



Easy
Read



Our draft budget

What do you think?



Easy Read



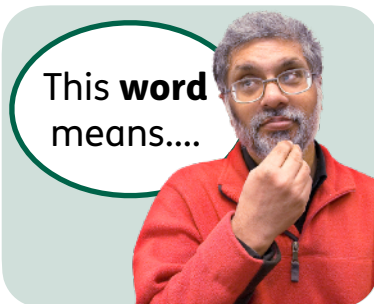
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



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



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



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



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

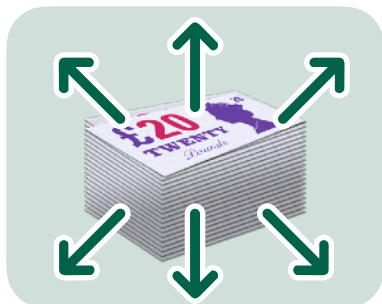
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About this survey



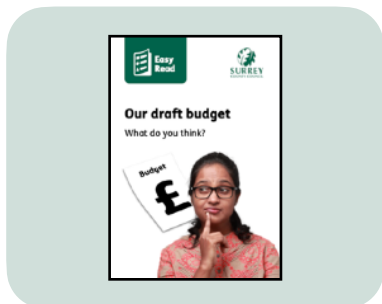
Each year, Surrey County Council needs to make a **budget**.



A **budget** is a plan for how we will spend our money on services across Surrey.



We want to know what you think about how we spend our money.



Please answer the questions in this booklet to tell us what you think.



We need your answers by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 31st December 2024.

Our draft budget



Our plan for how we will spend money is called our draft budget.



It is a **draft** because it is not finished yet.

We might make changes to it, depending on what people tell us.

How we spend money



We spend £1.2 billion each year.

We spend most of this on looking after the people who need us most, like:



- Adult Social Care - this is care and support for people to live independently.



- Children's services.



- Services that keep people safe.

Saving money



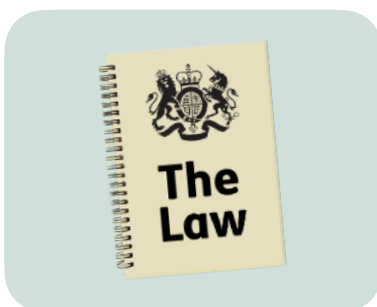
We have less to spend on services than we used to.



We need to save £17.4 million more.



This means that we need to make hard choices about how we spend our money.



The law says that we must give people Adult Social Care and children's services.



So we will not spend much less on these services.

Health, care and living well



We have teams who support people across Surrey, including:

- Adult Social Care, who support more than 24,000 people.



- Public Health, who help to keep everyone healthy.



- Communities and Prevention, who support people to be happy and healthy in their local areas.



More people need support from these teams than they used to.



These teams have written a plan to:

- Support people to do more for themselves.



- Use technology more when they care for people.



- Supporting more people to stay at home, instead of moving to a care home.



They are planning to save £31.6 million next year.

Children, families and learning

This team is in charge of:



- Social care for children.



- Schools in Surrey.



It costs a lot of money to help children who need extra support in school.



To help save money, this team is:

- Looking at changing its rules about helping children travel to school.



- Looking at ways to solve children's problems earlier.



- Helping children who do not live with their families, to return to them.



- Spending money on our children's homes.



- Changing how they work.

Buildings and the environment

This team is in charge of:



- Making the **environment** better.

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



- Roads and dealing with rubbish.



- New buildings.



The cost of things they pay for is going up by £14.5 million this year.

So they are planning to change how they work to save £2.6 million.

Staying safe

This team aims to keep Surrey safe, and help in emergencies. This includes:



- The fire service.



- Stopping companies from breaking the law.



- Keeping local areas safe.



The cost of things they pay for is going up by £1.3 million this year.

So they are planning to change how they work to save £0.8 million.

Customers and technology

This team looks after services like:



- Keeping records about babies being born.



- Online services.



The cost of things they pay for is going up by £1.5 million this year.



So they are planning to change how they work to save £2.6 million.

Looking after our money



This team looks after the council's money.



They also check that we follow the law and other rules.



The cost of things they pay for is going up by £1.4 million this year.



