

# Scarborough Borough Council

## Budget Consultation 2019/20

No of responses received

117

**A Council Tax increase of 2.99% is proposed for 2019/20. This, together with an increase in the tax base, will generate an additional £261,000 per year to fund and help maintain Council services. Do you agree that the Council should increase Council Tax for 2019/20: (please tick one box only)**

	No.	%
Yes	72	62.6%
No	43	37.4%
	115	1

**You have said that the Council should not increase its share of Council Tax by 2.99%, do you have any suggestions as to where the resulting £261,000 budget shortfall should be funded from?**

Not at this moment

Some increase is necessary but there should be a more balanced look at services paid for and received. There are now an increasing number of properties occupied by one or two people due to the aging population, the post war baby boomers, this demographic are now all pensioners and continual indiscriminate increases will result in real term hardships. Therefore as general taxes increase I would like to see some discount for pensioner properties occupied by two people.

Cut councillors expenses and manage funds carefully. Look at trips abroad ie council leader and four others trip to France.

Reduce the number of Cllrs. Reduce the pay of the CE. Stop paying £100k for a pointless bike race (that's nearly have the saving). the people do not benefit from the bike race maybe only a couple of business do, to most people the bike race is a inconvenience blocking roads.

More efficiency needed, less waste in offices.

Less management

This is not my job. How about using some of motorists speeding fines from the police?

Scrutinize departmental spending

Reduce allowances for elected councillors by 50%.

Should be better managed

Yes. The proposed saving of £29,000 in back office costs under the Corporate Modernisation Programme seems very low, and would equate to a saving of only 1 or 2 posts. What percentage of staff costs does this saving represent? Has SBC looked at all Council staff costs, from the perspective of Zero Based Budgeting? If not, all business managers could be tasked with setting out what activities are core and essential, and which are more discretionary. Is the staffing profile the most effective for maintaining customer service to citizens and also to maximise revenue where possible. Has the Corporate Modernisation Programme been externally reviewed to ensure it is robust enough and on track to deliver?

**You have said that the Council should not increase its share of Council Tax by 2.99%, do you have any suggestions as to where the resulting £261,000 budget shortfall should be funded from?**

An increase in the car park fees, effective utilisation of parking enforcement, e.g. are blue badges been used by the owner, if not increase the fines. Why are caravans allowed to park on side roads for same expense as a car Reduce the number of councillors Increase cost of residents car pass

Surely all the new housing will be generating more council tax as their are more properties to collect from? The British human is taxed until there is nothing left to enjoy life with, by continually increasing taxes it will not give you all the answers. The council needs to find more savings within the town hall, surely you can share roles with nycc, having a 3 tiered local government is excessive in the 21st century.

The revenue should be partly funded by council tax increase but not 2.99% I suggest 1.5%

I suggest that the council does not pay for the demolition of the futurist. Normal practice is that the purchaser pays for all demolition and clearing. This i am sure would save the council more than the £261,000 that needs to be saved.

The government should provide additional funding

I believe it should come from central government

There must be more ways than council tax

We are receiving so little already.

get rid of the office of Lord Mayor and reduce council spending on things like the demolishing of the Futurist the subsidies spent on OAT and the SJT

Doing away with Park & Ride buses might be one way to make savings.

yes save money by getting rid of some senior officers who must have less work to do due to closing so many of our towns attractions and failing to run whats left in profit.

I think that it may be wasted if merely increased, but a proper agenda needs to be in place, therefore, before it is actually raised.

You can not keep taking money from the residents of the Borough when we are not receiving any additional police services, nhs services, lack of wage increase, electric/gas rises etc etc. Perhaps we should rethink how much money we give out to people on benefits, especially the people who are entering this country and being given everything on a plate!

**FAMILIES ARE ALREADY STRUGGLE WITH BILLS**

Bedroom Tax on hotels etc say £1 per night. £max 3 per stay.

Yes do not pay the exiting CEO a golden large handshake Also stop all the charity shops having no rates to pay Review all the perks the council officials appear to be enjoying

Reduce the huge cost of the old town hall building

cost savings within the council - get rid of the role of mayor and his funded car. Reduce councillor expenditure and travel expenses. Reduce subsidised meals and other council perks

Get back the money owed from companies money was loan to to eg benchmark.

