



Cambridgeshire Budget Consultation - 16115

Hello, my name is and I work for MEL Research an independent research company. I am conducting a survey on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Council is seeking resident views to help them plan the budget next year, including setting the level of council tax as well as making savings.

The information you provide will be kept confidential and not be linked to your name or address. The survey should take about 10 minutes, are you happy to continue?

Section 1

- Q1 First can I just check that you are 18 or over?

Yes ☐ ¹ No (Thank you and close) ☐ ²

- Q2 Just to give you a bit of background. The Council spends £549 million a year on services for residents and needs to find savings over £23 million in the next year and £86 million over the following 5 years. This is in addition to the £175 million already saved over the past 5 years.
[Optional SHOWCARD 0. for those interested in current breakdown of Council spending]

Before today, how aware were you of the level of financial challenges facing the County Council?
(i.e. the amount they need to save) **SHOWCARD 1**

Very aware ☐ 1 Not at all aware ☐ 4
Somewhat aware ☐ 2 Unsure / Don't know ☐ 5
Not very aware ☐ 3

- Q3** How do you feel about the continuing financial challenges faced by the County Council?
SHOWCARD 2

Very worried ☐ 1 Not at all worried ☐ 4
Somewhat worried ☐ 2 Unsure / Don't know ☐ 5
Not very worried ☐ 3

- Q4 On a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 being 'very important' and 0 being 'not at all important', how important do you think each of the following outcomes are that County Council services are working to achieve? **SHOWCARD 3**

[illegible]

Council Tax:

Q5 Do you or does someone in your household pay council tax? (If council tax is included in your rent, tick YES)

Yes (Go to Q6) ☐ 1 Don't know (Go to Q7) ☐ 3

No (Go to Q7) ☐ 2

Q6 Do you receive a reduction in Council Tax due to household circumstances?

Yes ☐ 1 Don't know ☐ 3

No ☐ 2

Question 7

READ OUT: For the next question, the council wants your view on a proposed increase to council tax by 2% and there are four options to choose from. The 2% increase is called the Adult Social Care Precept, this is what the Council is allowed to increase tax by and it goes to pay for care for adults, mostly the elderly.

The increase applies to the Councils portion of your tax only (other parts of tax go to police, fire, parish and district councils).

READ OUT: Just so you know, a 2% increase means the average household (Band D council tax) will pay an extra 45p a week or £23.34 per year. To quickly summarise the 4 OPTIONS:

Option 1 is no increase in Council Tax. The Council would need to find over £5 million in savings from the planned Adult Social Care budget.

Option 2 is the 2% planned increase and would all go to Adult Social Care.

Option 3 is a general increase of 1.99% instead, and the money could be used across services (not exclusively for adult social care).

Option 4 is to raise both the Adult Social Care Precept and a general increase (option 2 and 3 above). A total increase of 3.99%.

Which of the following four options for the County Council's part of Council tax do you support? **SHOWCARD 4 (Allow resident to read showcard, assist them if needed)**

Option 1: Not increasing council tax.

This would mean not raising the Adult Social Care Precept of 2%.

An average band D property would not have to pay the 45p per week currently planned (£23.34 a year) but the County Council would have to find an additional £5.13 million of savings from Adult Social Care in order to balance the budget.

Option 2: Only raising the Adult Social Care Precept of 2%.

An average band D property would pay an extra 45p per week (£23.34 a year) and the resulting £5.13 million already included in our plans would just be spent on Adult Social Care.

Option 3: Only having a general increase in council tax of 1.99% instead of the Adult Social Care Precept.

An average band D property would pay an extra 45p per week (£23.22 a year).

The County Council would have to find at least an extra £200,000 in savings from Adult Social Care to balance our budget, however it means the £5.11m raised can be spent on all services rather than only ring fenced and currently planned to Adult Social Care.

Option 4: Raising both the Adult Social Care Precept and having a general increase council tax. A total increase of 3.99%

An average band D property would pay an extra 90p per week (£46.56 a year).

This would mean that the £5.13 million currently planned would be spent on Adult Social Care and a further £5.11 million would be available to be spent on other services.

Q7 INTERVIEWER TO CONFIRM WITH RESPONDENT (SHOWCARD 4)

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Option 1..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Option 4..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Option 2..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Don't know - DO NOT READ | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Option 3..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | | |

Q8 Can you please tell us why you chose {Q7} for Council tax? (If don't know, tell us if you require more information to make a decision)

Q9 If there were no restrictions on the size of Council tax increase would you increase Council tax by more than 3.99%?

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Yes (Go to Q10)..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Don't know (Go to Q11)..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| No (Go to Q11) | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | |

Q10 In total, including 3.99%, by how much would you increase Council Tax? Please put a total percent (%) figure below.

