

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

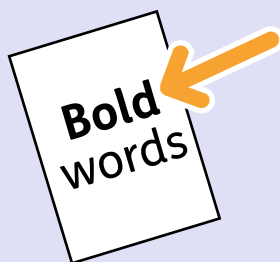
Easy Read



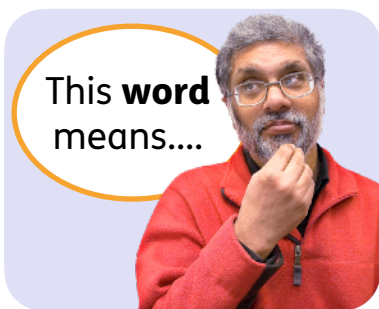
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



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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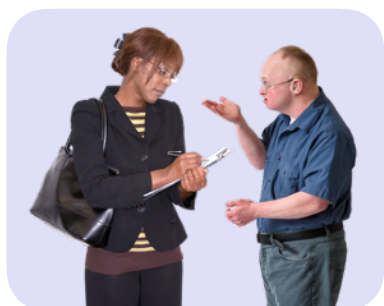
About this booklet



This booklet is from Cheshire West and Chester Council.



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



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



This booklet will tell you more about our budget.



You can tell us what you think about our budget by answering the questions in this booklet.

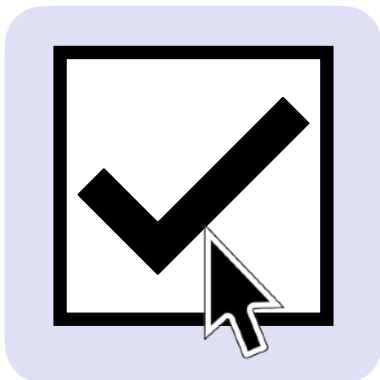
How to answer this survey



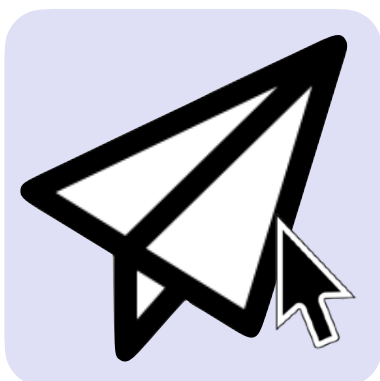
You can answer the survey questions in lots of different ways.



You can complete this Easy Read survey on your computer. First you will need to download it.



When you open the survey on your computer, you will be able to click on the tick boxes and write in the text boxes.



When you have finished the survey, save it to your computer and email a copy to:
councilbudget@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

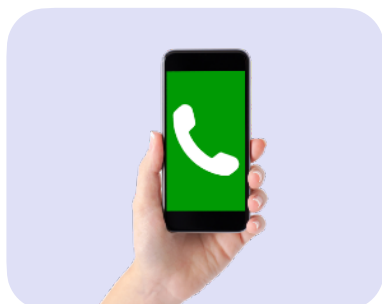


You can also fill out the survey on our website:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/fitforthefuture



The survey on our website is not in Easy Read, so you may want someone to help you with this.



If you want to tell us what you think about our budget by phone, you should:

1. Call us on 0300 123 8123.



2. Ask to speak to the Council's Contact Centre.



3. Say that you are calling about "fit for the future".

You can send us your answers by:



- Post:
Fit for the future
Insight and Intelligence
Cheshire West and Chester Council
The Portal
Wellington Road
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BA



- Email:
councilbudget@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



We need your answers by
30 November 2025.

Our services



£1 billion

We spend around £1 billion a year on services for people in Cheshire West and Cheshire.

Most people know about or use some of our services, like:



- Collecting rubbish and recycling.



- Cleaning public areas, like parks.



- Looking after and repairing roads.

We also pay for services that look after people who need extra support, like:



- Supporting older people and disabled people to be as independent as possible.



- Looking after children who are **vulnerable**.

Vulnerable means someone might need help and support to stay safe and well.



- Supporting children who need extra help at school.



- Helping people who need support with their **mental health**.

Mental health is the way you think, feel and behave.



We also pay for services that work with people who are homeless, or might become homeless.



Services that look after people who need extra support are important for the future of the area.



This uses about two-thirds of our money.



All councils have had to spend more money on services.



Lots of councils are finding it difficult to pay for all the services they need to.

£22.7 million



We are planning to save £22.7 million between 2026 and 2027.

£22 million more



We are planning to save £22 million more between 2027 and 2029.



A lot of this money will come from **Adult Social Care**.

Adult Social Care is services that help look after adults who need extra support.



A lot of this money will also come from services for children and young people.

We will save money on these services by:



- Changing services so they cost less money to run.



- Giving support and care so that problems are solved before they get serious.



- Changing some services to help people need less support and do more things for themselves.



We also need to save around £40 million more over the next four years.

Our budget



These are the things we will do to help us keep following our budget.

