

Your views on our 2025-26 budget savings proposals, including a proposal to increase council tax

In this consultation we are asking for your views on our proposal to increase council tax, and on our other 2025-26 budget savings proposals.

There are also detailed consultation documents and response forms available for two specific proposals:

* Review of our Housing Related Support Services
* Switch off a further 2% of Norfolk County Council maintained streetlights

If you want more detail and to have your say on those proposals you can find out more at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget[[1]](#footnote-2)

## **Overview**

Norfolk County Council is facing difficult decisions as the pressures on local government budgets continue to grow. The council will need to put more money into its budget to protect vulnerable people despite ‘substantial uncertainty’ about local government funding.

Even though our overall spending is expected to increase next year, forecast increases in funding are not sufficient to keep pace with projected increases in demand, particularly in adult social care and children's services.

 The council faces 'a significant challenge’ in developing Norfolk’s 2025-26 spending plan that seeks to address a budget gap of £44.722 million.

Each year, the council reviews its budget and proposes the savings it will need to make for the following year to balance its budget.

# To help us deal with our cost pressures and invest in vital services, our current budget planning for 2025-26 is based on an assumption to increase council tax.

Three options are being considered:

* An increase of 3%
* An increase of **up to** 5%
* An increase of **more than** 5%

We want to hear your views on our proposals to help our elected councillors make the right, even if tough decisions, in agreeing a robust and sustainable budget for the year ahead.

## **Why we are consulting**

We want to find out what people think about our proposal to increase council tax and our other 2025-26 budget savings proposals.

We are consulting through:

- The online consultation, which is also available as a paper copy and in different formats

- Email /Letter to key stakeholders and partners

- Email to members of the Norfolk Residents’ Panel

The consultation runs fro**m Friday 1 November 2024 and closes on Monday 16 December 2024.**

Please note that if we receive any consultation responses after this date, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to take them into account.

We will feed back the findings from our consultation to our county councillors as part of the evidence they will use to help them come to a decision about our budget proposals.

If you need a copy of this consultation document in a different format please email haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk, call 0344 800 8020 or Text Relay on 18001 0344 800 8020 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

The consultation questions should take about 15 minutes to complete.

The questions start on page 15 of this document.

## **Personal information, confidentiality and data protection**

We will use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our proposal.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and Norfolk County Council’s data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Norfolk County Council will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation. [You can find a copy of our privacy statement on the Norfolk County Council website.[[2]](#footnote-3)](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/privacy)

We won't identify individuals when reporting back our findings and under our record management policy we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You can choose not to take part in the consultation, to stop responding at any time, or to ignore any personal questions that you do not want to answer.

**Introduction**

The county council faces a significant challenge in developing the budget for 2025-26. There remains a budget gap of £44.722 million, there are spending pressures across wider public finances and substantial uncertainty about local government funding for 2025-26 onwards.

Norfolk County Council is committed to making Norfolk a county where businesses, organisations and communities continue to thrive together. [Our Better Together, For Norfolk strategy](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/corporate/council-vision-and-strategy)[[3]](#footnote-4) sets out our ambitions to be one of the highest performing counties in the country, overseeing economic growth, creating jobs and opportunities for the people of Norfolk, while maintaining and cherishing our environment, countryside and heritage.

However the county council’s 2025-26 strategic and financial planning has been undertaken in the context of continued uncertainty around the wider economic picture, as well as ongoing inflationary pressures and the consequent impact on both the cost of services we deliver, and the demand for services as households and communities continue to struggle with the rising cost of living.

It is in these difficult times that the county council cannot afford any complacency and, working with its partners, will have to consider how best to deploy its own limited resources to support the most vulnerable people and communities, whilst continuing to provide wider public services.

Although the council’s budget increases each year, it is not enough to meet growing needs and costs.

The October 2024 Cabinet meeting considered 2025-26 savings proposals totalling £33.552 million. The 2024 Cabinet meeting minutes are available on [the Norfolk County Council website](https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/2157/Committee/169/Default.aspx).[[4]](#footnote-5) They make a significant contribution towards our target of £44.722 million and will help the council to continue to deliver the key services for Norfolk’s residents, while balancing the books.

