

# Your say on Herefordshire Council's budget and tax for 2021/2022

## Questionnaire for businesses / organisations

Herefordshire Council is responsible for a range of services in your local area, such as refuse collection, education, social care services and road maintenance. The income paid by business rates currently makes up 23% of the council's budget for these services, so we're keen to get your views on how we can make the best use of our budget and give your organisation value for money.

The information gained from this consultation will be used to inform our budget and the results will be published in February 2021 on the council website. Any comments provided will be treated as confidential and will be anonymised before publication.

Any information you provide will be held and used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. The information you provide will not be shared with any third parties, but where appropriate, it will be used to support the planning of services and the continuous improvement of various functions. For further information, please visit Herefordshire Council website:  
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/council/access-information/4>

Please complete this survey by **Friday 8th January 2021**.



If you have any queries or would like this questionnaire in an alternative format or language, please contact: [researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk)



## **The Council Transformation and Savings Programme**

All councils continue to experience constraints on spending, alongside increasing demand for some of their services. To balance the books, councils must continue to review what they do and how they do it.

Additionally, there is currently uncertainty over the amount of funding we will have in future and levels of funding from the government have yet to be confirmed, and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has made it hard to be sure how much funding we will receive.

However, Herefordshire Council has a successful track record of delivering savings and has already delivered substantial savings of £90 million. Through early planning and carrying out a range of efficiency measures, the council has protected frontline services and minimised the impact of spending reductions.

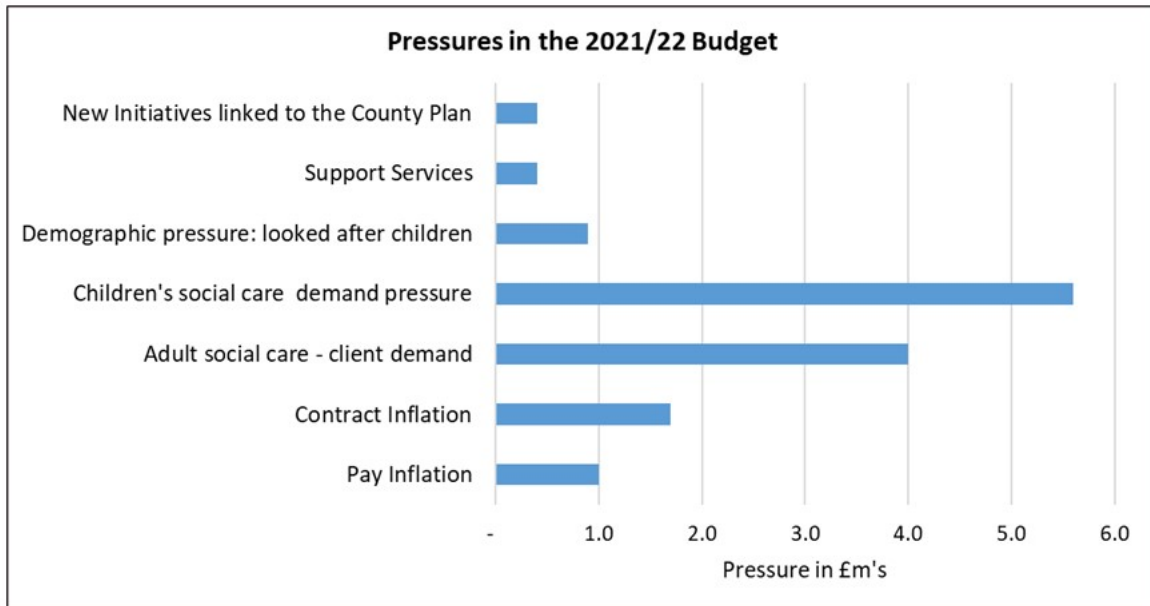
To reduce the continually increasing gap between our available resources and our expenditure, we will need to make further reductions in spending. Whilst the value and timing of such cost reductions is predicated on the level of financial support provided by central government and the impact of Covid-19 on the council's finances and demand for our services, the council is looking to make preparations for areas where cost reductions may need to be made. Current indications are that savings of up to £16m are required in 2021/22.

Savings of this level would involve continued changes to our role and the services we provide and we will continue to review our priorities, as shown in the County Plan summary, to make sure our more limited resources are focused on our 'core' activities.

## The next year

Meeting our proposed plan of continued savings would require finding potential savings of up to £16 million in 2021/22.

The main source of these financial pressures, driven by coronavirus and coronavirus legacy issues, are shown in the diagram below:



Q2. Looking at the information in the consultation document (<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation-summary>), how do you feel about the proposed amount of savings by directorate? please visit Herefordshire Council website for summary of what directorates do: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/21504/county-plan-summary>

	Far too little	Slightly too little	About right	Slightly too much	Far too much	Don't know
Adults and Communities Up to £5m or 5.2% of directorate budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children and Families Up to £2.9m or 7.9% of directorate budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economy and Place Up to £6.71m or 13.5% of directorate budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Corporate Centre Up to £1.49m or 7.9% of budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3. If you have any comments on the proposed savings by directorate please let us know:



Q5. Which of the following County Plan commitments would you say are the three highest priorities for investment over the next 4 years? (Please select only three)

	Highest priority	Second priority	Third priority
Minimise waste and increase reuse, repair and recycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve and extend active travel options throughout the county	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build understanding and support for sustainable living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Invest in low carbon projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identify climate change action in all aspects of council operation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seek strong stewardship of the county's natural resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protect and enhance the county's biodiversity, value nature and uphold environmental standards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure all children are healthy, safe and inspired to achieve	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure that children in care, and moving on from care, are well supported and make good life choices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build publicly owned sustainable and affordable houses and bring empty properties back into use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protect and improve the lives of vulnerable people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use technology to support home care and extend independent living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support communities to help each other through a network of community hubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop environmentally sound infrastructure that attracts investment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use council land to create economic opportunities and bring higher paid jobs to the county	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Invest in education and the skills needed by employers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhance digital connectivity for communities and business	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protect and promote our heritage, culture and natural beauty to enhance quality of life and support tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spend public money in the local economy wherever possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q6. Please use this space to make any other comments or suggestions about how the council invests and saves money:

### What do you think of the council?

Throughout this survey we ask you to think about 'your local area'. When answering, please consider your local area to be the area within 15 to 20 minutes walking distance from where your organisation is based.

Q7. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way Herefordshire Council runs things?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree that Herefordshire Council provides services that are value for money?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Herefordshire Council?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
The council keeps my organisation informed about the services it provides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The council keeps my organisation informed about any proposals for change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My organisation can influence decisions affecting my local area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q10. To what extent do you think Herefordshire Council acts on the concerns of local organisations?

- A great deal
- A fair amount
- Not very much
- Not at all
- Don't know

Please tell us the first part of the postcode of your organisation (if your organisation has several sites in the county please give the postcode of the site at which you are based)

Please return your completed questionnaire to:  
Herefordshire Council Research Team  
PO Box  
Plough Lane Offices  
Hereford  
HR4 0BR  
Please note a stamp will be required.

**Thank you**