**You have said that the Council should not increase its share of Council Tax by 2.99%, do you have any suggestions as to where the resulting £261,000 budget shortfall should be funded from?**

Stop wasting public money

Without seeing the full accounts for the Council, this is a nonsense question. One cannot provide a sensible response without the full facts. However perhaps the council should not have supported the DBID and save £33k. Why are the council paying for text reminders, if someone wants this service they should pay. It is proposed to invest 22k to attract people to the Peasholm park venue but are failing to obtain the budgeted rental income for Peasholm café, so where is the return on investment?

Maybe should've thought about not paying millions to demolish the Futurist

Don't waste money on bids for the Tour de Yorkshire

That is sent not the question. Council should budget within their means. I would accept a cpi rate increase but no more until Brexit has been resolved.

I am not saying there shouldn't be an increase, what I am saying is I don't think it should be above the rate of inflation. I am aware that 2.99% is the maximum you can raise it without undertaking a local referendum on the proposed increase under Central Government guidelines but nevertheless family incomes in the Borough are not particularly high and therefore any increase above inflation is likely to impact on local residents and their spending power within the Borough. The Council has taken the decisions to close Manor Road nursery/stop growing its own plants and provide work for people with learning difficulties, plus selling plants to residents etc and outsource plants at a cost of £80k and no doubt rising each year, spend an excessive amount of money having the Futurist demolished rather than allowing an external company/charity to take it over and sets large capital costs for vehicle replacement and ongoing maintenance costs rather than entering into a leasing arrangement as many companies etc now prefer. In addition, whilst I am aware the area is earmarked for development the former outdoor swimming pool continues to remain an eyesore with no short term leasing arrangement. If a statue of a cobbler is deemed appropriate for Filey, surely any ongoing costs should be borne by Filey Town Council as it is the residents and visitors to Filey who will benefit not the residents in the rest of the Borough,

Call in debts from Alpepare, dont buy buildings you cant afford (st nic), make better decisions in 2019 im in band E 3 people live in my house, I pay enough

**Do you have any comments or feedback on the proposals set out within the budget report?**

The increase should be used to fund improvements for the town and not wasted on high wage increase.

Once again the council is targeting public convenience closures. This is short sighted as government are already talk about a law that makes the provisions of toilets a compulsory obligation. Lose or sale of facilities will not be accepted and the council will have to reverse its decision and rebuild and replace. Are you aware that there is now no toilet provision between Newcastle and Scarborough if I was a visitor I would go elsewhere Reduction in funding for sports facilities is also short sighted and counterproductive as Scarborough has a low income / unhealthy population and cheap accessibility sports facilities are an essential contribution to support these members of our community and reducing strain on town and NHS resources

No

No

Less projects needed in Scarborough. No money is spent in Whitby so why should rate payers in Whitby pay for projects and repairs etc in Scarbrough.

In order to protect the Town against visible decline in looks and facilities it ought to be more.

Not at the moment

Whitby is one of the most expensive council tax areas in the country. Why is that? Costs here are shocking ie car parking etc

none

Yes plenty but not enough room here. However do you actually know where Filey is??????

Revenue raising seems to focus on existing streams of revenue. Are there any new ventures, within the remit of the Council's function, to increase revenue? I appreciate that this may have been looked at before, but worth considering.

increase a bit more where you can

It is unfortunate but understandable that council tax has to rise as I am sure you are aware we are the low wage capital of Britain. I would like to see the council lobby the government for more money on this basis. If council tax is to rise it is important that the council then invests properly in, and supports the motion it just agreed, that there is a climate emergency. I would also like to see more tax breaks and support for local business. I am concerned that, with the exception of the recent acknowledgment of the climate crisis, the council is making short term, cost cutting decisions (eg the futurist and manor road) which are adding to a spiral of decline and ultimately selling this wonderful town short. Thanks

I'm not clear as to how replacing a fuel tank will increase fuel efficiency and have I read it correctly you have all been given iPads. Presumably this increased your efficiency how was this measured. If it didn't people should pay for their own iPads.

**Do you have any comments or feedback on the proposals set out within the budget report?**

There is no mention of the appointment of a sustainability officer to implement the council's 'climate emergency' policy, as agreed by full council on 7/1/19. This is no doubt because the draft budget was formulated before this vote was taken. I believe this needs to be included in the budget as a priority. It should be noted that any costs could potentially be offset by savings, for example in the area of energy efficiency savings; there could also be revenue to be made from investing in green energy projects, such as off-shore wind power, which would help the council meet unavoidable budgetary constraints. All investment decisions should be made with due consideration to the climate change impact of the policy, for example, to support public transport/walking/cycling, rather than giving discounts for short-stay parking, which encourages car use for short journeys.

Subject to the monies being spent wisely and appropriately to maximize the benefits for all involved, and subject to public audit.