**Where the money comes from:**

A significant proportion of our funding comes from council tax and we depend on this source of income to deliver vital services across the whole county. Council tax is one of the only sources of funding which the county council directly controls.

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For 2024-25, Norfolk County Council has a gross income budget of £1.964bn. Funding comes from a variety of sources: 27% comes from council tax, 22% is schools funding, 16% from government grants, 10% from business rates, 10% from interest receipts and other income, 8% from sales, fees and charges and 7% from other grants, reimbursements and contributions.

## **Where the money is spent:**



The departmental breakdown of the council’s £1.964bn expenditure budget is 34% spent on adult social services, 18% on children’s services (non-schools), 21% spent on schools, 13% is spent on infrastructure, 2% on community and environment, 2% on fire, 6% on finance, 3% on strategy and transformation and 1% on chief executive’s directorate.

## **Background to council tax**

Council tax helps pay for local services and applies to all domestic properties whether owned or rented. How much you pay depends on the valuation band of your property. The responsibility to pay council tax usually lies with the occupier.

Each organisation that provides services in your area sets their own proportion of the council tax bill you receive. These are:

* Norfolk County Council
* your district council
* your parish council (if you have one)
* Norfolk police

Statistics show that following changes in Government policy, all county councils in England have raised council tax in a broadly similar way since 2015-16. You can [view data comparing local authority council tax rates on the GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/council-tax-statistics).[[5]](#footnote-6)

In the graph below the dash line represents Norfolk and the solid lines represent other local authorities.



The money you pay as part of Norfolk County Council’s general share of the council tax helps fund the costs of all the services provided by the council and is not linked to specific services.

Part of your council tax bill is the adult social care precept - the adult social care precept was introduced by the Government in 2015 and has been part of the council tax bill since 2016-17.

The money we raise from the adult social care precept is ringfenced, this means we can only spend it on adult social care services. Adult Social Care is a collection of wide-ranging activities aimed at helping people who may be older or living with disability or physical or mental illness. For some, this may include access to services that provide “personal care” either in their own homes or in more formal settings such as a care home. However, for many Social Care is about providing support to potentially overcome obstacles and enable people to live the lives they want to lead in a place they can call home. The county council spends over £1.6m a day in providing support through our Adult Social Services department.

## **Our council tax questions**

To help us deal with our cost pressures and invest in vital services our current budget planning is based on an assumption to increase council tax. Three options are being considered:

* An increase of 3%
* An increase of **up to** 5%
* An increase of **more than** 5%

Consulting on three options will allow maximum flexibility in setting the budget, at a time when there is still substantial uncertainty about local government finding and demand for our services continues to increase, which means that costs continue to rise. Every 1% increase in council tax would equate to approximately £5.4m of additional income.

Final decisions about the level of council tax will be made by the council on 18 February 2025.

## **The effect our proposals would have on council tax**

An increase of 3% would mean in 2025-26 Norfolk County Council’s council tax charge for a typical Band D home would see an increase of approximately £1 per week or £50 for the year and the charge for a Band D home would be around £1,722.

Each further 1% increase in council tax would see Norfolk County Council’s council tax charge for a typical Band D home increase by approximately 33p per week or £17 for the year.

1. **How far would you agree or disagree with increasing Norfolk County Council’s share of council tax (including any Adult Social Care Precept) by 3% in 2025-26?** Please tick (🗸) **one** answer only:

[ ]  Strongly agree

[ ]  Agree

[ ]  Neither agree or disagree

[ ]  Disagree

[ ]  Strongly disagree

[ ]  Don’t know

1. **Why do you say that?**

Please write your answer here:

1. **How far would you agree or disagree with increasing Norfolk County Council’s share of council tax (including any Adult Social Care Precept) by up to 5% in 2025-26?** Please tick (🗸) **one** answer only:

[ ]  Strongly agree

[ ]  Agree

[ ]  Neither agree or disagree

[ ]  Disagree

[ ]  Strongly disagree

[ ]  Don’t know

1. **Why do you say that?**

Please write your answer here:

1. **How far would you agree or disagree with increasing Norfolk County Council’s share of council tax (including any Adult Social Care Precept) by more than 5% in 2025-26?** Please tick (🗸) **one** answer only:

[ ]  Strongly agree

[ ]  Agree

[ ]  Neither agree or disagree

[ ]  Disagree

[ ]  Strongly disagree

[ ]  Don’t know

1. **Why do you say that?**

Please write your answer here:

**Our 2025-26 budget savings proposals question**

We welcome any comments you have, either about our budget approach or our savings.

