

Surrey County Council Budget Engagement 2025-26 Large Print



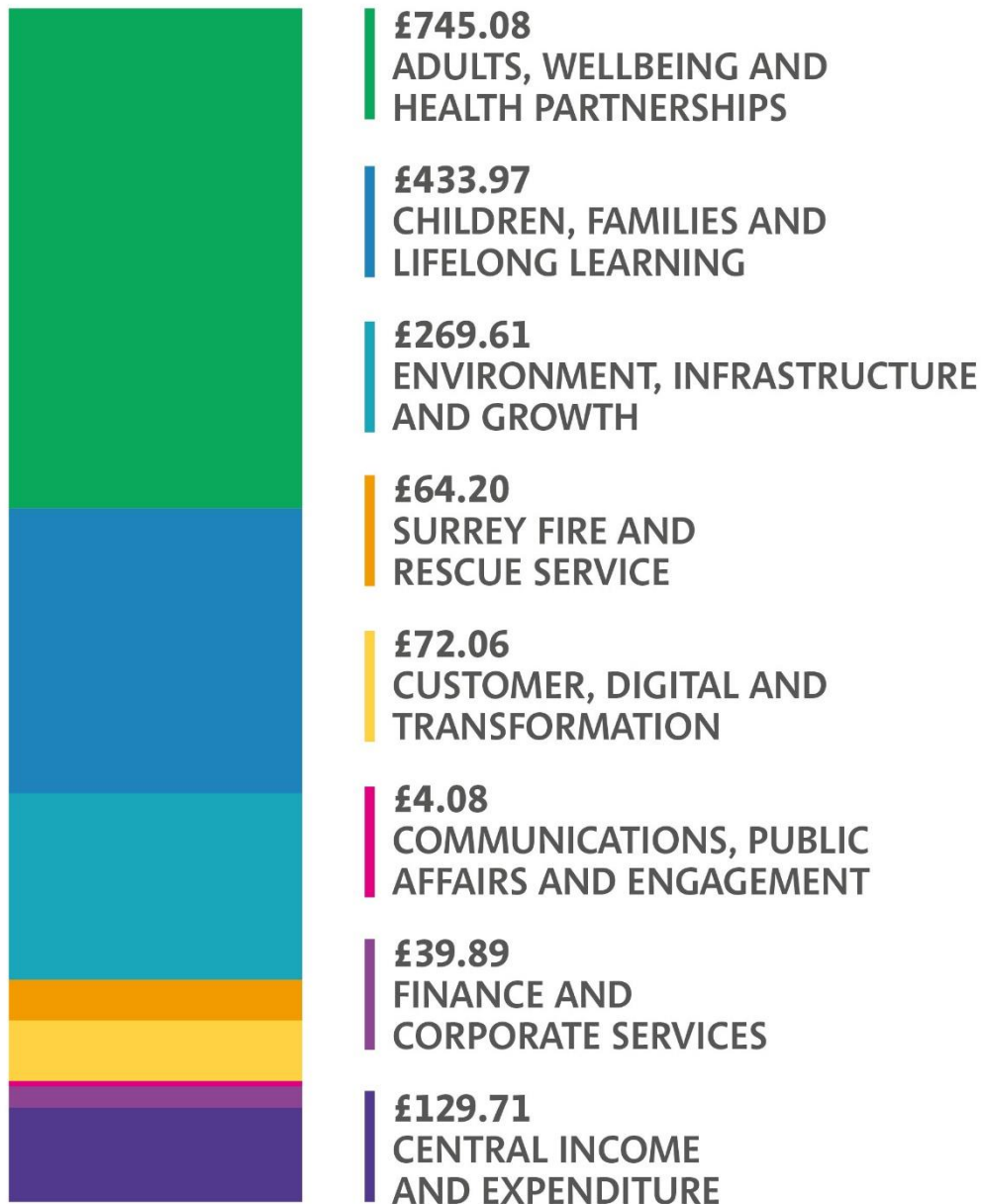
Overview

All local authorities across the country are facing financial challenges and issues outside our control, such as higher costs, reduced funding from central government, and rapidly rising demand for services. This has increased the cost of providing vital services to residents.

