

Budget consultation survey questionnaire



Introduction

Cornwall Council plays a huge part in many people's lives – ensuring children and young people have the best start in life, protecting vulnerable people, maintaining a safe road system and helping to create a thriving economy.

Every year, we spend over a billion pounds providing public services that you, your family and friends use every day.

However, Cornwall faces some big challenges. Our population is growing, people are generally living longer and the type of services that people need is changing. The cost of living is going up and as things become more expensive we also have higher costs.

Over the last ten years, as Government funding to the Council reduced sharply, we have changed the way we work to make over £380 million of savings. We've been able to keep council tax rates in Cornwall below the national average and amongst the lowest in the South West of England. We've done this while protecting the services that people have told us are most important – such as providing care for the elderly, more homes and jobs for local people, and keeping Cornwall's roads in good repair. We've only been able to do this by working with you - our residents and local communities.

We are proud of our record of devolving and preserving services. Other local authorities have cut services such as libraries - we have kept most libraries open despite budgets being more than halved, by working tirelessly with local community groups, town and parish councils.

All assumptions have been made against an economic picture that remains uncertain, with a one rather than four-year financial settlement announced from Government for next year. Pressures on council budgets are still growing, with more older people and children than ever before needing the social care we provide.

So the challenge remains – our plans already include measures to make a further £44 million in savings over the next four year period, but there is still a significant budget gap, rising to £15.2 million by 2023 / 24, which will require further savings to be made. So, overall, we need to reduce our spending by £59 million to ensure our budget remains balanced.

We plan to meet the challenge by proposing the following as part of our draft budget and business plan for 2020/21:

- Continuing to drive **efficiency savings** and look at how services can be delivered differently to help us make savings by working differently, making efficiencies, and generating extra income from chargeable services such as licensing, planning or car parks. This will help us keep service reductions to a minimum.
- **Increasing council tax** to help cover the costs of increasing demand and reduce the need to make service reductions. We are proposing to increase council tax by the maximum increase we are allowed by Government without having to hold a referendum (currently 1.99%).
- Applying the **Government's 2% special levy for adult social care**, which allows local authorities to raise additional council tax to be used exclusively for the funding of services for vulnerable adults.
- Making investments that help deliver our priorities while **generating income** to help support our services.
- Continuing to **lobby central Government** for the funding, powers and flexibility to secure Cornwall's future.

We also continue to invest in Cornwall's future and the services people have told us matter most. We're planning to:

- Invest an extra £20 million in caring for vulnerable older people next year.
- Increase funding for children, schools and families in Cornwall by a further £5.6 million next year.
- Invest in a new waste service to help people cut down on their plastic and recycle more.
- Invest in providing good quality homes for local people.
- Invest an extra £5.9 million next year into projects that support economic growth, including £1.2 million for improved bus services.
- Invest £16 million in tackling the climate emergency and making Cornwall carbon neutral by 2030, including by starting an 8,000 hectare Forest for Cornwall and upgrading 86 of the most energy inefficient homes.

We would like to hear your views on our draft budget and get an understanding of your priorities, needs and aspirations for our services and your community.

Please return your completed survey by 29 January 2020

Who is responding?

In which role(s) are you responding to this survey - please tick all that apply.

- I am a Cornwall resident
- I represent / own a local business
- I represent a voluntary and community services (VCS) organisation
- I represent another stakeholder e.g. parish council, health, police etc.
- I am an employee of Cornwall Council
- Other (please specify):

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide further details below. If you are responding as an individual, please leave blank.

Name:

Organisation:

Our Priorities for Cornwall

Our draft budget reflects Cornwall Council's priorities, values and aims, which are based on what people have told us matters most to them.

“ We will work with the people of Cornwall and use our resources wisely to protect and enhance our unique environment, create more homes and jobs for our residents, and ensure everyone can live well and safely together. ”

Our values

- ✔ **We listen:** we will work with the people of Cornwall
- ✔ **We are responsible:** we will use resources wisely
- ✔ **We act in the best interests of Cornwall:** putting people first

Our aims

- ✔ **Ensure** everyone can live well and safely together
- ✔ **Create** more homes and jobs for residents
- ✔ **Protect** and enhance the environment

Healthy Cornwall

- ✔ Better health for everyone
- ✔ Protect and improve the lives of vulnerable adults
- ✔ Provide care for hospital leavers (less time in hospital)
- ✔ Increase the aspirations for our young people
- ✔ Children are healthy, safe and protected from harm
- ✔ Fewer children living in poverty

