



Easy
Read



Our draft budget

2024 to 2025



Easy Read



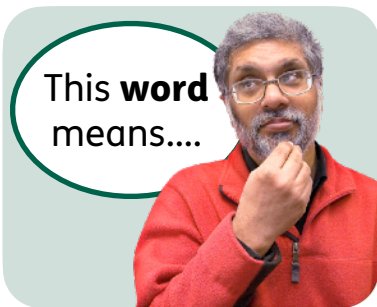
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



Every year Surrey County Council writes a **budget** for the next year.



A **budget** explains how we are going to spend our money in the next year.



We have already written a **draft** budget.

A **draft** budget is a budget that isn't finished yet and might change.



This booklet is an Easy Read copy of our draft budget for 2024 to 2025.

Last year



Last year we spent over a billion pounds on services for people in Surrey.

We spent:



- £439 million on adult social care - this is support for adults who need help with everyday things, like washing and eating.



- £255 million on children, family and learning services.



- £152 million on roads, transport, and looking after the **environment**.

The **environment** is where we live. It includes the land, the sea, the air and everything that lives in and on it.

We also spent:



- Almost £84 million on council support services.



- £74 million on projects, changes to the way we work and **pensions**.

A **pension** is money from the organisation you work for that is saved for when you stop working.



- £38 million on fire and rescue services.



- £36 million on health services for everyone in Surrey.



- Almost £19 million on services that improve local areas, like library services.

Where do we get the money?

We got the money we spent from:



- Taxes - this is the money you pay to the council every month, like your council tax.



- Business rates - this is money that businesses pay to us.



- The Government.

Next year



From 2024 to 2025 we will carry on spending money on all the services we already spend money on.



But we will spend more money next year because:

- The price of running services is going up.



- Lots more people in Surrey are needing important services.



- We do not know if we will get as much money from the Government.



We do not have enough money to spend as much as we need to on services next year.



So we have come up with some ways to:

- Get more money.



- Save money.

Adult social care



Next year we will spend £47 million more than last year on adult social care.

We are going to save money by:



- Having a new way of offering social care that focuses on what people can do, not what they cannot do.



- Using **technology** to support people to live on their own.

Technology is things like computers.



- Supporting people to move out of care homes and into other housing, like **supported living**.

Supported living is when a person gets help and support to live on their own.



We are also going to save money by working with different care organisations to manage the costs of care.

Children, family and learning services



Next year we will spend almost £40 million more than last year on children, family and learning services.

We are going to save money by:



- Supporting children who need help earlier in their lives.



- Having more local homes that children in care can live in, rather than homes outside of Surrey.



- Getting and training more staff for our children, family and learning services.

Services that improve local areas



We will spend more money on services that improve local areas than last year.



We think we can get some of this money by changing the way some of these services work.

We are also going to save money by:



- Looking at whether we have too many staff members working in these services.



- Checking that we are not spending too much because of the way that we work.

Roads, transport and the environment



£26 million more

Next year we will spend over £26 million more than last year on roads, transport and looking after the environment.

Some of this money will be spent on:

- Improving drains.



- Cutting **grass verges** earlier in the year.



A **grass verge** is a strip of grass that separates a path and a road.

- Making it easier for people to tell us about issues in their area.



- Planting over 2000 trees.



We are going to save money by:



- Spending less money on removing rubbish in Surrey.



- Making sure we spend the money we have been given to improve our buses in the right way.



- Changing how we make sure people follow rules about car parking.

Resources

Resources are the things we need at the council to be able to do our job well.



We will spend £5 million more than last year on resources.

We are going to save money by:



- Using the money we have for managing our buildings in better and smarter ways.



- Looking at whether we are spending too much on the buildings we work in.



- Looking at how we work to find ways of saving money.

Fire and rescue services

We will get some more money for fire and rescue services by asking organisations to:



- Pay if they want fire services for an event that is not an emergency.



- Pay if they want to use any fire and rescue services equipment or buildings.



We are going to save money by:

- Improving the resources that fire and rescue services staff have.



- Making sure fire and rescue services staff are not working too much when they do not need to be.



We are also going to save money by stopping projects that no longer help or improve Surrey.

Council tax



To pay for all the services we want to offer next year, we may need to raise council tax.

This would mean council tax is more expensive.



We are suggesting raising council tax by almost 4 percent next year.

Asking people what they think



Before spending money, we speak to people who live in Surrey to learn what is important to them.

In September and October 2023, we asked people who live in Surrey what was important to them. They said:



- Better roads and paths in Surrey.



- Making local areas in Surrey safer.



- Social care for adults and children.

People in Surrey also said these things were important to them:



- Better public transport in Surrey, like buses.



- Looking after the environment.



We will only give money to projects and services that focus on the things that are important to people in Surrey.



Next year, we will give money to projects and services that support the most **vulnerable** adults in Surrey.

Vulnerable adults are adults who need extra help and support to stay safe.

We will also give money to projects and services that:



- Improve bus services and support more people to use buses.



- Improve roads and streets.



- Help children early on in their lives and help children who live in care to go back to living with their parents.



- Help people to be more safe.



- Help people and businesses to look after the environment.

Buildings



We spend some of our budget on building or fixing places and roads in Surrey.



We also spend this part of the budget on making changes to buildings.



We want to build lots of new places next year, like schools and supported living.

Next year we will spend:



- £61 million on helping schools include children with extra needs.



- £21 million on supported living.



Next year we will also spend £15 million on housing for children who live in care.



Over the next few years, we will also:

- Do repairs on lots of roads and bridges.



- Improve roads and paths.



- Work to make sure we are looking after the environment - this includes having buses that do not put chemicals into the air.



- Spend money on stopping flooding from happening.

Helping you with money



We know that some people in Surrey are finding it hard to pay for the things they need.



This is because the prices of lots of different things have gone up.



We know that raising your council tax might be hard for you, but we are here to help.

To find support with money you can go to:



- This website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/health-and-welfare/support
- Your local council's website.

What do you think?



This budget is only a draft budget. Remember, this means it isn't finished yet and might change.



We want to know what you think of our draft budget before we finish it.



Your thoughts will help us to know:

- What parts of the draft budget are good and should stay the same.



- What you think about our plans for getting and spending less money.

Find out more



If you want to know more about what we do, you can sign up for our newsletter.



You can sign up here:

[www.pages.comms.surreycc.info/
pages/surrey-matters-subscribe](http://www.pages.comms.surreycc.info/pages/surrey-matters-subscribe)

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