At Surrey County Council, the majority of our budget is spent on looking after those people who need us most, through Adult Social Care and Children's Services. Lots of what we do – particularly across Surrey Fire & Rescue Service, Trading Standards, and environmental services – is about keeping people safe and preventing or responding to serious incidents.

The diagram below shows how our budget is allocated across all the services we provide in the current financial year. The figures are based on the average Band D Council Tax per year of £1,758.60.

This represents the total budget split by the portion of Band D Council Tax value. Some areas are funded by specific grants which are not reflected here.



While our finances are well managed, we are not immune to the huge challenges facing the local government sector and society more widely. The way in which we use our financial resources is becoming more constrained.

By law, we have to balance our budget each year - this means we cannot spend more than we receive in income from council tax, grants and other sources. Due to the challenges set out above, this is an increasingly difficult task. To help inform our decision-making and make sure we're spending our budget on the right things, we're asking you to tell us what are the most

important outcomes that you are looking for from us as an organisation.

Why your views matter

Your views will inform a draft of the budget, which will be considered by the Council's Cabinet in November 2024. If the draft is agreed, we then plan to consult further over the winter on proposals for balancing the budget in the next financial year for 2025/26. Then, in February 2025, the Council will agree a medium-term (five-year) financial strategy.

Your responses are anonymous and completing this survey should take no more than 10 minutes.

Privacy Statement

All responses are strictly confidential, and your data will be used in-line with our data protection policy which can be found online: [Your information and privacy - Surrey County Council](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/your-information-and-privacy) ([surreycc.gov.uk](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)).

Closing date

This survey will close at 23:59 on Monday 30 September 2024.

Alternative formats

Alternative versions of the survey can be found in the related documents section on Surrey Says. If you require the survey in a different format, language or in hard copy (including a stamped addressed envelope to return the survey), please contact Surrey County Council as follows:

- **Telephone:** 03456 009 009 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays)
- **Textphone (via Relay UK):** 18001 03456 009 009
- **Text (SMS):** 07860 053 465

- **British Sign Language:** www.surreycc.gov.uk/bsl
- **Email:** contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk

If you are completing this survey electronically, it can be returned to:

- contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk

Alternatively, it can be returned by post to the following address:

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

Survey Questions

1. Surrey County Council has set out a range of outcomes that it aims to achieve over the next five years. How important, if at all, do you think each of these outcomes are? Please select one answer for each statement on the following scale, where 1 means 'not at all important' and 5 means 'very important'.
 - a. Supporting local businesses to prosper and grow the economy.
 - b. Reinvigorating town centres and high streets.
 - c. Enabling people of all ages to access education and skills.
 - d. Better public transport connections for easier, more predictable journeys.
 - e. Promoting better health and wellbeing for all residents.
 - f. Providing care for adults and children who need us most.
 - g. Tackling climate change and protecting Surrey's countryside and biodiversity.
 - h. Reducing waste and increasing recycling.
 - i. Better roads and pavements.
 - j. Making our communities safer.
 - k. Stronger community relations through local community networks and support.

2. Thinking about how Surrey County Council might allocate its financial resources, which of the following comes closest to your view? Please select one answer:
 - a. It is more important to allocate resources to services that benefit the majority of residents in the county.
 - b. It is more important to allocate resources to services that benefit those with the greatest needs in the county i.e. those with disabilities or additional needs

c. Don't know.

3. Still thinking about how Surrey County Council might allocate its financial resources, which of the following comes closest to your view? Please select one answer:
 - a. It is more important to allocate resources to areas in Surrey with the highest number of people with poor health and wellbeing.
 - b. It is more important to allocate resources across all areas in Surrey.
 - c. Don't know.

4. And still thinking about how Surrey County Council might allocate its financial resources, which of the following comes closest to your view? Please select one answer:
 - a. It is more important to allocate financial resources to meet the needs of residents today.
 - b. It is more important to allocate financial resources to preventative measures which have a positive impact on the future needs of residents.
 - c. Don't know.