There is a full list of all the budget saving proposals in the tables below.

If you wish to comment on INF014 Switch off a further 2% of Norfolk County Council maintained streetlights, or ASS005 Review of our Housing Related Support Services, there is more information and specific consultation questions on those two proposals here: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget)[[6]](#footnote-7)

1. **Do you have any comments about our budget approach?**

If yes, please write below. If you wish to comment on an individual proposal, please include its reference number beside your comments. The reference numbers are listed in the first column in our budget tables.

Please write your answer here:

Below is a list of all our 2025-26 budget savings proposals.

| **Dept**  | **Saving Proposal**  | **2025-26** **£m**  | **2026-27** **£m**  | **2027-28** **£m**  | **2028-29** **£m**  | **Total** **£m**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Adult Social Services**  |
| ASS001  | Managing staff vacancies within Adult Social Services  | -1.500  |   |   |   | **-1.500**  |
| ASS002  | Promoting Independence strategies for managing cost and demand for services for older people  | -2.650  | -2.850  | -2.850  |   | **-8.350**  |
| ASS003  | Promoting Independence strategies for managing cost and demand for services for working age adults  | -4.500  | -4.550  | -4.550  |   | **-13.600**  |
| ASS004  | Revise the projected Adult Social Care income budget to future expected income levels  | -2.000  | -2.500  | -3.000  | -3.500  | **-11.000**  |
| ASS005  | Review of our Housing Related Support Services  | -2.000  |   |   |   | **-2.000**  |
| ASS006  | Review and evaluate the commissioned approach to services in the community to increase efficiency and effectiveness by ensuring our services can be proactively targeted towards those who are most in need of support  | -0.522  |   |   |   | **-0.522**  |
| ASS007  | Review and evaluate the commissioned approach to services supporting carers and providing information, advice and advocacy for adults  | -0.168  | -0.285  |   |   | **-0.453**  |
| ASS008  | Efficient use of grant funding and inflationary uplifts against growth in Adult Social Services demand  | -1.100  |   |   |   | **-1.100**  |
| ASS009  | Review and evaluate the commissioned approach to infrastructure services that supports our formal, voluntary, community and PA (Personal Assistant) care markets  | -0.180  | -0.275  |   |   | **-0.455**  |
| ASS010  | Reviewing future pricing schemes for adult social care  | -0.500  |   |   |   | **-0.500**  |
| ASS011  | Reviewing how we currently provide Housing with Care in Norfolk   | -0.300  | -2.500  |   |   | **-2.800**  |
| ASS012  | Reshaping key provider contract to better fit adult social care demands post pandemic  | -0.350  | -0.500  |   |   | **-0.850**  |
| ASS013  | Strategic Realignment of PH (Public Health) Investment  | -0.750  |   |   |   | **-0.750**  |
| **Children’s Services**  |
| CS001  | Prevention, early intervention and effective social care - helping families stay together and ensuring fewer children in care: Reducing demand for social care intervention through earlier help and prevention by extending the support for adolescents to remain at home by building further on successful models of delivery  | -2.700  |   |   |   | **-2.700**  |
| CS002  | Prevention, early intervention and effective social care - helping families stay together and ensuring fewer children in care: Reducing demand for social care intervention through earlier help and prevention by investing in skilled staff to prevent escalation to care and / or to prevent placement breakdown  | -1.000  |   |   |   | **-1.000**  |
| CS003  | Reducing the costs of social care placements for highly complex, often jointly funded, placements through targeted use of multi-disciplinary experts in contract negotiations  | -0.300  |   |   |   | **-0.300**  |
| CS004  | Transforming the Care Market and creating the capacity that we need: Reshaping our in-house residential care provision to successfully support the highest needs young people and to support positive ‘move on’ to family-based care as early as possible  | -1.300  |   |   |   | **-1.300**  |
| CS005  | One-off use of PFI (private finance initiative) sinking fund contribution not required for 25-26  | -0.700  | 0.700  |   |   | **0.000**  |
| CS006  | Stretch target for existing transformation programmes and projects  | -1.000  |   |   |   | **-1.000**  |
| **Infrastructure**  |
| INF001  | Insourcing of hard Facilities Management and reprocurement of soft Facilities Management services  | -0.450  |   |   |   | **-0.450**  |
| INF002  | A new income stream secured against a minerals royalty site in the County Farm estate  | -0.060  |   |   |   | **-0.060**  |
