lives in South Gloucestershire and would be interested in becoming a member of the Viewpoint panel?

We are currently looking for new members who are under 40 years of age.

Have your say

There are a variety of consultations on the consultation pages which may interest you. Visit:

www.consultations.southglos.gov.uk

The services with the highest dissatisfaction ratings were:

- ❖ Local bus services: 31% dissatisfied (50% satisfied)
- ❖ Planning: 30% dissatisfied (26% satisfied)

Level of agreement with core activities

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the council's core service areas. The three core activities with the highest support were: maintaining safe and clean communities (89%), safeguarding vulnerable children and adults (79%) and delivering jobs, homes and infrastructure (72%).

Perceptions of the council and local area

Overall, 81% of respondents were satisfied with South Gloucestershire as a place to live.

When asked if they felt that South Gloucestershire has become a better place to live, become worse or stayed the same, 65% of respondents felt that it had stayed the same with 8% stating it had improved and 27% saying it had got worse.

Respondents were then asked how satisfied they are with the way that South Gloucestershire Council runs things, 58% of those responding stated that they were either very satisfied or quite satisfied.

Forty-two percent of respondents agreed that the council keeps them informed about the services it provides.

Forty percent of respondents agreed that the council keeps them informed about proposals for change.

Thirty-eight percent of respondents stated that they felt that the council acted on the concerns of local residents either a great deal or a fair amount.

Twenty percent of respondents agreed they have the ability to influence local decisions.

What was the outcome?

The 2017/18 South Gloucestershire Council Budget was agreed at a meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 15 February.

A revenue budget of £193.25 million was set, with an increase in the council-controlled element of Council Tax. An increase of 4.99 per cent is made up of a 1.99 per cent general increase plus a further 3 per cent specifically ring fenced to adult social care to help meet the demographic and other service pressures.

The increase is designed to help protect council services as funding from central government is reduced. It means that the average charge for a Band D property for the South Gloucestershire Council element of the total Council Tax will be £1,359.62*.

* Total Council Tax payable for some residents will rise slightly above the average 4.99 per cent and others will be slightly below the average. This is because of special expenses. In addition there are increased precepts from the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire Authority and most of the 47 Town and Parish Councils.

For more information visit www.southglos.gov.uk/newsroom.

Thank you for being part of the Viewpoint panel.