Working with communities



Communities are groups of people who live in the same place or share something in common.



We will work with local groups and organisations to help us run good services that make communities stronger.

This will:



- Help people in the community to live well and do more things for themselves.



- Help people use the services they need, when they need them.

Stopping problems before they happen



We want to save money by stopping problems before they happen.

We will stop problems before they happen by:



- Giving early support to children and families, so they need less help later on.



- Working with local communities and groups to help decide how to stop problems from happening.



- Changing adult social care services based on what each person can do and what they need.

Using technology to make services better



We want to use technology to make services better.



We have a new team who are helping us do this, called the **Data, Digital and Technology Team.**



We are planning to:

- Use technology to make the changes that will help people the most.



- Make sure services are ready to make changes with technology.

We are also planning to:



- Listen to what people need and include everyone in plans to make changes with technology.



- Make changes quickly and in a way that works well.

Changing buildings and other places



We want to make some changes to buildings and other places we own.

We plan to:



- Share buildings with other organisations to help people get the services they need.



- Look at places that are not used very much, and change the way we use them.



- Make sure our buildings help us provide services and make areas better to live in.

Making sure we have enough money in the future

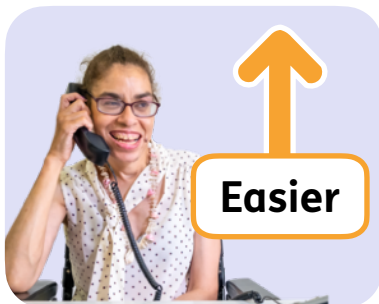


We want to make sure we have enough money to pay for services in the future.

We will do this by:



- Changing the way we run care and support services to help people do more for themselves.



- Making it easier and quicker for local people and businesses to find out information and contact us.



- Using technology to help staff run services and do their jobs well.

We will also make services better and save money by:



- Making sure that we spend money on changes that will help us save more money in the future.



- Giving more support to organisations that support the community.



- Make sure that buildings and other places help people in the community get what they need.



This includes making sure that buildings are **accessible**.

Accessible means it is easy to use and suitable for people with different needs.

We will also make services better and save money by:



- Making sure staff have enough time and the right skills to run services well.



- Looking at our services to stop us from running more services than we need to.



We also need to think of new ways to get more money for the services people need.

We will do this by:



- Making sure we charge the right amount of money for services.



- Trying to get more money from the government to help run local services.

We will also:



- Do more to collect **debt** from people and businesses, in a way that is fair and works well.

Debt is money that you borrow and have to pay back.



- Look at other ways to make money.

What do you think?



Question 1: Please use the box below to write down anything you want to say about our budget plan over the next year:

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.



We will keep your information about you safe and private.



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



Question 2: Are you...

Please choose all the choices 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 company
- ☐ A council worker
- ☐ A local councillor
- ☐ A town or parish councillor
- ☐ Part of a community organisation
- ☐ Other - please say



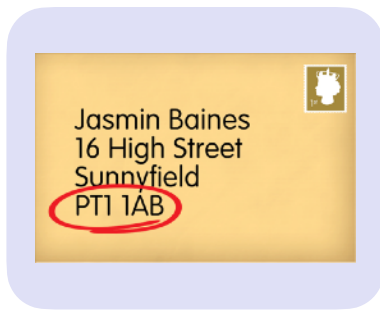
Question 3: If you are answering for a group or organisation, please tell us its name and postcode.



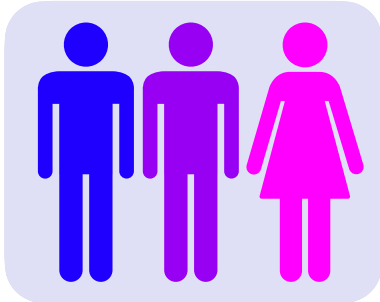
If you are answering for a group or organisation, you do not need to answer any more questions.



If you are answering for yourself, please carry on.



Question 4: What is your postcode?



Question 5: Are you...

☐

Male

☐

Female

☐

I do not want to say



Question 6: 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:

What happens next?



We need your answers by 30 November 2025.



We will share what we have decided on our website in January 2026.



The Council will vote on the decisions on 26 February 2026.

Find out more

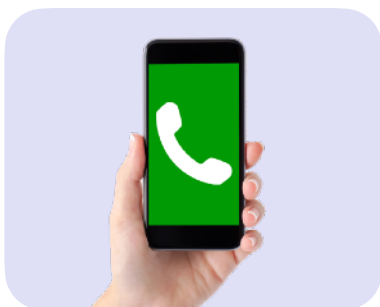


You can look at our website here:
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/fitforthefuture

You can contact us by:



- Post:
Fit for the future
Insight and Intelligence
Cheshire West and Chester Council
The Portal
Wellington Road
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BA



- Phone: 0300 123 8123



- Email:
councilbudget@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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