Homes for Cornwall

- ✔ Provide 1,000 homes through the Council
- ✔ Raise standards of privately rented homes
- ✔ Bring empty properties back into use
- ✔ Support Land Trusts and other providers to deliver homes
- ✔ Lobby to protect residents impacted by welfare reform
- ✔ Fewer people living in fuel poverty

Green and prosperous Cornwall

- ✔ Use Council land to create jobs
- ✔ Invest in skills required by employers
- ✔ More apprenticeships
- ✔ Pay the Living Wage Foundation living wage
- ✔ Reduce waste by increasing reuse and recycling
- ✔ Support the development of renewable energy and environmental growth
- ✔ Aspiring to a clean Cornwall that residents and visitors are proud of

Connecting Cornwall

- ✔ Improve sea, road, rail, air and bus networks
- ✔ Link bus and rail timetables, ferries and the airport
- ✔ Give communities more influence to improve roads
- ✔ Enhance broadband and mobile connectivity

Democratic Cornwall

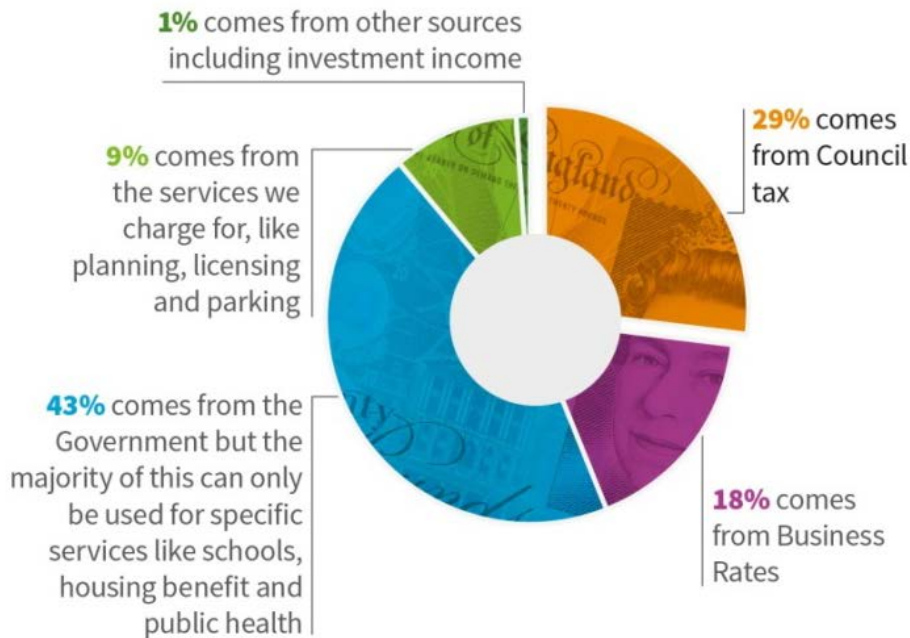
- ✔ Communicate better with our communities
- ✔ Lobby for fair funding
- ✔ To seek further devolution from Whitehall to Cornwall and within the Duchy
- ✔ Make Cornwall Brexit ready
- ✔ Strengthen local democracy, local decision making and local service delivery

Reflecting on our priorities for Cornwall, what one thing do you think the Council should improve?

Where the Council budget comes from

As one of the largest unitary councils in the country, Cornwall Council has a budget of around £1 billion a year. We use the budget to provide services to more than half a million residents and over five million visitors a year.

We don't get all the money from council tax



How we spend money across the Council

We're working hard to make Cornwall a great place to live, work and do business, and to deliver value for money for our residents.

For every £100 we receive to fund services, we spend:



caring for adults who need our help



helping children and young people get the best start in life they can



on housing benefit for people on low incomes, helping to prevent homelessness



planning and building new affordable homes for local people, investing in Cornwall's economic growth, major road schemes, schools and buildings



collecting rubbish and recycling, and looking after our countryside, parks and beaches



fixing and maintaining roads, street lighting, and on public transport



running the Council and holding elections



on fire and rescue services, fighting and preventing fires and keeping our communities safer



helping people keep well and stay healthy



on online services to improve customer access and offer different ways for residents to contact us



to run libraries, registration services and maintaining trading standards

Which of these Cornwall Council services have you or your family used in the past year? (Please tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waste collection | <input type="checkbox"/> Services & support for older people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling services | <input type="checkbox"/> Services & support for vulnerable adults |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car parks, car parking permits | <input type="checkbox"/> Services & support for children and young people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roads, highways and pavements | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire, rescue and community safety services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports and leisure facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School transport | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks, beaches and open spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trading standards | <input type="checkbox"/> Public footpaths, cycle & bridleways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library & Information services | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration services (births, weddings) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning services | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing services | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Regulatory Support Services |

Do you feel the Council delivers value for money for the services you use?

