

## North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2023/24 Consultation

### Group Facilitator's Feedback Form

#### Overview

Creating an efficient council which can deliver vital services while being robust enough to withstand economic uncertainty is the cornerstone of North Northamptonshire Council's budget proposals for 2023/24.

The council proposes a balanced revenue budget for 2023/24 and outlines the medium-term financial plan for the next two years within our [22 December 2022 Executive reports](#).

While this has been challenging the authority has laid strong financial foundations for financial stability against a backdrop of global financial uncertainty.

The net revenue budget for 2023/24 is £336 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, household waste recycling, highways, economic development, housing and support for the homeless.

We are currently living through very challenging times and the council must do all it can to manage its finances efficiently and with prudence. We must put measures in place, not just with the current situation in mind but as we look toward the medium term.

Local government funding at a national level remains uncertain. Areas that have delivered significant business growth, such as North Northamptonshire Council could find that they are adversely impacted by the new local government funding regime which is due to be implemented in 2025/26.

We therefore need to take this into consideration when making our current budget decisions.

Unprecedented levels of inflation present significant challenges for everyone: individuals, businesses and local authorities, making running costs more expensive.

In these difficult times, we know our services are vital to residents and we are working hard to protect and improve them in the face of increasing demand.

We believe this budget will ensure the delivery of services that are so important to those who live and work in North Northamptonshire.

With the challenging economic climate, putting this budget together has not been easy and we have been very cautious with our finances. We continue to work tirelessly to deliver savings, to innovate, improve services and to attract funding from outside of the area.

## **Council Tax**

Government has permitted local authorities to increase the Council Tax rate by 4.99% in recognition of the difficult financial climate and increased inflationary pressures.

As such the authority is proposing an increase allowed by Government in Council Tax of 4.99%, which includes the 2% adult social care precept.

This increase would contribute around an additional £9m 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 £1,657.51 for 2023/24.

This is an annual increase of £78.78 (equivalent to £1.52 per week) from the Band D Council Tax level of £1,578.73 in 2022/23. For a Band A property – which makes up the greatest proportion of residences in the area – this would see an annual increase from £1,052.48 in 2022/23 to £1,105.01 for 2023/24, which is £52.53 a year (equating to £1.01 per week).

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.

Increasing Council Tax has the advantage of providing stable funding for the future, helping to further protect services.

With such a large proportion of our income coming from Council Tax – to not increase it, especially when inflation is at exceptionally high levels – would seriously impact our finances going forward and could mean that we would need to consider the revision of some of our services.

There is no change to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme which will continue at 25%.

## Next steps

This consultation will run from 22 December 2022 until midnight on Friday, 27 January 2023, with the Executive then meeting on 9 February 2023 to consider the final budget proposals for recommendation to Full Council on 23 February 2023.

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 £9m per year and would represent a Band D level of Council Tax of £1,657.51 in 2023/24, or the equivalent of £31.88 per week.
- Draft Capital Programme 2023-26.

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 23 February 2023. 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 15 February 2023. 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 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan](#), and its appendices:
  - [Appendix A - Draft Budget Summary 2023/24](#)
  - [Appendix B - List of budget pressures and saving proposals](#)
  - [Appendix C - Dedicated Schools Grant](#)
  - [Appendix D - Reserves Strategy 2023/24](#)
  - [Appendix E - Equality Screening Assessment](#)
  - [Addendum to Budget Report](#)
- [Capital Programme 2023-26](#), and its appendices:
  - [Appendix A - General Fund Capital Programme 2023-26](#)
  - [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2023-26](#)
  - [Appendix C - Development Pool](#)

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.

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

- [Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan Proposals](#)
  - [HRA Budget - Appendices A to C](#)

All of the above documents are available on our website <https://northnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2023-24>

## 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-2023-24> (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 2023/24 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 completing this questionnaire is midnight **27 January 2023**.

**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):	
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## 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 £9m 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 £1,657.51 in 2023/24 is equivalent to £31.88 per week. The annual increase on an average Band D property across the area is £78.78, which is a weekly increase of £1.52p.

For a Band A property – which makes up the greatest proportion of residences in the area – this would see an annual increase from £1,052.48 in 2022/23 to £1,105.01 for 2023/24, which is £52.53 a year (equating to £1.01 per week).

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	£52.53	£1.01
B	£61.27	£1.18
C	£70.04	£1.35
D	£78.78	£1.52
E	£96.29	£1.85
F	£113.79	£2.19
G	£131.31	£2.52
H	£157.56	£3.04

With such a large proportion of our income coming from Council Tax – to not increase it, especially when inflation is at exceptionally high levels – would seriously impact our finances going forward and could mean that we would need to consider the revision of some of our services.

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 £47.21 per year (£0.91 per week) for 2023/24 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..

Band	Annual Increase	Weekly Increase
A	£31.48	£0.61
B	£36.72	£0.71
C	£41.97	£0.81
D	£47.21	£0.91
E	£57.70	£1.11
F	£68.19	£1.31
G	£78.69	£1.51
H	£94.42	£1.82

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 mitigated?**



**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 a Band D property?**

As an example, a 2% adult social care precept increase would result in an increase of £31.57 per year (£0.61 per week) for 2023/24 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	£21.05	£0.40
B	£24.55	£0.47
C	£28.07	£0.54
D	£31.57	£0.61
E	£38.59	£0.74
F	£45.60	£0.88
G	£52.62	£1.01
H	£63.14	£1.22

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 mitigated?**

## **Capital Programme 2023-26**

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 2023-26](#) and its appendices, which contain details of each scheme:

- [Appendix A - General Fund Capital Programme 2023-26](#)
- [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2023-26](#)
- [Appendix C - Development Pool](#)

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

**8) If you have any comments to make 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 2023/24 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 2023/24 that will likely affect residents. However, you can comment on anything within the Draft Budget.

You can view the suite of budget reports on our website at <https://northnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2023-24> (item 6).

**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

From the local media (i.e. newspaper or radio)	<input type="checkbox"/>
On social media	<input type="checkbox"/>
From our website	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 voluntary sector organisation providing me with support and advice	<input type="checkbox"/>
If Other, please give details:	

**The next steps**

Once the consultation period closes on 27 January 2023, 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 23 February 2023.

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 2023/24.

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 15 February 2023. 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: [CET@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:CET@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 midnight **27 January 2023**.