(As a guide, for each 1% an average band D property would pay approximately an extra 23p per week £11.67 a year)

Experience of County Council Services:

Q11 Which of the following County Council services do you or someone in your household use regularly? **SHOWCARD 5 - TICK ALL THAT APPLY**

- Help with parenting provided by Children's Centres ☐ 01
 Extra help in school for children with additional needs ☐ 02
 Help for disabled children including children with learning disabilities ☐ 03
 Libraries ☐ 04
 Help with living a healthier lifestyle such as giving up smoking or losing weight ☐ 05
 Help with managing mental health issues ☐ 06
 Help for disabled adults including adults with learning disabilities ☐ 07
 Social care or help to live at home for older people ☐ 08
 Subsidised public transport or community transport schemes such as dial-a-ride ☐ 09
 Other (please specify) ☐ 10
 None of the above ☐ 11

Other

Q12 Keeping in mind that as well as the above the County Council also maintains the County's roads and cycle-ways, manages the disposal of waste and develops the County's economy.

Is there any part of County Council services that you particularly value?

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 Don't know ☐ 3
 If yes, please explain

READ OUT: In the next section we will ask a few questions about you. This is to help make sure we talk to a range of residents.

Q13 Can I please take your postcode? This will not be passed back to the Council.

INTERVIEWER TO WRITE REFUSED WHERE APPLICABLE

Q14 And can I confirm that you live in - **READ OUT**

- Cambridge City ☐ 1 Huntingdonshire ☐ 4
 East Cambridgeshire ☐ 2 South Cambridgeshire ☐ 5
 Fenland ☐ 3

Q15 How would you describe your gender?

Female ☐ 1 Male ☐ 2 Other ☐ 3

Q16 What age band do you fall in? **SHOWCARD 6**

- 18-24 ☐ 1 55-64 ☐ 5
 25-34 ☐ 2 65-84 ☐ 6
 35-44 ☐ 3 85+ ☐ 7
 45-54 ☐ 4 Prefer not to say ☐ 8

Q17 Do you have any long-standing illness, disability, or infirmity that limits your activities in any way?

Yes ☐ 1 Prefer not to say ☐ 3
 No ☐ 2

Q18 How would you describe your ethnic group? **SHOWCARD 7**

English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Bangladeshi.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Any other Asian background	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
Any other White background.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 04	African.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 14
White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Caribbean.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 15
White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	<input type="checkbox"/> 16
White and Asian.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Arab.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 17
Any other Mixed / multiple ethnic background	<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Any other ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/> 18
Indian.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/> 19
Pakistani.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		

(IF Q18= 4, 8, 13, 16, or 18) Other, please explain

Q19 What is your working status? **SHOWCARD 8**

Employee: Part-time (30 or fewer hours per week)	<input type="checkbox"/> 01
Employee: Full-time (31 or more hours per week)	<input type="checkbox"/> 02
Self-employed: Part-time (30 or fewer hours per week).....	<input type="checkbox"/> 03
Self-employed: Full-time (31 or more hours per week)	<input type="checkbox"/> 04
Unemployed and available for work	<input type="checkbox"/> 05
Retired.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 06
Student (including full-time students)	<input type="checkbox"/> 07
Looking after home or family	<input type="checkbox"/> 08
Long-term sick or disabled	<input type="checkbox"/> 09
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 10

Other, please explain

Q20 Including yourself how many people (adults and children) live in the household?

1-One	<input type="checkbox"/> 01	6-Six	<input type="checkbox"/> 06
2-Two	<input type="checkbox"/> 02	7-Seven.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 07
3-Three.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 03	8-Eight.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 08
4-Four.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 04	9-Nine.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 09
5-Five	<input type="checkbox"/> 05	10 or more.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 10

Q21 (IF Q20 = two or more) Are there any children, under 16 years old living in the household?

Yes..... ☐ 1 No..... ☐ 2 Prefer not to say ☐ 3

Q22 Are you a carer? By carer we mean, do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either (1) they have long-term physical or mental ill-health or disability or (2) they have problems related to old age?

[Additional notes: This is an unpaid carer, but they can be seeking carer benefits. They don't need to live in the same household.]

Yes..... ☐ ¹ No..... ☐ ² Prefer not to say ☐ ³

Q23 The County Council would like to offer you the opportunity to remain in touch by e-mail and from time to time and send you links so you can take part in further consultation surveys.

Would you like to participate?

Yes..... ☐ ¹ No..... ☐ ² Don't know ☐ ³

Q24 Just to let you know that for quality control purposes, someone from my office may call you to verify my work. Are you happy for them to do so?

These details are kept confidential and are not linked to your responses and will not be passed on to any third party.

Yes ☐ ¹ No..... ☐ ²

(IF Q23 or Q24 = YES) Thank you for agreeing to provide this information. Could I please take your name, email address, and phone number? This information will not be linked to your responses.

Q25

Respondent Name	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number	<input type="text"/>
Full Address (Interviewer to write where they are)	<input type="text"/>

Thank you for your time.

Q26 Interviewer name

Q27 Starting Postcode