

# North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2025/26 Consultation

## Group Facilitator's Feedback Form

### Overview

The draft revenue budget for North Northamptonshire Council was approved by the Executive on 19 December 2024 and we are now seeking views on our proposals for the next financial year.

The consultation phase is a very important one in the budget setting process as it's essential that we get the views of all the people the proposals effect before we can shape the final plans in February.

North Northamptonshire Council's budget proposals set out a detailed spending strategy for the authority for the financial year 2025/2026 as well as outlining the medium-term financial plan for the following three years.

Protecting and investing in our local frontline services against a backdrop of continued national financial uncertainty is the focus of North Northamptonshire Council's budget proposals for the next financial year (2025/2026).

The proposed net revenue budget for 2025/2026 is £400.93 million. This money provides a range of services to residents and businesses across the area including care to vulnerable adults and children, education, the disposal and collection of waste, highways maintenance, economic development, housing and support for those that are homeless.

A commitment to maintain vital service provision has seen the Council invest an additional £51.9 million into services, including £23.7 million into adult social care and £6.2 million into children's services to protect the most vulnerable in our communities and address growing demand for these vital services.

These pressures are, in part, offset by savings, efficiencies and further income of £26.3 million. Taken together with an improvement in funding expected from business rates, Council Tax and government grants the Council has been able to set a balanced budget for 2025/2026.

Council fees and charges have been reviewed for 2025/2026 and set in accordance with the Council's constitution.

The Council is also proposing a programme of capital investment totalling £180.4m over the four-year period 2025-2029 across a number of schemes including investing over £43.6m into highways, £36.6m for continued investment into our Housing Stock,

£27.9m for investment into schools, £8.1m to support facilities for those with disabilities, £8.2m in improving digital infrastructure and £2.6m for Electrical Vehicle infrastructure.

## **Council Tax**

Government has permitted local authorities such as North Northamptonshire Council to increase the Council Tax rate by 4.99%, including 2% for the adult social care precept, in recognition of the difficult financial climate.

The authority is proposing an increase allowed by Government in council tax of 4.99%.

This increase would contribute around an additional £11m per year towards inflationary and demand lead pressures to enable services to be maintained and would represent a Band D level of Council Tax for North Northamptonshire Council of £1,827.06 for 2025/2026. This is an annual increase of £86.84 (equivalent to £1.67 per week) from the Band D Council Tax level set in 2024/2025.

This means that North Northamptonshire Council's Council Tax rate will be in the lower third for unitary councils.

Increasing Council Tax has the advantage of providing stable funding for the future, helping to further protect services, and will provide the Council with a degree of certainty around funding. This is important as there will be a review of how government grants are distributed from 2026/2027.

This Band D figure does not include the Council Tax for individual Town and Parish Councils or the Council Tax set for Fire and Police by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

There is no change to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme which will continue at 25% (minimum contribution towards Council Tax).

## **Next steps**

This consultation will run from 19 December 2024 until 23:59 on Friday, 24 January 2025, with the Executive then meeting on 6 February 2025 to consider the final budget proposals for recommendation to Full Council on 20 February 2025.

The main proposals are:

- To increase Council Tax by 4.99%, comprising a 'core' Council Tax increase of 2.99% covering all services and a further 2% for the adult social care precept, which is the maximum amount permitted. This would contribute an additional £11m per year and would represent a Band D level of Council Tax of £1,827.06 for 2025/2026, an increase of £86.84 from £1,740.22 in 2024-25, which is equivalent to a weekly increase of £1.67.

- Draft Capital Programme 2025-29.

Your feedback on this consultation is really important to us. All consultation feedback will be analysed and considered and will help inform Councillors of residents' and stakeholders' views when making a final decision on the budget at the North Northamptonshire Council Full Council meeting on 20 February 2025. This meeting is held in public and anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must contact [democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk) once the agenda is issued on the Council's website on **12 February 2025**. Details of how the public can address the meeting will be given on the agenda.

## Related Documents

Please read the related documents to gain a better understanding of the budget proposals before you comment on them.

- [Draft Budget 2025/2026 and Medium-Term Financial Plan](#), and its appendices:
  - [Appendix A and B - Draft Budget Summary 2025/2026 and list of budget pressures and saving proposals](#)
  - [Appendix C - Dedicated Schools Grant](#)
  - [Appendix D - Reserves Strategy 2025/2026](#)
  - [Appendix E - Equality Screening Assessment](#)
- [Capital Programme 2025-2029](#), and its appendices:
  - [Appendix A - Capital Programme 2025-2029](#)
  - [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2025-2029](#)
  - [Appendix C - Development Pool](#)

## Housing Revenue Account

The following Housing Revenue Account (HRA) report is being presented to Executive as part of the council's budget papers.

