Cheshire West & Chester Council

Our budget

What do you think about our plan for spending money on Council services?



Easy Read

Cheshire West and Chester

Easy Read

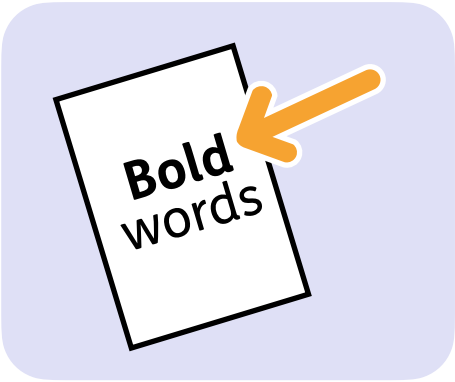


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

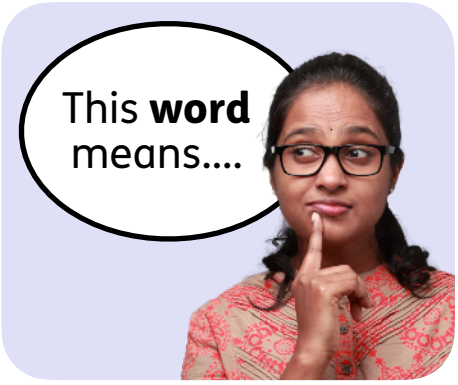
It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

What is in this booklet

About this booklet 4

How to tell us what you think 5

Challenges we have 7

How we will work out what to spend money on 8

Questions for you to answer 18

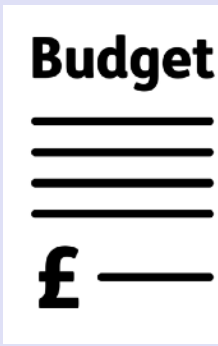
About you 21

Thank you 28

Find out more 29

About this booklet

This booklet is from Cheshire West and Chester Council.



We are planning how to spend our money over the next year.
This money is called our **budget**.



This booklet will tell you more about our budget.



Before we make any decisions, we want to know what you think.

How to tell us what you think



You need to tell us what you think by **Wednesday 2 December 2026**.

You can tell us what you think by:



- Filling in a survey on our website here: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/letstalkbudget



- Filling in this survey and emailing it to us at: councilbudget@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

You can tell us what you think by:



- Filling in this survey and posting it to us at:

  Let's Talk Budget
  Communications and Engagement
  Cheshire West and Chester Council
  The Portal
  Wellington Road
  Ellesmere Port
  CH65 0BA



You can use the envelope we gave you with this survey.
You do not need to use a stamp.



- Calling us on 0300 123 8123. You will need to say you are calling about **Let's Talk Budget**.

Challenges we have



More and more people need to use our services.



The cost of providing services is going up.



If we carry on spending money as we are now, we will be 20 million pounds short next year and 40 million pounds short overall.



So we need to make some difficult decisions about what we spend our money on.

How we will work out what to spend money on



We have some **principles** which will help us decide what to spend money on.

Principles are ideas which we think are important to the Council.

We will tell you:



- What each principle is.



- How we want to work towards it.

Put people who need the most help first



We cannot spend money on everything we want to.



So we will make sure we spend money on supporting people who need our help the most.



This might be services that support children or adults who need extra support.



For example, last year we spent 94 million pounds more to support adults and 44 million pounds more to support children.

Spend money to help people in the future



We want to make sure we spend money to help Cheshire West and Chester do well in the future.



This includes spending money on things like:

- Making local areas look and feel nicer to be in.



- Making more local areas accessible for everyone.



- Making local areas that local people are proud of.

Stopping problems before they get bad



We want to support people as soon as we can.



We could do this by giving more money to services that help people before their problems get worse.



This will help to stop people's problems from getting worse and needing more help from us.



We want to help people to do more for themselves so we can lower the amount of help they need from us.



We also want to help people to do more for themselves so we can spend less money on paying for extra support for people.

Spending money in the right way



When we spend money, we will always think about how we can do good things for local people.

This might be by:



- Improving our services.