So they are planning to change how they work to save £1.4 million.

Talking to the public



This team is in charge of how we talk to people in Surrey.



The cost of things they pay for is going up by £0.1 million this year.



So they are planning to change how they work to save £0.2 million.

Council Tax



We might need to charge more **Council Tax**.

This is money that people give to their local council to help pay for services.



We get most of our money from Council Tax.



The government says that we can charge people up to 5% more in Council Tax this year.



Our draft budget plans to charge people 3% more in Council Tax.



This means that most people would pay about £53 more each year in Council Tax.



Many people in Surrey are finding it hard to pay for all the things they need.



So we have to think hard about whether we will charge people more Council Tax.



You can find out about getting support with your money on our website:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/welfare

Big projects

We want to keep working on big projects, like:



- Roads and buildings.



- Making more places for children in schools.



- Looking after the environment and stopping floods.



- Making our libraries better.



- Making Adult Social Care better.

But it is hard to make a budget that works well, because:



- We do not know how much money we will get from the government.



- The cost of doing these projects has gone up a lot.



So we are spending less money on big projects.

Questions



Please answer these questions to tell us what you think of our draft budget.



Question 1a: Do you agree with our plans to save money?

Please only tick 1 box.

- ☐ I agree with them a lot
- ☐ I agree with them a little
- ☐ I do not agree or disagree with them
- ☐ I disagree with them a little
- ☐ I disagree with them a lot
- ☐ I do not know



Question 1b: Please tell us why you gave your answer to question 1a.



Question 2: Is there anything that we should think about to make our ideas better?



Question 3: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the draft budget?

Questions about you



We want to make sure we hear from lots of different groups of people who live in Surrey.



Answering these questions will help us to check who we have heard from.



You do not have to answer any of these questions if you do not want to.



You can read how we keep your information safe and private on our website:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/privacy



Question 4: Are you...

Please tick all the boxes that apply.

☐

Someone who lives in Surrey?

☐

Someone who works in Surrey but does not live here?

☐

Someone who owns a local company?

☐

Answering these questions for a public sector organisation, like the NHS or the police?

If you are, please tell us the name of the organisation:

There are more answers on the next page.

☐

Answering these questions for
a local community group?

If you are, please tell us the
name of the group:

☐

A local councillor?

☐

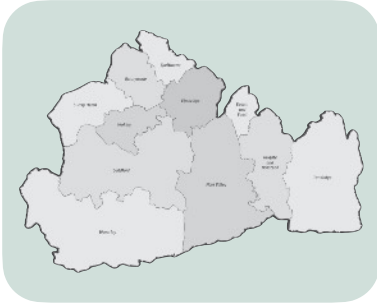
A Member of Parliament?

☐

Someone who works for Surrey
County Council?

☐

Someone else - please tell us:



Question 8: Which district or borough in Surrey do you live or work in?

Please only tick 1 box.

- ☐ Elmbridge
- ☐ Epsom and Ewell
- ☐ Guildford
- ☐ Mole Valley
- ☐ Reigate and Banstead
- ☐ Runnymede
- ☐ Spelthorne
- ☐ Surrey Heath
- ☐ Tandridge
- ☐ Waverley
- ☐ Woking



Question 9: How did you hear about this survey?

Please tick all the boxes that apply.