| INF003  | Reflecting the increased rents received for County Farms alongside efficiencies in expenditure  | -0.100  |   |   |   | **-0.100**  |
| INF004  | Landfill gas management saving - reduced number of flares due to ageing landfills.  Requires less servicing and maintenance  | -0.005  |   |   |   | **-0.005**  |
| INF005  | Savings from an assumed reduction in waste volumes  | -0.350  |   |   |   | **-0.350**  |
| INF006  | Review of trade waste reimbursement rates to ensure costs are fully covered  | -0.020  |   |   |   | **-0.020**  |
| INF007  | Freeze the recycling credits payment made to community groups, so no inflationary increase applied  | -0.005  |   |   |   | **-0.005**  |
| INF008  | Increase the rates charged for planning advice in the flood and water team  | -0.007  |   |   |   | **-0.007**  |
| INF009  | Reduction in insurance costs associated to waste service  | -0.014  |   |   |   | **-0.014**  |
| INF010  | Increase of Highway Services recharge rates across the service  | -0.283  |   |   |   | **-0.283**  |
| INF011  | Increase parking charges by 5% above the indexed rate  | -0.150  |   |   |   | **-0.150**  |
| INF012  | Lease income from Ketteringham Highways Depot  | -0.020  |   |   |   | **-0.020**  |
| INF013  | One-off contribution from streetlighting PFI (private finance initiative) fund  | -0.150  | 0.150  |   |   | **0.000**  |
| INF014  | Switch off a further 2% of Norfolk County Council maintained streetlights  | -0.200  |   |   |   | **-0.200**  |
| INF015  | Review Business Rates position for Highways depots, Park & Ride sites and bus stations  | 0.010  | -0.550  |   |   | **-0.540**  |
| INF016  | Remove the traffic surveys budget  | -0.040  |   |   |   | **-0.040**  |
| INF017  | Park & Ride efficiencies on County Hall route  | -0.015  |   |   |   | **-0.015**  |
| INF018  | Reduce printed travel information at bus stops  | -0.010  |   |   |   | **-0.010**  |
| INF019  | Allow paid adverts on the Travel Norfolk website  | -0.010  |   |   |   | **-0.010**  |
| INF020  | Additional income from additional highways verge and roundabout sponsorship sites across network  | -0.050  | -0.100  | -0.100  |   | **-0.250**  |
| INF021  | Increased use of Highways Commuted Sums for 3 years  | -0.200  |   |   | 0.200  | **0.000**  |
| INF022  | Reduction in Highways annual insurance premium  | -0.150  |   |   |   | **-0.150**  |
| INF023  | Increased income associated to Section 38 activity   | -0.100  |   |   |   | **-0.100**  |
| INF024  | Renegotiate the residual waste contract to deliver savings   | -0.020  |   |   |   | **-0.020**  |
| INF025  | Change pricing structure and charges for trade waste at recycling centres  | -0.200  |   |   |   | **-0.200**  |
| INF026  | One off use of Waste Reserve funding   | -0.250  | 0.250  |   |   | **0.000**  |
| INF027  | Increased design recharge fees and benchmark against neighbouring authorities. Introduce new or reviewed fees where possible.  | -0.683  |   |   |   | **-0.683**  |
| INF028  | Civil Parking Enforcement efficiencies  | -0.025  |   |   |   | **-0.025**  |
| INF029  | One off use of Highways & Transport Reserve funding   | -0.500  | 0.500  |   |   | **0.000**  |
| INF030  | Cost efficiency through renegotiating the service level agreement for the highways contract  | -0.175  |   |   |   | **-0.175**  |
| INF031  | Potential reduction on forecast utility costs for 2025/26 streetlighting and traffic signal costs based on latest information | -1.350  |   |   |   | **-1.350**  |
| INF032  | Potential reduction on forecast utility costs for 2025/26 based on latest information  | -0.500  |   |   |   | **-0.500**  |
| **Communities and Environment**  |
| COM001  | Adult Learning Service to be wholly funded by income  | -0.065  | -0.200  | -0.200  | -0.200  | **-0.665**  |
| COM002  | Cease providing grant funding to Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC)  | -0.035  |   |   |   | **-0.035**  |
| COM003  | To reduce the budget for the Customer Service Centre, and manage through mix of vacancy management, better use of technology and new processes  | -0.150  |   |   |   | **-0.150**  |
| COM004  | Reduce general spend on libraries materials  | -0.050  | -0.050  | -0.050  | -0.050  | **-0.200**  |
| COM005  | Vacancy management – back-office support  | -0.020  | -0.020  | -0.020  | -0.020  | **-0.080**  |
| COM006  | Reduction in the Communities and Environment learning and development budget  | -0.005  | -0.005  | -0.005  | -0.005  | **-0.020**  |
| COM007  | Various back-office efficiencies  | -0.005  | -0.005  | -0.005  | -0.005  | **-0.020**  |
| COM008  | Highways, transport and waste ICT (information and communications technology) systems funded from external funding pots (not Norfolk County Council borrowed capital)  | -0.081  |   |   |   | **-0.081**  |
