

Bristol's Budget

2024/25

2: Consultation Survey

Bristol City Council is consulting on the level of Council Tax and Social Care Precept for next year (2024/25). We have included information about our proposals for other ways we can spend less and raise more income to address the budget gap over the next five years. We also invite your suggestions for ways we can balance the council's budget.

You can complete this survey online at:

www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/budget-2024-25

Or return this paper version of the survey using the Freepost envelope supplied.

Please give us your views by Thursday **21 December 2023**.



About this survey

This survey booklet is accompanied by a separate information guide, which provides information about the council's budget and our proposals.

In this survey, we ask you for your views on alternative options for the level of Council Tax and Social Care Precept. Social Care Precept is an additional charge which councils are permitted to add in some years on top of the Council Tax increase to help pay for adult social care.

We are not consulting you on the savings proposals this year because we do not think that they are likely to mean major changes to services the council provides. We are describing the savings here, so you have a full picture of how we propose to balance the budget, when you answer the questions about Council Tax and Social Care Precept.

We have included a comments section where you can explain your reasons and give us your suggestions for other ways we might save money or increase income to balance the budget. You can comment on our savings proposals here if you wish.

Council Tax and Social Care Precept

Question 1 asks for your views on alternative options for the level of Council Tax (no increase, or an increase of 1%, 2% or 3%) next year to help cover some of the financial pressures the council faces.

For each option we state how much money would be raised in one year (to the nearest £0.1 million) and how much this would add each week to the Council Tax bill for a Band B property (Band B is the most common banding of property across Bristol). For other Council Tax bands, you can use the table on the following page, to see how much each option would add to your Council Tax bill for your property band.

Question 2 asks you what level of Social Care Precept you think we should apply (no increase, 1%, or 2%) in addition to the increase in Council Tax in question 1 to support the delivery of adult social care services.



If you need this consultation survey as a paper version, or Easy Read, Braille, large print, British Sign Language, or in another language, or other alternative format, you can request this by emailing consultation@bristol.gov.uk or calling **0117 922 2848**.

This table shows the impact that different options for raising Council Tax would have on households.

Council Tax Bands

Tax base: 137,085

Council Tax band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2023/24 rate	£1,330.72	£1,552.52	£1,774.30	£1,996.09	£2,439.66	£2,883.23	£3,326.82	£3,992.17
Number of homes ¹	46,552	68,477	36,632	17,208	8,319	4,510	2,719	301

Annual Increase

Council Tax band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total increase in income for BCC £m (rounded to nearest £0.1m)
1%	£13.31	£15.53	£17.74	£19.96	£24.40	£28.83	£33.27	£39.92	£2.7m
2% ²	£26.61	£31.05	£35.49	£39.92	£48.79	£57.66	£66.54	£79.84	£5.5m
3% ³	£39.92	£46.58	£53.23	£59.88	£73.19	£86.50	£99.80	£119.77	£8.2m
4% ⁴	£53.23	£62.10	£70.97	£79.84	£97.59	£115.33	£133.07	£159.69	£10.9m
5% ⁵	£66.54	£77.63	£88.72	£99.80	£121.98	£144.16	£166.34	£199.61	£13.7m

Weekly Increase

Council Tax band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1%	£0.26	£0.30	£0.34	£0.38	£0.47	£0.55	£0.64	£0.77
2% ²	£0.51	£0.60	£0.68	£0.77	£0.94	£1.11	£1.28	£1.54
3% ³	£0.77	£0.90	£1.02	£1.15	£1.41	£1.66	£1.92	£2.30
4% ⁴	£1.02	£1.19	£1.36	£1.54	£1.88	£2.22	£2.56	£3.07
5% ⁵	£1.28	£1.49	£1.71	£1.92	£2.35	£2.77	£3.20	£3.84

Figures exclude amounts you pay for Police and Fire services, which are set by those authorities.

1: Approximate number of homes paying this rate after applying discounts/exemptions.

2: The exact figure is 1.99% for Council Tax and 2.00% for Social Care Precept. The figures in this table are for 2.00%.

3: The exact figure is 2.99% for Council Tax and 3.00% for Social Care Precept. The figures in this table are for 3.00%.

4: The exact figure is 3.99% for Council Tax and 4.00% for Social Care Precept. The figures in this table are for 4.00%.

5: The exact figure is 4.99% for Council Tax and 5.00% for Social Care Precept. The figures in this table are for 5.00%.

Questions

Council Tax

1. Which of the following Council Tax options would you prefer next year?

Please select one option. You can provide any comments on this in **Question 5**.

We have provided the amount of additional savings or income we would need to generate compared with Option CT3: an increase of 3% to Council Tax. A 3% increase in Council Tax is the assumption used in our current budget forecast.