- Making sure our services do the best they can for people.



We will always check that our services are working in the best way they can.



We may change how, when or where we provide services to make them better.

Giving the best service to people



People in Cheshire West and Chester expect us to provide a good service.



We will carry on thinking about how we can support local people when we make any decisions.



We will make sure our services work well for the people who use them.

We may do this by:



- Improving the support we provide online.



- Making our face to face support as easy to use as possible.

Working with others

We need to work with local people and other organisations so we can support people to:



- Live good lives.



- Look after themselves as much as they can.

Working with local people will help us to understand:



- What local people need.



- If we are providing the support they need.

We will do this by:



- Listening carefully to everything people tell us.



- Using what people tell us to make the best decisions for local people.

Questions for you to answer



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



You do not have to answer all of the questions if you do not want to.



We will keep your information about you safe and private.

This means no one will know that your answers are from you.



You can look at our privacy notice on our website here:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/privacynotice



Question 1: Please write down anything you want to say about our principles:



Question 2: Please write down any ideas you have about how we could:

- Save money.
- Make more money.

About you



The questions in this part of the survey are about you.



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



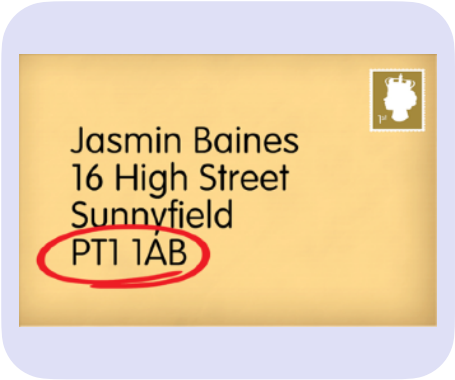
Question 3: Are you...

Please choose all the answers that are true for you.

- [ ] Someone who lives in the local area
- [ ] A member of a group called the Council's Citizens' Panel - the Participate Panel
- [ ] Answering for a local business
- [ ] Someone who works for Cheshire West and Chester Council

There are more answers on the next page.

- [ ] A councillor for Cheshire West and Chester Council
- [ ] A town or parish councillor in Cheshire West and Chester
- [ ] Answering for a community organisation
- [ ] Something else. Please write it in this box



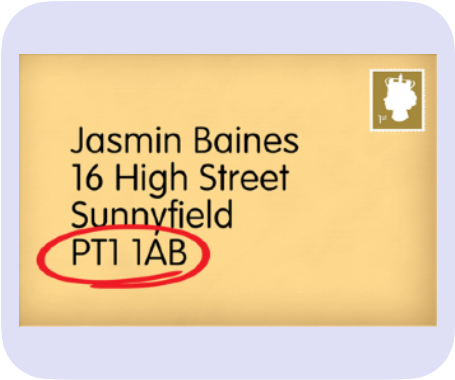
Question 4: If you are answering for a group or organisation, please tell us its name and postcode.



If you are answering for a group or organisation, you do not need to answer any more questions.



If you are answering for yourself, please carry on.



Question 5: What is your postcode?



Question 6: Are you...

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ I do not want to say



Question 7: How old are you?

- ☐ Under 16
- ☐ 16 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 to 74
- ☐ 75 or older
- ☐ I do not want to say

If you are under 16



If you are under 16, you will need a parent or adult who looks after you to say you can take part in this survey.



Please write their name in the box below:



Please write their email address in the box below:

Thank you



Thank you for telling us what you think about our budget.

Please tell us what you think by **2 December 2026**.



What you have said will help us write the final budget for the year.



We will share everything we found out on our website in January 2027.



The budget will be decided by all Councillors on
Thursday 25 February 2027.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/letstalkbudget

You can contact us by:



- Post:
  Let's Talk Budget
  Communications and Engagement
  Cheshire West and Chester Council
  The Portal
  Wellington Road
  Ellesmere Port
  CH65 0BA



- Phone: 0300 123 8123

You can also contact us by:



- Email:

  councilbudget@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

This Easy Read booklet was made by easy-read-online.co.uk
The images are licensed from Shutterstock.