| COM009  | A staff restructure within the Natural Norfolk service with a longer term strategy to further reduce Norfolk County Council contribution beyond this for the wider service across year 2 and 3 | -0.060  | -0.100  | -0.103  |   | **-0.263**  |
| COM010  | Move to a new approach for managing the historic mills, reducing the contribution to the Windmills Trust which supports the building and maintenance repairs and insurance premium of the historic windmills  | -0.029  |   |   |   | **-0.029**  |
| COM011  | Transfer broads willow pollarding associated to Highway to existing budgets within Highways  | -0.005  |   |   |   | **-0.005**  |
| COM012  | Reduction in non-staff spend associated to the Planning Service  | -0.008  | -0.006  | -0.005  | -0.005  | **-0.024**  |
| COM013  | Reduction in qualified planning professionals deployed on statutory Duties   | -0.015  |   |   |   | **-0.015**  |
| COM014  | Saving as a result of the planning fees uplift  | -0.030  |   |   |   | **-0.030**  |
| COM015  | Vacancy freeze for Social History Curator (currently vacant)  | -0.019  |   |   |   | **-0.019**  |
| COM016  | Increased income streams in the Museums Service - collections, exhibitions and events  | -0.010  | -0.015  | -0.030  | -0.030  | **-0.085**  |
| COM017  | Reduction of Norfolk County Council contribution across the Environment Service as part of the medium term strategy  | -0.026  | -0.051  | -0.025  |   | **-0.102**  |
| **Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service**  |
| FIR001  | Reduced maintenance of gas tight suits - Given reduction in number of gas tight suits as proposed in 2023-2026 CRMP (Community Risk Management Plan); the maintenance of these is lower  | -0.010  |   |   |   | **-0.010**  |
| FIR002  | Restructure of senior management team  | -0.020  |   |   |   | **-0.020**  |
| FIR003  | Increase in Calibration services income  | -0.010  |   |   |   | **-0.010**  |
| FIR004  | Trading Standards administrative efficiencies  | -0.025  | -0.020  |   |   | **-0.045**  |
| **Strategy and Transformation**  |
| S&T001  | Vacancy management and reprofiling of roles within HR (Human Resources) | -0.100  |   |   |   | **-0.100**  |
| S&T002  | Full cost recovery of criminal records (DBS) (disclosure and barring service) pre-employment checks undertaken by HR (Human Resources) | -0.050  |   |   |   | **-0.050**  |
| S&T003  | Restructure to support implementation of the communications strategy  | -0.053  |   |   |   | **-0.053**  |
| S&T004  | Income generation in Communications from the design and comms services  | -0.010  |   |   |   | **-0.010**  |
| S&T005  | Vacancy management within Insight and Analytics  | -0.160  |   |   |   | **-0.160**  |
| S&T006  | Team optimisation within Information Governance  | -0.080  |   |   |   | **-0.080**  |
| S&T007  | Restructure and rationalise Growth & Investment structure following LEP (The New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership) integration  | -0.100  |   |   |   | **-0.100**  |
| S&T008  | Movement of Growth & Investment staff from core to programme funding  | -0.090  |   |   |   | **-0.090**  |
| S&T009  | One-off utilisation of LEP (The New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership) reserves   | -0.120  | 0.120  |   |   | **0.000**  |
| S&T010  | Service efficiencies across Strategy, Design and Delivery  | -0.126  |   |   |   | **-0.126**  |
| S&T011  | Reduced supplier spend through review of contracts across Digital Services  | -0.372  |   |   |   | **-0.372**  |
| S&T012  | Reducing spend on application systems, and savings delivered by process automation RPA (robotic process automation) | -0.068  |   |   |   | **-0.068**  |
| S&T013  | Increased external income within Digital Services  | -0.097  |   |   |   | **-0.097**  |
| S&T014  | Vacancy management and reprofiling of roles within Digital Services  | -0.244  |   |   |   | **-0.244**  |
| **Chief Executive’s Office**  |
| CEX001  | Increase in Registrars fees and charges | -0.020  |   |   |   | **-0.020**  |
| CEX002  | Expansion of citizenship service  | -0.020  |   |   |   | **-0.020**  |
| CEX003  | Nplaw annual uplift | -0.032  | -0.034  | -0.036  | -0.039  | **-0.141**  |
| CEX004  | Executive Support to Chair reduced and new team created | -0.030  |   |   |   | **-0.030**  |
| **Finance Directorate**  |
| FIN001  | Automation of process and information between pension and payroll | -0.050  |   |   |   | **-0.050**  |
| FIN002  | One-off saving from review of insurance provision | -1.000  | 1.000  |   |   | **0.000**  |
| FIN003  | Additional ESPO (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) dividend | -0.400  |   |   |   | **-0.400**  |
| FIN004  | Efficiencies across various Finance budget lines | -0.050  |   |   |   | **-0.050**  |
| **Totals**  | **-33.552**  | **-11.896**  | **-10.979**  | **-3.654**  | **-60.081**  |