5. Each year Surrey County Council has a legal obligation to balance the budget. This means the total costs of delivering services should be the same as money received from sources such as Council Tax. With this in mind, to what extent would you support or oppose the following approaches that Surrey County Council could take to balancing the budget? Please select one answer under each statement.
 - a. Introduce or increase charges for some services, which are currently free or subsidised. (Examples of Surrey County Council services include concessionary

bus travel, waste disposal, and cultural services such as libraries)

- b. Reduce or stop delivering some services to protect others. (Examples of Surrey County Council services include concessionary bus travel, waste disposal, and cultural services such as libraries)
- c. Provide residents and communities with the tools to support others and set and deliver local priorities.
- d. Equip Surrey County Council staff with the skills to work together with communities and partners to deliver services across Surrey.
- e. Work with partner and voluntary organisations to provide services.

6. To what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose Surrey County Council increasing the amount of Council Tax residents are required to pay under each of the following circumstances? Please state one answer under each statement. Surrey County Council should consider increases in council tax...

- a. ...only when opportunities to streamline services or make them more efficient have been exhausted.
- b. ...as an alternative to imposing/increasing fees and charges for services.
- c. ...when the only alternative is to stop delivering some services.
- d. ...to protect services for the most vulnerable and those without choices.
- e. ...if the additional funds will be used to finance long term investment plans
- f. ...under no circumstances.

Your Response

We want to hear from all parts of Surrey to understand how stakeholders across the county feel about this.

It would be very helpful if you can complete the following questions. This will ensure that no-one is discriminated against unlawfully and will help us see how people in different parts of Surrey and in different circumstances view our proposals. All questions are optional and you can skip any you do not wish to answer.

You can read more on how we process personal information through our [corporate privacy notice](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/your-privacy/corporate-privacy-notice) (<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/your-privacy/corporate-privacy-notice>).

7. Please say in which capacity you are responding to this survey

- a. I am a Surrey resident
- b. I work in Surrey but live elsewhere
- c. I represent or own a local business
- d. I am responding on behalf of a public sector partner e.g. NHS, police, District or Borough Council (please specify below)
- e. I am responding on behalf of a voluntary, community or faith organisation (please specify below)
- f. I am a councillor
- g. I am an MP
- h. I am a Surrey County Council employee
- i. Other (please specify below)

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

- a. Elmbridge
- b. Epsom and Ewell

- c. Guildford
- d. Mole Valley
- e. Reigate and Banstead
- f. Runnymede
- g. Spelthorne
- h. Surrey Heath
- i. Tandridge
- j. Waverley
- k. Woking

9. How did you hear about this consultation?

- a. Word of mouth
- b. Social media
- c. Local news
- d. Libraries
- e. Surrey Matters e-newsletter
- f. Other
 - i. If you selected Other, please use the box below to indicate how you heard about this consultation:

About you

10. What age group are you in?
 - a. Under 18
 - b. 18-24
 - c. 25-34
 - d. 35-44
 - e. 45-54
 - f. 55-64
 - g. 65-74
 - h. 75-84
 - i. 85+

11. Do you have a long-standing illness or disability (physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to say

12. What is your sex?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Prefer not to say

13. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? *Please answer this question if you are aged 16 years or older.*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to say

14. What is your ethnic group?
- a. White - British, English, Northern Irish, Scottish or Welsh
 - b. White - Irish
 - c. White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
 - d. Any other White background
 - e. White and Black Caribbean
 - f. White and Black African
 - g. White and Asian
 - h. Any other mixed or multiple ethnic background
 - i. Asian or Asian British - Indian
 - j. Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
 - k. Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
 - l. Asian or Asian British - Chinese
 - m. Any other Asian background
 - n. Black or Black British - Caribbean
 - o. Black or Black British - African
 - p. Any other black British, Caribbean or African background
 - q. Arab
 - r. Other ethnic group (please specify below)
 - s. Prefer not to say

15. What average yearly income bracket would you say your household is in? *Household income generally is defined as the total income before taxes, received within a 12-month period by all members of a household aged 15 and older. It can include wage, salary, and self-employment earnings; benefits, pension, and other retirement income; investment income; welfare payments; and income from other sources.*
- a. £0 - £15,000
 - b. £15,001 - £30,000
 - c. £30,001 - £45,000

- d. £45,001 - £60,000
- e. £60,001 - £80,000
- f. £80,001 - £100,000
- g. Over £100,001
- h. Prefer not to say

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