- Option CT0: No increase to Council Tax**
This option would increase our funding gap by £8.2 million and require other savings each year to close the forecast budget gap.
- Option CT1: An increase of 1% to Council Tax**
This option would raise £5.5 million less than our forecast for 2024/25, so we would have to find £5.5 million more in other savings each year to close the forecast budget gap. This option would contribute £2.7 million to support the delivery of services, and would add around 30 pence per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.
- Option CT2: An increase of 2% to Council Tax**
This option would raise £2.7 million less than our forecast for 2024/25, so we would have to find £2.7 million more in other savings each year to close the forecast budget gap. This option would contribute £5.5 million to support the delivery of services, and would add around 60 pence per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.
- Option CT3: An increase of 3% to Council Tax**
This option would raise £8.2 million to support the delivery of services. This is the amount we have assumed in our forecast for 2024/25. This option would add around 90 pence per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.

Social Care Precept

2. Which of the following Social Care Precept options would you prefer next year?

Please select one option. You can provide any comments on this in **Question 5**.

- No additional Social Care Precept**
This option would raise no extra income to support the delivery of adult social care in 2024/25. This is £5.5 million less than our forecast for 2024/25, so we would need to find £5.5 million from other sources to fund adult social care.
- An additional 1% Social Care Precept**
This would be an extra 1% increase to Council Tax in addition to the increase in Council Tax you chose in Question 1.

This option would raise £2.7 million less than our forecast for 2024/25, so we would need to find £2.7 million from other sources to fund adult social care. This option would contribute £2.7 million to support the delivery of adult social care, and would add around 30 pence per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.
- An additional 2% Social Care Precept**
This would be an extra 2% increase to Council Tax in addition to the increase in Council Tax you chose in Question 1.

This option would raise £5.5 million to support the delivery of adult social care. This is the amount we have assumed in our forecast for 2024/25. This option would add around 60 pence per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B property.

Your views on higher increases in Council Tax and Social Care Precept

If the government states that an increase of more than 3% in core Council Tax or 2% Social Care Precept is permitted, we would like to know if you would prefer to pay more to reduce the savings we have to make to local services we provide.

Potential higher increases in Council Tax

We ask in **question 3** if you would prefer to pay an increase of 4%, 5%, or 6% or more in Council Tax next year, in case the government allows this. We have summarised the effects of each option below.

- An increase of 4% Council Tax would raise £10.9 million to support the delivery of services. This is £2.7 million more than we have assumed in our forecast for 2024/25. This option would add around £1.19 per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.
- An increase of 5% Council Tax would raise £13.7 million to support the delivery of services. This is £5.5 million more than we have assumed in our forecast for 2024/25. This option would add around £1.49 per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.
- An increase of 6% Council Tax would raise £16.4 million to support the delivery of services. This is £8.2 million more than we have assumed in our forecast for 2024/25. This option would add around £1.79 per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.
- Each 1% increase in Council Tax above 6% would raise £2.7 million next year and would add around 30 pence per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.

3. Would you prefer to pay an increase of more than 3% in Council Tax to reduce the savings we have to make to local services?

- No, I would not want to pay more than a 3% increase in Council Tax
- Yes, I would prefer an increase of 4% Council Tax compared to this year (2023/24)
- Yes, I would prefer an increase of 5% Council Tax compared to this year (2023/24)
- Yes, I would prefer an increase of 6% or more in Council Tax compared to this year (2023/24)

Potential higher increases in Social Care Precept

We ask in **question 4** if you would prefer to pay 3%, 4%, or 5% or more Social Care Precept next year, in case the government allows this. We have summarised the effects of each option below.

- A 3% Social Care Precept would raise £8.2 million to support the delivery of adult social care. This is £2.7 million more than we have assumed in our forecast for 2024/25. This option would add around 90 pence per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.
- A 4% Social Care Precept would raise £10.9 million to support the delivery of adult social care. This is £5.5 million more than we have assumed in our forecast for 2024/25. This option would add around £1.19 per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.
- A 5% Social Care Precept would raise £13.7 million to support the delivery of adult social care. This is £8.2 million more than we have assumed in our forecast for 2024/25. This option would add around £1.49 per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.
- Each additional 1% Social Care Precept above 5% would raise £2.7 million next year and would add around 30 pence per week to the Council Tax bill for Band B properties.