About you

To make sure we are learning from a wide range of people – we’d like to ask some questions about you.  These are optional questions (so you may choose not to give this information), but this information is helpful to understand who is responding to our consultations.

**Related information**

On 12 September 2024 the ONS (Office for National Statistics) announced the findings of a review of gender identity estimates from Census 2021, which includes a reclassification of ‘official statistics in development’.

You can read more about this on the [ONS website](https://www.ons.gov.uk/news/news/betterunderstandingthestrengthsandlimitationsofgenderidentitystatistics)[[7]](#footnote-8)

We are using the ONS Census 2021 format for the 'About You' questions, but with an awareness of this update from the ONS.

Q1: **Are you responding as...?** Please choose **one** answer only from the list below:

[ ]  An individual / member of the public

[ ]  On behalf of a voluntary or community group

[ ]  On behalf of a statutory organisation

[ ]  On behalf of a business

[ ]  A Norfolk County Councillor

[ ]  A district or borough Councillor

[ ]  A town or parish Councillor

[ ]  A Norfolk County Council employee

If you are responding on behalf of another organisation, what is the name of the organisation, group, or business?

Please write your answer here:

Q2. **How did you hear about this consultation?** Please choose **one** answer only from the list below:

[ ]  Local media (e.g., newspaper, radio)

[ ]  From a social media post (e.g., Facebook)

[ ]  From a friend

[ ]  From a group I belong to

[ ]  From my place of work or education

[ ]  The Norfolk Residents' Panel

[ ]  District council web page

[ ]  Norfolk County Council web page

[ ]  My Parish Council

[ ]  From an email I received

[ ]  Other

Other, please write here:

Please write your answer here:

Q3. **How old are you?** Please choose **one** answer only from the list below*:*

[ ]  Under 18

[ ]  18-24

[ ]  25-34

[ ]  35-44

[ ]  45-54

[ ]  55-64

[ ]  65-74

[ ]  75-84

[ ]  85 or older

[ ]  Prefer not to say

Q4**. What is your sex?** Please choose **one** answer only from the list below:

[ ]  Male

[ ]  Female

Q5. **Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?** Please choose **one** answer only from the list below:

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

If No, please write your gender identity here:

Q6. **Do you have any long-term illness, disability or health problem that limits your daily activities or the work you can do?** Please choose **one** answer only from the list below:

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

[ ]  Prefer not to say

Q7. **If yes, which of the following best describes your condition or disability?** Please select as many answers that apply:

[ ]  Blind or partially sighted

[ ]  Deaf or hard of hearing

[ ]  Limiting health condition e.g. heart disease, asthma, strokes, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia and myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) etc.