In order to implement actions to start the long and complex task of mitigating the effects of the climate emergency recognised by SBC last Monday, there needs to be a proportion of the budget committed to anti climate change measures e.g. limitations on diesel and petrol consumption, promotion of renewable energy generation amongst many others.

The reports covers the essentials, continue to invest commercially should see rewards and benefits in the future. I'm

2% would be better

Totally reject the closing down of more toilet facilities Such facilities should be free (see Ryedale Councils policy on toilet facilities) The market hall is too cold, needs some heating, look at the possibility of fixing solar panels on the roof to power warm air heating in the hall

The amount of rise should be the same amount to all bands equally

no. I really do not think it would make any difference whatever comments anyone made.

No

No - it all makes sense.

As opportunities to cut services becomes less, or councilor's will need to welcome the support of revenue income more, either by Tax increases, or commercial interests i.e. charging for more, services to bring in extra capital.

I see no mention of mitigating the climate emergency, although a motion was just passed to this effect. Will you be making any changes to take this into account?

None

yes

No opinion.

you have put parking permits up by 75%and yet you allow the sbc lorrys to be used for the benefit of staff

No

Not at this time.

**Do you have any comments or feedback on the proposals set out within the budget report?**

While appreciating the huge cuts in funding under the present Government, in these times of stagnant wages Council Tax should not rise any more than 2.99%

2.9% is too high. I would find this amount difficult to pay, and I am only one in....how many?.

To many to comment on and unfortunately my comments, even though you are asking, won't make any difference anyway.

no

No

Start 8t again

stop throwing money away on subsidising the OAT & SJT and the development of the Futurist site

the council must end all financial subsidies, to protect the ratepayers from further unwarranted taxation .

N/A

need to increase more as services are suffering

Having read the report put before the Council, it would appear that the business rate changes will impact on the income to the Council, however, there doesn't appear to be any reference made to the economic climate and continued increase of online shopping with the resultant possible loss of stores, particularly if it involves one of the larger stores. (Note: There is already a generally acknowledged view among some residents that Scarborough, in particular, is loosing its appeal as a shopping destination as there has been a steady increase in the number of charity shops and 'cheap' shops) Whilst I appreciate the Council needs to balance its books and possibly add to its reserves the report seems to be justifying the increase by 2.99% rather than saying this increase is necessary.

SBC needs to increase council tax further than the proposal. Too much is being cut.

Only that as costs will increase, and that we have no idea what the outcome of any negotiations with the EU. Nor do we, so far, know of any financial implications from that source. 2.99% is an increase that can be absorbed.

No

**Do you have any comments or feedback on the proposals set out within the budget report?**

Unfortunately you don't have much choice. You can't fiddle your income like some of the rich and famous do with offshore accounts . You can only use what you are given, just like me with my pension. I can afford a £2,000 pound cruise but not a £6, 000, and that's what you do. You live within your means, and the Council has to do the same. Cut out the frivolous and pay for the necessary but please no more toilet closures or passing on the Parish Councils this burdon because it means their money too is being depleted. The one at RHB is costing a fortune to run and maintain . Simply because it is a holiday destination and its use is above normal, This is obviously why the Council wanted to get rid of it. Instead of accepting responsibility for this cost they decided to off load it on to the poor Parish council !. This is not the way to safe money, Its like the Cinder track which for years has been neglected, some idiot has had the idea to turn it into a super race track for bikes linstead of allowing and helping it to become a super Bridleway for walkers who walk it in their thousands every week. Everyone of these walkers and visitors some who may only walk a short distance all spend money in the vicinity. So this amenity is well worth looking after and maintaining as it brings in thousands of pounds every year to the area. So helping the local population to pay their taxes. Some people come and stay just for the chance to walk on the line with their dogs as its nice and level with glorious views and they don't want high speed bikes racing past, who never spend money as they never stop anywhere. Spend on things which bring in money and not just make money like C/Ps. Investing in free C/Ps also is a great way to bring visitirs in ,these things all pay for themselves in an indirect way. But no one listens to common sense , the easiest way is not always the best way. I climb mountains and the easiest way is not always the best, the har dest way is often the most rewarding

Investment in Whitby looks a bit thin.

one off costs Olivers Mount ?? is it worth it Rental income to keep tenant is there a guarentee they will stay beyond cheap period?