The HRA is a separate ring-fenced account within the Council for the income and expenditure associated with its housing stock.

The HRA does not directly impact on the Council's wider general fund budget or on the level of council tax. Income to the HRA is primarily received through the rents and other charges paid by tenants and leaseholders.

This year's Draft Budget for the HRA is in a balanced position while crucially the medium-term is also showing a balanced position.

There is also a proposed rent increase of 2.7% for the next financial year, which accords with the Government's rent setting policy for 2025/2026. Any funding received by the HRA is retained within the HRA and will be used to support investment into the Council's housing stock through improvements and maintenance.

Council tenants will be consulted via a targeted consultation on the HRA proposals via their respective Tenant Advisory Panel.

- [Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget 2025/2026 and Medium-Term Financial Plan Proposals](#)
  - [Appendix A – Draft HRA Budgets for 2025/2026](#)
  - [Appendix B – Draft HRA Medium Term Financial Plan](#)
  - [Appendix C – HRA Summary of Reserves](#)

All of the above documents are available on our website <https://northnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2025-26>

## **Have your say**

**This form is to help assist a group of respondents to record and provide their feedback as a collective group (for example a community group) to one or more of the consultation proposals.**

If you would like to respond to the consultation as an individual, or if you are responding on behalf of an organisation, then we would encourage you to complete the online questionnaire at <https://northnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2025-26> (paper copies available upon request).

The following sections give details of the budget proposals. Please tell us your groups views by completing this questionnaire.

This questionnaire focusses on the key new proposals for the draft budget 2025/2026 that will likely affect residents. However, there is opportunity to comment on anything within the Draft Budget in the comment boxes towards the end of the questionnaire.

Your feedback will be part of a report with many other people's feedback, so you will not be personally identified.

The deadline for returning this questionnaire is 23:59 **24 January 2025**.

**Thank you for helping us by completing this questionnaire.**

**About you**

Name of facilitator(s)	
Name of organisation/group	
Date of meeting	
Number of participants	

**Which of the below customer categories best describes the participants?**

(Please tick (√) all that apply)

Older People	<input type="checkbox"/>
Younger Adults	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black or Minority Ethnic Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify):  
---------------------------------

## Proposed increase to Council Tax

The Council is proposing to increase Council Tax up to the level currently allowed by the government, without triggering a referendum – 4.99%. This increased rate includes a **general increase of 2.99%** and the allowable **adult social care precept increase, which is 2%**.

The Council Tax increase will contribute an additional £11m per year towards inflationary and demand pressures to enable services to be maintained.

### What would a 4.99% increase mean for Council Tax Bands?

As an example, a Band D level of Council Tax for North Northamptonshire Council of £1,827.06 for 2025/2026 is equivalent to £35.14 per week. The annual increase on an average Band D property across the area is £86.84, which is a weekly increase of £1.67p.

Around 57% of properties in North Northamptonshire are in Council Tax Bands A and B. These households would see an annual increase of £57.89 (equating to £1.11 per week) and £67.53 (£1.30 per week) respectively.

These figures do not include the Council Tax for individual town and parish councils or the Council Tax set for fire and police by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

The following table shows what the proposed 4.99% increase would be for each Council Tax Band.

Band	Annual increase	Weekly increase
A	£57.89	£1.11
B	£67.53	£1.30
C	£77.20	£1.48
D	£86.84	£1.67
E	£106.15	£2.04
F	£125.43	£2.41
G	£144.73	£2.78
H	£173.68	£3.34

Increasing Council Tax has the advantage of providing stable funding for the future, helping to further protect services, and will provide the Council with a degree of certainty around funding. This is important as there will be a review of how government grants are distributed from 2026/2027.

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) replaced Council Tax benefit in 2013. Council Tax benefit was a nationally prescribed scheme, whereas LCTRS is a local scheme set at the discretion of the Council. The scheme applies to working age

claimants. There is no proposed change to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme which will continue at 25%. Eligible pensioners continue to receive up to 100% Council Tax support depending on the levels of income they receive.

**The proposed Council Tax increase of 4.99% relates to two elements - the core increase of 2.99% to support all services and a further 2% for Adult Social Care. The following questions will consider each element in turn.**

**2) To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should increase Council Tax by 2.99% to help fund services?**

**What would a 2.99% increase mean for Council Tax Bands?**

As an example, a 2.99% general increase would result in an increase of £52.04 per year (£1.00 per week) for 2025/2026 for the average Band D Council Tax payer.

The following table shows what the proposed 2.99% increase would be for each Council Tax Band.