[ ]  Learning Disabilities

[ ]  Neurodiversity e.g. autistic spectrum disorders, dyslexia, dyspraxia

[ ]  Mental health conditions e.g. depression, schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorders, eating disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder

[ ]  Physical disability e.g. limb disorder, amputee, wheelchair user, cerebral palsy, motor neurone disease, muscular dystrophy

[ ]  Other, please write here:

Please write your answer here:

1. **How would you describe your ethnic background?**  Please choose **one** answer only from the list below:

**Asian or Asian British**

[ ]  Asian British

[ ]  Indian

[ ]  Pakistani

[ ]  Bangladeshi

[ ]  Chinese

Any other Asian background, please describe here:

**Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African**

[ ]  Black British

[ ]  Caribbean

[ ]  African

Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background, please describe here:

**Mixed or multiple ethnic groups**

[ ]  White and Black Caribbean

[ ]  White and Black African

[ ]  White and Asian

Any other mixed or multiple group, please describe here:

**White**

[ ]  English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British Irish

[ ]  Gypsy or Irish Traveller

[ ]  Roma

Other White background, please describe here:

**Another ethnic group**

[ ]  Arab

Any other ethnic group please describe here:

[ ]  Prefer not to say

1. **Do you have caring responsibilities?** Please choose **one** answer only from the list below*:*

  [ ]  No

  [ ]  Yes – for children with additional needs

  [ ]  Yes – for older family members

  [ ]  Yes – other

Yes - other, please write your answer here:

1. **Which District / Borough / City do you live in?** Please choose **one** answer only from the list below:

  [ ]  Breckland

  [ ]  Broadland

  [ ]  Great Yarmouth

  [ ]  King’s Lynn and West Norfolk

  [ ]  North Norfolk

  [ ]  Norwich

  [ ]  South Norfolk

1. **Which of the following best describes you?** Please choose **one** answer only from the list below:

[ ]  Employed (full time)

[ ]  Employed (part time)

[ ]  Self-employed

[ ]  Unemployed

[ ]  Student

[ ]  Looking after the family home

[ ]  Long term sick

[ ]  Retired

1. **What is your first language?**

[ ]  English

Other, please write here:

## **How we will make our decision and report back to you**

We will take a report about the findings of this consultation to the Norfolk County Council Cabinet meeting in January 2025.

The council’s scrutiny committee and select committees will comment on the budget proposals, before Cabinet finalises the proposals in January 2025 and the Full Council makes a final decision on the budget in February 2025.

Our county councillors will consider the consultation responses we receive very carefully. In particular, they will take into account:

* The impact of any proposal on individuals, groups or communities and in particular on people identified as having 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.  As well as this equality impact assessment, councillors will consider the impact of proposals on rural areas
* The views of people and stakeholders consulted
* The evidence of need and what is proven to work effectively and well
* The financial and legal positions and any constraints at the time
* Any potential alternative options, models or ideas for making the savings.

**Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this and respond.**

**You can fill in our online feedback form at:** [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/savingsproposals)

**You can email return your feedback form to:** haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk

You can send back a paper feedback form to:

BUDGET CONSULTATION 2024/25

Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH.

However, if you want to help the council save money, please use a stamp and send to this address: Stakeholder and Consultation Team, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, NR1 2DH.

You may wish to keep a copy of your response to our consultation for your own records.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please email us at haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk or contact Customer Services on 0344 800 8020 or Text Relay on 18001 0344 800 8020 (textphone) and we will do our best to help. |

1. [Setting next year's budget - Norfolk County Council](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/privacy [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/corporate/council-vision-and-strategy [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [CMIS > Calendar of Meetings](https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/2157/Committee/169/Default.aspx) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/council-tax-statistics [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. [Setting next year's budget - Norfolk County Council](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. [Better understanding the strengths and limitations of gender identity statistics - Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/news/news/betterunderstandingthestrengthsandlimitationsofgenderidentitystatistics) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)