4. Would you prefer to pay a Social Care Precept of more than 2% to support the delivery of adult social care?

- No, I would not want to pay a Social Care Precept of more than 2%
- Yes, I would prefer to pay a Social Care Precept of 3%
- Yes, I would prefer to pay a Social Care Precept of 4%
- Yes, I would prefer to pay a Social Care Precept of 5% or more



Other comments and suggestions about the budget

5. If you would like to tell us why you selected the options for Council Tax and Social Care Precept, please describe below. You can also comment on our proposed savings proposals or tell us if you have any other suggestions for how the council can save money or increase income.

About you

We want to hear from as many people as possible from all parts of Bristol, so we can understand all viewpoints.

It would be very helpful if you could complete the following 'About You' questions. This will help us ensure that no-one is discriminated against unlawfully and will help us see if people in different parts of Bristol and different circumstances have different views. The questions include each of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

Information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). Personal and sensitive information will be used solely for the purpose of equalities monitoring to ensure that everyone is treated fairly.

Our privacy policy, which explains how we will process your personal information, how long we will retain it and your rights as a data subject is available at: www.bristol.gov.uk/resourcesprivacy

Please answer the questions below by ticking the boxes that you feel best describes you.

6. Which of the following describes your situation? (Please select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a resident in Bristol | <input type="checkbox"/> I am responding on behalf of a health or social care provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I work in Bristol but live elsewhere | <input type="checkbox"/> I am responding on behalf of a school or education provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I represent or own a local business | <input type="checkbox"/> I am responding on behalf of a public transport provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am responding on behalf of a housing association | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a Bristol City Council employee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am responding on behalf of a voluntary or community or social enterprise/ interest group | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a ward councillor | <div style="border: 1px solid #800080; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am an MP | |

7. What is your full postcode, for example BS13 9BC?

We are asking this to understand if citizens and stakeholders have different views in different parts of the city and to be sure we have heard from people in all areas of Bristol. If you are responding on behalf of a business or other organisation, please provide the postcode of the organisation's premises in Bristol.

8. What is your age?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 to 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 to 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 to 84 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 to 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

9. Do you consider yourself to be a Disabled person?

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Bristol City Council uses the 'Social Model of Disability' which recognises the right to self-identify as a Disabled person and that people are Disabled by barriers in society such as lack of physical access and lack of accessible communication, not by their impairment, including mental, physical, sensory, health conditions, learning difficulties etc.

10. What is your ethnic group?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British | <input type="checkbox"/> Other White background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black, Black British, Caribbean or African | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy, Roma or Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic background (please describe): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British | |

11. What is your religion/faith?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Pagan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim | |

12. What is your sex? (If unsure you can use the sex recorded in your official documents.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | |

13. Do you consider yourself to have a gender identity different from your sex recorded at birth?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (e.g. trans or non-binary) | If 'Yes', please enter the term you use to describe your gender |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | |

14. What is your sexual orientation?

- Bi*
 Prefer not to say
 Gay / Lesbian
 I use another term (please specify):
 Heterosexual / Straight

*'Bi' is an umbrella term used to describe a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards more than one gender. Bi people may use other terms e.g. bisexual, pan or pansexual.

15. Are you pregnant or have you given birth in the last 26 weeks?

- Yes
 Prefer not to say
 No

16. Are you a carer?

- Yes
 Prefer not to say
 No

A carer is anyone who provides unpaid support for a family member or friend etc. who needs help with their day-to-day life because of illness, disability or other needs. A young carer might also provide support for other children/siblings.

17. Are you a refugee or asylum seeker?

- Yes
 Prefer not to say
 No

18. Please tell us what effect, if any, the proposals would have on you because of your protected characteristics.

The protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 are:

- age
- gender reassignment
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or on maternity leave
- disability
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

- Very negative effect
 Slightly negative effect
 No effect
 Slightly positive effect
 Very positive effect

If you think the proposals would affect you because of your protected characteristics, please say how:

19. How did you hear about this consultation?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poster | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Survey delivered through my door | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper or online newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email from council | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Service Point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verbally from a council officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> X (formerly Twitter) | <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nextdoor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LinkedIn | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ask Bristol notification | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of group or campaign group | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Through an organisation I belong to | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Through my trade organisation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward councillor or MP | |

If you heard about it from an organisation, friends of group or campaign group, or at an event, please specify:

20. We want to make sure our surveys are as good as possible.

Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the following statements:

There is enough information for me to answer the questions.

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

The questions make it easy for me to give my views

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

The survey meets my accessibility requirements

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

If you disagree or strongly disagree with any of these three statements, please tell us why:



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You can sign up to receive updates about other council surveys. We'll keep you informed by emailing you a fortnightly newsletter of the most important consultations in the city and new ways to have your say. We'll also tell you about webcasts of major council meetings and city debates.

You can sign up to the Ask Bristol e-newsletter at: www.bristol.gov.uk/askbristolnewsletter

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