No

**Do you have any other suggestions or comments that you would like to be considered within the budget setting process?**

NO

Thank about the residents Think tourism What do these groups need most Shelter, food, basic facilities, toilets. Information

No

Reduce the number of Cllrs. Reduce the pay of the CE. Stop paying £100k for a pointless bike race (that's nearly have the saving). the people do not benefit from the bike race maybe only a couple of business do, to most people the bike race is a inconvenience blocking roads.

Well, it would be nice if ALL the residents of Filey benefitted from full Council services anyway. Those on incomplete housing developments pay in full for part services!

A lack of hedge trimming and grass cutting last year led to the town looking unkempt prior to the heatwave. Short term spending that has a positive impact on locals and visitors, just for the sake of cutting some grass!

Not at the moment

No

Let the residents have more say

I have said everything I wanted to.

Would be interesting to know just how much the council receives in council tax, as a tax payer all I see is bin collections ,surely there is savings here. Why not make everyone take there rubbish to skips save on that

Given the chronic shortage of social housing and affordable rental stock in the borough, I would like to see avenues explored for raising revenue from second-home owners who leave their properties vacant for large parts of the year. In Filey in particular, there are whole streets that are virtually unoccupied through the winter while renters pay over-the-odds for sub-standard accommodation in the same town. I note that council tax discounts for second homes are already set at a low level, but perhaps this should be lowered to 0% and those owners charged an additional levy to be put into social housing. I realise the council is no longer involved in residential property letting, but it should be working with (and funding?) social housing providers to address the problem, for example by enabling unused commercial space (above shops etc) to be used for housing. If the council directly rented out this space, it would gain a revenue stream as well as regenerating town centres, which would be good for everyone.

As before.

A significant proportion of the budget needs to be committed to climate change amelioration as an emergency has been declared.

No

No just that the council are spending money on the demolition that could have been saved had the purchaser paid .

No

As opportunities to cut services becomes less, or councilor's will need to welcome the support of revenue income more, either by Tax increases, or commercial interests i.e. charging for more, services to bring in extra capital.

**Do you have any other suggestions or comments that you would like to be considered within the budget setting process?**

As opportunities to cut services becomes less, or councilor's will need to welcome the support of revenue income more, either by Tax increases, or commercial interests i.e. charging for more, services to bring in extra capital.

Mitigation of climate emergency. Reducing or eliminating the grass cutting and leaf blowing and other powered vehicle usage. Redeployment of any workers into money raising by fining traffic offenders and plastic litterers etc. Reuse of any money saved to move to renewable energy sources.

No

not enough attention being paid to cost cutting within the actual council and its officers and external fees to consultants

No opinion.

Budgets must not be cut or budgets not grown on the basis of funding be available via the DBID. DBID should be used by SBC minimally.

Not at the moment.

Some curtailing of unnecessary expenditure would reduce the need for so much spending.

no

no

Look at cost effective use of council staff and the management

reduce the number of councillors

N/A

Stop wasting money on things that are not an issue like knocking buildings down for no reason make parking cheaper and easier.

Stop ripping off the residents

As mentioned previously there are certain points which should be addressed like whether long term leasing agreements are better than buying and maintaining the Councils own vehicles and whether short term leasing of vacant land within the Councils ownership are viable propositions. Although the improvement to the main market hall is to be welcomed, little, if anything, has been done to improve the market vaults experience and therefore the financial potential isn't being realised, something the budgeting proposals appear to overlook

Increase council tax further.

As a person aged in his eighties and living alone i do find that i have to be careful of expenditure. My overall concern has to do with council tax, obviously, and as i am reciept of a discount it would help such as i if that discount was slightly higher?

The Open Air Theater does not reach its full potential. If you reduced the entrance fee for local productions and smaller named artists it could be open far more than it is, and this would help to pay maintenance bills. It is said that the new swimming pool has run into financial difficulties. Is it any wonder at the prices they charge. Visitors may go once but never again as the cost is too high. Certainly local people don't go, they can't afford. so the place becomes a white elephant. All we wanted was a simple swimming pool we could use everyday not just once a year. Unfortunately the one on Seamer road is like a dungeon the lack of windows , they are so high. When is someone going to give ordinary people what they want ? We live here as well as visitors.

**Do you have any other suggestions or comments that you would like to be considered within the budget setting process?**

I would like the council to speed up. The old council office in Whitby's Skinner Street has been empty for 20 months. that means lost rent and rates to the council and a large, empty double-fronted unit on what should be a busy shopping street. A commercial owner would never have let a sale drag on that long and would have explored a temporary tenant pending sale. there is no sense of urgency because it is public money.

town centre re-generation

No

Money allocated for Sustainability officer. Council has declared a climate emergency and this needs to be followed up on and acted upon