



**Easy
Read**



About our budget

2025 to 2026



Easy Read



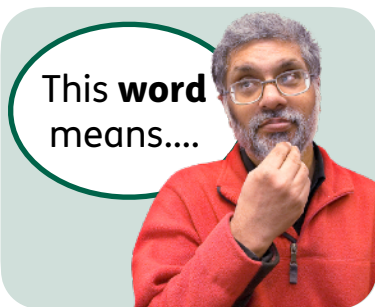
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



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 booklet



This is a survey from Surrey County Council about our **budget** for 2025 to 2026.

A **budget** is the amount of money we get and spend every year.



There is some information about the budget and some questions for you to answer.



We want to know what is important to you.



Please send your answers back to us by 11.59pm on Monday 30 September 2024.

About the budget

Most of the money we spend is 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.



We manage our money well but there is not enough to provide all the services that we want to.



To make sure we are spending our money on the right things, we want to know what is important to you.



We will read what everyone says is important to them.



This will help us write our budget for the next year.



The survey should only take about 10 minutes to fill in.



We keep any information you tell us safe and private.



You can read more about how we do this on our website:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/your-privacy

Questions about the budget



We have some aims that we want to achieve in the next 5 years.



We would like to know how important each of these are to you.



Please tick one box to tell us how important each aim is - box 5 means it is very important, box 1 means it is not very important.



Question 1a: How important is supporting local businesses so they can do better?

Very Important



Important



Neither



Not Important



Not Very Important





Question 1b: How important is improving town centres and high streets?

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 1c: How important is helping people of all ages to learn new skills?

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 1d: How important is making public transport, like buses, better?

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 1e: How important is helping people to live healthier lives?

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 1f: How important is providing care for adults and children who need us most?

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 1g: How important is dealing with **climate change** and looking after the countryside in Surrey?



Climate change is all about big changes in the weather. For example, storms getting worse than they used to be. Or having less rain in some places.

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 1h: How important is making less waste and recycling more?

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 1i: How important is having better roads and pavements?

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 1j: How important is making our local areas safer?

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 1k: How important is making sure different groups of people who live in Surrey understand each other?

Very Important

5

Important

4

Neither

3

Not Important

2

Not Very Important

1



Question 2: When we decide how to spend our money, which is most important to you?

It is more important to spend money on services that help everyone in Surrey.

It is more important to spend money on services that help people with more needs, like people with disabilities or additional needs.

I do not know.



Question 3: When we decide how to spend our money, which is most important to you?

- It is more important to spend money in areas of Surrey with the highest number of people with poor health and wellbeing.

- It is more important to spend money in all areas of Surrey.

- I do not know.



Question 4: When we decide how to spend our money, which is most important to you?

It is more important to spend money on helping people who need support right now.

It is more important to spend money now to help people who live in Surrey in the future.

I do not know.



Every year we need to make sure we do not spend more money than we have - this is called having a **balanced budget**.



Please tell us if you agree or disagree with these ideas to make sure we have a balanced budget.



Question 5a: Do you agree or disagree with charging money for some services which are free at the moment? Like libraries.

Agree.

Disagree.



Question 5b: Do you agree or disagree with stopping some services so we can carry on running other services?

Agree.

Disagree.



Question 5c: Do you agree or disagree with giving local people the skills to deliver services themselves?

Agree.

Disagree.



Question 5d: Do you agree or disagree with giving council staff the skills to work with other organisations to provide services?

Agree.

Disagree.



Question 5e: Do you agree or disagree with the council working with other organisations to provide services?

Agree.

Disagree.



We may need to raise **Council Tax** to carry on providing some services.

Council Tax is money that every household pays towards running services.



Please tell us if you would agree or disagree with raising Council Tax for these choices.



Question 6a: Should we raise Council Tax to pay for services only when we have tried every other way to save money first?

Yes.

No.



Question 6b: Should we raise Council Tax to pay for services instead of charging people to use the services?

Yes.

No.



Question 6c: Should we raise Council Tax to pay for services if the only other choice is to stop running the service?

Yes.

No.



Question 6d: Should we raise Council Tax to protect services for people who need them most or cannot get help in any other way?

Yes.

No.



Question 6e: Should we raise Council Tax if spending more now will save more in the future?

Yes.

No.



Question 6f: Should we never raise Council Tax?

Yes.

No.

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/council-and-democracy/your-privacy/corporate-privacy-notice



Question 7: Are you...

Someone who lives in Surrey?

Someone who works in Surrey but does not live here?

Someone who owns a local business?

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 community or voluntary group?

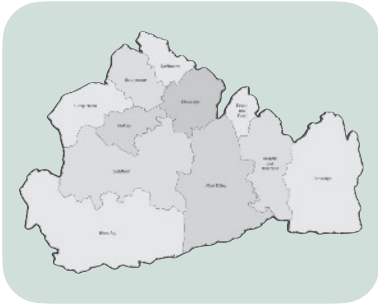
If you are, please tell us the name of the group:

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?

- 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?

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 tick one box below

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.



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

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.

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.

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.



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.



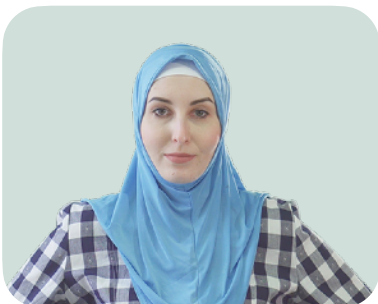
Asian or Asian British

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



Black or Black British

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



- Arab.

There are more answers on the next page.

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.

£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

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