(Please use the scale 1 – 10 below, if 1 is low and 10 is high)

- 1 Low value for money
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 High value for money

Do you have any suggestions about ways in which the Council can work differently with our partners, other organisations and with residents or communities in order to save money and improve services?

Council Tax and Draft Budget 2020/2021

We are working hard to maintain essential local services while keeping council tax down. We have already made £380 million of savings since 2010 and our budget proposals include plans to make a further £44 million of savings over the next four years to manage the rising costs and demand for our services. Our robust financial planning means we have a balanced budget for next year, but there is still a significant budget gap for subsequent years, rising to £15.2 million by 2023/24 which will require further savings to be made.

We are proposing to use the Government's 2% special levy for adult social care, which allows local authorities to raise additional council tax to be used exclusively for the funding of services for vulnerable adults.

Alongside this, we are proposing to increase council tax to help cover the costs of increasing demand and reduce the need to make service reductions in other areas. We are proposing to increase council tax by the maximum increase we are allowed by Government without having to hold a referendum (currently 1.99%).

Overall, for a band D property an increase of 1.99% would mean an increase of £1.17 per week / £60.93 a year. Most properties in Cornwall are in band B. For a band B property, our proposals would mean an increase of £0.91 per week / £47.39 a year.

These proposals would mean that levels of council tax in Cornwall remain below the national average and amongst the lowest in the South West. However, we know that paying these bills can be a challenge for some households and we propose to maintain Council Tax Support for people who have no income or a low income.

To what extent do you agree with our proposal to increase council tax by the maximum we are allowed by Government without having to hold a referendum (currently 1.99% unless increased by a future Government)?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

What council tax increase would you be prepared to pay to fund Council services (in addition to the 2% special levy for adult social care)?

(Increases below are for a band B property)

- None – an additional £0.46 per week / £23.75 a year
- 1% - an additional £0.69 per week / £35.63 a year
- 2% - an additional £0.91 per week / £47.39 a year
- 3% - an additional £1.14 per week / £59.39 a year
- Above 3%

If you have answered 'None' or '1%' in the question above, please let us know for which service(s) you think we should reduce the funding?

Do you have any comments about our draft budget proposals?

About You

You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you do.

Cornwall Council is committed to ensuring that our services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all the community. For us to check we are providing fair and effective services, we would be grateful if you would answer the questions below.

Please enter your postcode

How do you describe your sex/gender?

- Female
- Male
- Intersex
- Gender fluid
- Non-binary
- Other

Is your gender identity the same as the sex you were assigned at birth?

- Yes
- No

Which age group are you?

- 10 – 19
- 20 – 29
- 30 – 39
- 40 – 49
- 50 – 59
- 60 – 69
- 70 – 79
- 80 – 89
- 90+

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes
- No

If you have answered 'yes', please select the definition/s from the list below that best describes your impairment:

- Learning disability / difficulty
- Long standing illness or health
- Mental health condition
- Physical or mobility impairment
- Sensory Impairment
- Other condition (cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy), pl

Do you give help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of a long-term physical or mental health or disability, or problems related to old age (do not count anything you do as part of paid employment).

- Yes
- No

Do you consider your sexual orientation to be:

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay man
- Heterosexual / Straight
- Lesbian / Gay woman
- Pansexual

How do you describe you religion or belief (if any)?

- Buddhist
- Christian (includes Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Chri
- Hindu
- Humanist
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Pagan
- Sikh
- None

How do you describe your ethnic origin?

Please read carefully before selecting the group that you feel most closely reflects your background.

- Asian or Asian British
- Black or Black British
- Cornish
- Mixed (e.g. White and Asian)
- Other Ethnic Group
- White (e.g. British, Scottish)

Thank you for taking part in our survey, you may be interested in taking part in our residents' panel and receiving more information about Cornwall Council

If you would like to take part in our online resident's panel, please tick the box below and give us your email address

If you would like to receive our e-newsletter, please tick the box below and give us your email address

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey.

We will use what you and other people tell us to help inform and shape our draft budget that Cabinet and Full Council consider in February 2020.

You can find out more about Cornwall Council and the budget consultation at **www.cornwall.gov.uk/budget2019**

You can follow us on Facebook @forCornwall and on Twitter @CornwallCouncil

Please return your completed survey by 29 January 2020 to:
Budget consultation, Room 4S, County Hall, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

Cornwall Council, New County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY
or telephone: 0300 1234 100
email: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

www.cornwall.gov.uk