



## West Oxfordshire District Council Budget Consultation 2022 - 2023

We are currently preparing our annual budget for 2022/23 and we want your views on how we spend your council tax and our spending priorities. Our budget will cover the services we provide as a district council including housing, leisure and recreation, environmental health, waste collection, planning applications and local taxation collections.

The budget does not cover education, highways, libraries or social care as these are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council.

Below is a short survey which we would appreciate you completing to provide your feedback. The consultation will be open until **12 January 2022**.

1. Business Rate payers and Council Tax payers in West Oxfordshire are being asked for their views on the District Council's budget setting strategy. Are you a:

- Business Ratepayer
- Council Tax Payer
- Neither
- Both

### 2. Council Priorities

The Council has set the following priorities in its Council plan. Please rank them in order of importance from 1 to 6 with 1 being the most important.

- Climate action: Protecting and enhancing the environment by taking action locally on climate change and biodiversity
- Healthy towns and villages: Facilitating healthy lifestyles and better wellbeing for everyone by working with communities to tackle issues such as mental health
- A vibrant district economy: Securing future economic success by supporting existing local businesses and attracting new businesses to the area which will help provide jobs for local people

Strong local communities: Supporting and building prosperous and inclusive local communities by helping to set up local support networks and work on local community issues

Meeting the housing needs of our changing population: Securing the provision of market and affordable housing of a high quality so that local people can better afford to live locally

Modern Council services and sustainable finance: Delivering excellent modern services whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council so that our services work better for you and cost less to deliver

### 3. Council Tax

The Council is considering raising more money to fund services by increasing the total collected across all Council Tax bands.

This increase would be 40p per month or approximately 5% on band D. West Oxfordshire still has one of the lowest Council Tax charges in the country. Do you think this increase is appropriate to help us maintain the services we currently deliver and also the other proposals in our plan?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

### 4. Voluntary Bodies

The Council is not proposing any changes to the budget allocation of £200K of grants to the voluntary sector in 2022/23. The grants help local communities to deliver local projects and access funding they would otherwise struggle to raise.

Please indicate your views on this proposal:

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

## 5. Future funding

The Government funding for local councils has been steadily decreasing for the past decade. Looking to the future, all Councils are anticipating more changes to Government funding which are likely to leave us with less money to deliver local services. If this were to happen, should West Oxfordshire District Council:

- Cut costs by reducing service provision
- Increase Council Tax
- Increase Fees for services
- A mixture of the above

## 6. Leisure Centres

As part of our work to tackle the climate emergency, we are looking to reduce our carbon footprint, including at the council owned leisure centres across the district. Would you support a change in service practice to meet industry guidelines to reduce energy consumption?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

**Thank you for taking the time to be part of this survey and providing feedback for West Oxfordshire District Council. Are there any other comments you would like to make on our priorities or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery?**

Please return your completed survey to **Woodgreen Council Offices**, Witney, OX28 1NB