

Budget 2021/22

Have your say



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Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

As we continue our efforts to defeat COVID-19, we must also keep an eye on the future. Our proposed budget for next year will see further investment made in Gloucestershire's future, with more support for children and young people, investment to deliver our zero carbon commitments, and infrastructure to support future homes and jobs. I am proud we are doing that whilst still delivering one of the lowest council tax levels of any county council in England.

Investment of almost £10 million next year will go towards protecting the county's vulnerable children, supporting the ongoing progress and improvements recognised by Ofsted Inspectors last month.

We are also setting aside more than £65 million of investment for schools and other children's facilities in 2021/22, bringing total expected capital investment to around £150 million by 2023.

A further £67 million in 2021/22 has been set aside for highways. This includes part of the council's commitment to invest £150m on the county's roads over five years. We are also ear marking £249 million for the much needed M5 Junction 10 Improvement Scheme.

Despite this extra investment, we still expects to have one of the lowest council tax levels of any county council.

We continue to challenge ourselves to work more efficiently and effectively and as a result have identified £7.6 million of savings for next year, helping to meet increased demand and costs.

The draft budget proposes to raise in the region of £6m to help fund services through a 1.99% increase in council tax. We are also proposing to apply the national social care precept at 2.76% to raise an additional £8.6m to support the thousands of vulnerable adults we work with each year. In total these changes result in about a £5 monthly increase for the average Band D taxpayer.

A lot of thought and effort has gone into developing spending plans for the year ahead that both support today but also invest in the county's tomorrow.

We now want to know what you think. Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey.

For full details of our budget proposal visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/budget2021-22

To make sure your views are included as part of the council's decision making process, please make sure you complete the survey no later than 5pm 15 January 2021.



A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'M Hawthorne'.

Mark Hawthorne
Leader of the Council

Our priorities

We have based our spending plans on where we can have the biggest impact on the lives of people in the county. We do this by carefully listening to local people and using all the information we have available to us.

Our budget proposals for 2021/22 are based on the following priorities:

- Public health
- Supporting vulnerable adults
- Protecting vulnerable children
- Climate change
- Fire and Rescue
- Digital services
- Delivery of jobs, homes and infrastructure

Question 1:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with our budget priorities

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Question 2:

Would you like to give us any feedback on the priorities in question 1 or on any specific areas you feel we should spend the money on, which aren't already listed?

Where does our funding come from?

We raise funds to deliver services via council tax, grant funding from the government and other income opportunities. To ensure we can deliver on our spending plans for the year ahead we are proposing to increase council tax by 1.99%.

We are also planning to apply the national Adult Social Care Levy of 2.76% to raise an additional £8.65m.

In total these changes would result in a monthly increase of about £5 for the average Band D taxpayer.

How our budget will be broken down

Our overall draft budget is £480.5m

Adults • £155.1 million

- Supporting more people to live independently in the community
- Working with the NHS to better support people at risk of crisis or in need of urgent support, bring about timelier discharges from hospital and reduce admissions and readmissions
- Early intervention and prevention
- Enabling people with a learning disability to live more inclusive and independent lives in the community improving quality of life and ensuring each person has a circle of support around them.

Prevention and wellbeing • £35.3 million

- Address health inequalities through the Covid-19 BAME Task Group
- Deliver mandated functions where they have not been paused by NHS England due to COVID-19
- NHS Health Checks, Sexual Health, National Child Measurement Programme, Health Protection, Core Offer to the CCG & Health Visiting service
- Support mental health and wellbeing through the COVID-19 Mental Health & Wellbeing Cell; working with partners to ensure support is available to people, especially those in vulnerable circumstances.

Childrens services • £125.9 million

- Deliver a robust early help offer
- Minimise disruption to young people by increasing local placements, enabling them to stay connected to their families and communities
- Develop placement and support services in the county to meet the needs of children and young people with additional needs, so where possible they can stay at home
- Increase in-house fostering provision by 100 new households over the next three years
- Develop emergency provision to meet current needs, including the Out Of Hours and PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence) placements
- Improve services for children with special education needs and additional needs, by refocussing resources and services to provide earlier intervention, ensuring support is available at the right time.

Economy, Environment and infrastructure

£75.2 million

- Lead development of the Climate Change Strategy and action plan
- Deliver walking and cycling initiatives to maximise use including School Streets
- Expand digital and virtual services and activities available through Libraries and the Innovation Lab
- Deliver major active travel schemes to facilitate the use of cycling when accessing key services and employment opportunities
- Continue to support apprentices and the growth of construction skills through the delivery of the Highways Skills Academy
- Complete the delivery of the £150m highway improvements pledge
- Continue to maintain and operate the highway and Public Rights of Way networks effectively and efficiently
- Deliver major transport projects to enable economic growth.

Community safety • £20.0 million

- Recruit, retain and deliver a workforce that reflects the communities it serves and develop an inclusive culture which supports everyone to do their best
- Modernise our response, prevention and protection approaches for the 21st century
- Deliver more prevention work based on local needs and risks
- Enforce fire safety
- Endeavour to be the partner of choice. Working with others to shape our places, delivering increasing value for money and exemplifying effective joint working to meet local and national risks efficiently.

Corporate resources • £34.6 million

- Continue delivery of our Worksmarter Digital Programme
- Develop our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- Deliver £150k savings
- Recruit and develop Paralegals and Legal Assistants through our 'Grow our Own' programme.

The balance of £34.4m covers technical and countywide costs such as historic borrowing for road schemes and schools, insurance and past service pension costs.

Your details

As a public body, we have a duty to take into account the impact of our decisions on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010:

To help us make sure that we have taken account of views from all of these groups, we would be grateful if you would answer the questions below.

All of the questions are entirely optional, but we can confirm that any information that you provide will be held in confidence and in line with the requirements of the Data Protection regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018.

What is your age?

- Under 25 25 to 34 35 to 44 45 to 54
 55 to 64 65 to 74 75 or over Prefer not to say

What is your gender?

- Male Female Other Prefer not to say

Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

- Heterosexual or Straight Gay or Lesbian Bisexual
 Other Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Your details continued ...

What is your ethnic group?

- White Mixed or multiple ethnic groups Asian or Asian British
 Black, African, Caribbean or Black British Any other ethnic group
 Prefer not to say

What is your religion?

- No religion Christian (all denominations) Buddhist Hindu
 Jewish Muslim Sikh Any other religion Prefer not to say

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please return this form to:
Communications Team, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TG