<b>Band</b>	<b>Annual Increase</b>	<b>Weekly Increase</b>
A	£34.69	£0.67
B	£40.47	£0.78
C	£46.26	£0.89
D	£52.04	£1.00
E	£63.61	£1.22
F	£75.17	£1.45
G	£86.73	£1.67
H	£104.08	£2.00

Please tick (✓) relevant answer

Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tend to agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tend to disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

**3) If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:**

**4) If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be reduced or avoided?**



**5) To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should increase Council Tax by a further 2% as part of the Adult Social Care precept, which would be used to directly fund Adult Social Care?**

**What would a 2% increase mean for Council Tax Bands?**

As an example, a 2% adult social care precept increase would result in an increase of £34.80 per year (£0.67p per week) for 2025/2026 for the average Band D Council Tax payer.

The following table shows what the proposed 2.00% increase would be for each Council Tax Band.

<b>Band</b>	<b>Annual Increase</b>	<b>Weekly Increase</b>
A	£23.20	£0.45
B	£27.06	£0.52
C	£30.94	£0.60
D	£34.80	£0.67
E	£42.54	£0.82
F	£50.26	£0.97
G	£58.00	£1.12
H	£69.60	£1.34

Please tick (✓) relevant answer

Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tend to agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tend to disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6) If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:**

**7) If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be reduced or avoided?**

## **Capital Programme 2025-2029**

The Capital Programme and its appendices includes all capital expenditure and income, including the acquisition, replacement and enhancement of assets financed from government grants, external contributions, revenue contributions, capital receipts and borrowing.

It sets out the key objectives and broad principles to be applied by the Council when considering capital investment and its funding, and provides the context for how the Medium Term Capital Programme seeks to support the realisation of the Council's vision and corporate priorities.

The Capital Programme has been developed to ensure a robust mechanism to deliver our priorities within the finances available.

For further information please see the [Capital Programme 2025-2029](#) report and its appendices, which contain details of each scheme:

- [Appendix A - Capital Programme 2025-2029](#)
- [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2025-2029](#)
- [Appendix C - Development Pool](#)

If you would like further details about any of the schemes please contact us at [YourVoiceMatters@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:YourVoiceMatters@northnorthants.gov.uk)

**8) If you have any comments you would like us to know on these schemes, please tell us here:**

**Name of scheme(s):**

**Comments:**

## Other comments

The budget report sets out the latest estimated funding position, service budget pressures, key financial risks and challenges influencing the development of North Northamptonshire Council's financial plans for 2025/2026 and the ongoing financial impact of those plans, together with the medium term estimates of funding and spending requirements.

This questionnaire focusses on the key new proposals for the draft budget 2025/2026 that will likely affect residents. However, you can comment on anything within the Draft Budget.

You can view the suite of budget reports via our website at <https://northnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2025-26>.

**If you have any other comments you would like to make about the proposals in this draft budget that you have not already told us, including any alternative ideas about how we could save the same amount of money or generate the same amount of income as outlined in the proposals, then please tell us here:**

**Name of proposal(s):**

**Comments:**

**9) How did you find out about this consultation?**

Please tick (✓) all that apply

As a member of the North Northamptonshire Residents' Panel	<input type="checkbox"/>
As a member of the North Northamptonshire Consultation Register	<input type="checkbox"/>
From an email alert from my local council	<input type="checkbox"/>
From a Council contact, as I am service user	<input type="checkbox"/>
From a voluntary sector organisation providing me with support or advice	<input type="checkbox"/>
From the North Northamptonshire Council website	<input type="checkbox"/>
On social media	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local Councillor	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local MP	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Leader's update	<input type="checkbox"/>
From the local media (newspaper or radio)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Word of mouth through family or friend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal: I am a North Northamptonshire Council employee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**The next steps**

Once the consultation period closes on 24 January 2025, we will analyse the results and then final budget proposals will be developed before going back to the North Northamptonshire Council Full Council meeting on 20 February 2025.

Your feedback on this consultation is really important to us. All consultation feedback will be analysed and considered and will help inform Councillors of residents' and stakeholders' views when making a final decision on the budget for 2025/2026.

This meeting is held in public and anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must contact [democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk) once the agenda is issued on the Council's website on **12 February 2025**. Details of how the public can address the meeting will be given on the agenda.

**Thank you for helping us by completing this questionnaire. Please return it to:**

Email address: [YourVoiceMatters@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:YourVoiceMatters@northnorthants.gov.uk)

Postal address: Budget Consultation Response  
North Northamptonshire Council  
Sheerness House  
Meadow Road  
Kettering  
NN16 8TL

The deadline for returning this questionnaire is 23:59 **24 January 2025**.