

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is this consultation about?

The Council has set out new budget plans which enable the authority to continue to make major improvements through firmer financial management, efficiency savings and debt repayment, while investing in the services which are important to local people.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan from 2026/27 to 2029/30 was considered by its Executive Board on 21st October. The plan outlines how the authority aims to balance its budget. This includes ending the use of Exceptional Financial Support (EFS), where the Government allows councils to use one-off money from the sale of assets to pay for day-to-day running costs.

The budget proposals include new savings and investments, and we want to hear your views on these proposals, and on what you think we should be prioritising.

What is the Council's current financial situation?

We are now a financially stable council following major improvements made over the last 12 to 18 months.

Council debt has reduced by almost a third since 2021, and only 17% of the Exceptional Financial Support earmarked at the start of the year has been used.

Like all local councils, we face significant financial challenges from things like increased demand for social care. We must also wait for the Government to confirm later this year how much funding local councils across the country will receive.

What is being proposed for next year's budget?

Later this year we will find out how much funding local councils across the country will receive from the Government. However, we know we are already much better placed to respond to the needs and ambitions of this city. Next year alone as part of a proposed £15m investment package in front line services, an extra £4.5 million has been set aside. This will be used to:

- strengthen neighbourhood safety with additional Neighbourhood Safety Officers on our streets
- enhance street cleaning tackling more fly tipping and litter
- upgrade our roads by filling potholes and repairing our highways

- revamp our parks with new and improved equipment
- enrich local communities through local community grants and empower local people with local partnerships with devolved decision making.

Where does the Council's main funding come from?

A significant proportion of our funding comes from the Government in the form of grants including the Revenue Support Grant.

What about Council Tax?

Another source of income is Council Tax. This will be considered by the Council early in the New Year.

80% of Nottingham's homes are in the two lowest Council Tax bands A and B – almost twice the national average – which means we raise less through increasing Council Tax than many other councils.

How can people have their say on the budget proposals?

A six-week public consultation on the budget proposals has been launched following a meeting of the council's Executive Board meeting on 21st October. You can also find out more at our in-person and online public engagement events.

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/engage-nottingham-hub/open-consultations/202627-budget-savings-pr...>

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A series of in-person and online consultation meetings will also take place throughout November where councillors and officers will discuss the proposals and answer questions. Details can be found on the event schedule.

When will final decisions be made on the proposals?

Feedback from the consultation will be discussed by councillors at a meeting of the Executive Board on **10th February** and will help inform any decisions made.

The Board will then agree budget recommendations to go to Full Council for final approval on **23rd February**