☐

Someone told me about it

☐

I saw it on social media

☐

I heard about it in the local news

☐

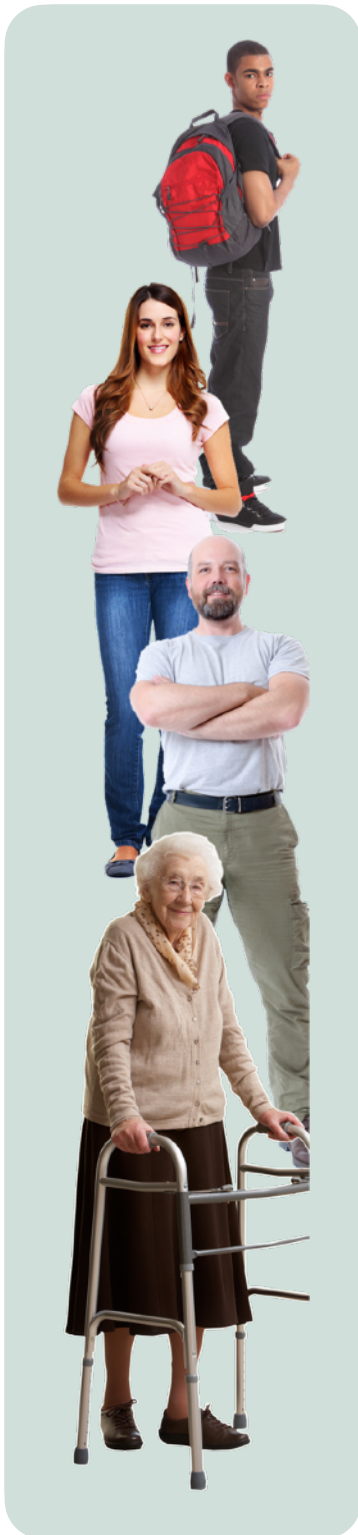
I read about it in a library

☐

I read about it in the Surrey Matters email newsletter

☐

Another way - please tell us:



Question 10: How old are you?

Please only tick 1 box.

☐

Under 18

☐

18 to 24

☐

25 to 34

☐

35 to 44

☐

45 to 54

☐

55 to 64

☐

65 to 74

☐

75 to 84

☐

85 or over

☐

I do not want to say



Question 11: Do you have a long term illness or disability that affects what you can do in your daily life?

Please only tick 1 box.

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

I do not want to say



Question 12: What is your **sex**?

At birth people are given a **sex** as either female or male. This is decided by a doctor and based on the person's private parts.

Please only tick 1 box.

☐

Male

☐

Female

☐

I do not want to say



Question 13: Is your **gender** the same as the sex you were registered with at birth?

Your **gender** is how you think of yourself. Most people think of themselves as a man or woman. Some people may feel themselves to be different to the sex they were given at birth.

Please only answer this question if you are over 16 years old.

Please only tick 1 box.

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

I do not want to say



Question 14: What is your **ethnic background**?

Your **ethnic background** is your race and the country that your family comes from.

Please only tick 1 box.



White

☐

British, English, Northern Irish, Scottish or Welsh

☐

Irish

☐

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

☐

Any other White background



Mixed or multiple ethnic backgrounds

☐

White and Black Caribbean

☐

White and Black African

☐

White and Asian

☐

Any other mixed or multiple ethnic background

There are more answers on the next page.



Asian or Asian British

- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Any other Asian background



Black or Black British

- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ African
- ☐ Any other black British, Caribbean, or African background

There are more answers on the next page.



Other ethnic group

☐

Arab

☐

Other ethnic group - please tell us:

☐

I do not want to say



Question 15: How much money comes into your home every year?

This is all of the money that comes in for everyone living in your home.

Please only tick 1 box.

- ☐ £0 to £15,000
- ☐ £15,001 to £30,000
- ☐ £30,001 to £45,000
- ☐ £45,001 to £60,000
- ☐ £60,001 to £80,000
- ☐ £80,001 to £100,000
- ☐ Over £100,001
- ☐ I do not want to say

How to send us your answers



Thank you for taking part in this survey.



If you are doing this survey online, you can email it to:

contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk



If you are doing this survey on paper, you can post it to:

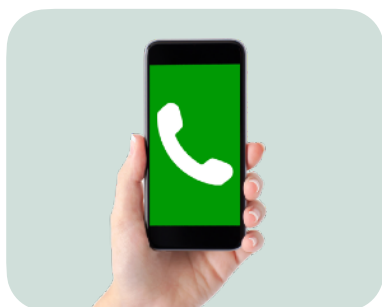
Surrey County Council
Budget Engagement
11 Woodhatch Road
Cockshot Hill
Reigate
RH2 8EF

More information



Please contact Surrey County Council if you have any questions or need the survey in a different format, like a braille or paper copy.

You can contact us by:



- Phone: 03456 009 009
(9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, apart from bank holidays.)



- Textphone: 18001



- Email:
contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk



- Using British Sign Language:
www.surreycc.gov.uk/bsl