



## Consultation on Council Budget for 2022/23 Organisations' Survey

South Gloucestershire 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 around 9% 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.

In considering our questions, please think about the range of services South Gloucestershire Council provides to the community as a whole, as well as the services your organisation uses. It does not matter if you do not know all the services South Gloucestershire Council provides to the community. We would like your general opinion.

Please return your completed survey by **Sunday 19th December**. Alternatively, you can do this survey online at: [www.southglos.gov.uk/budget](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/budget) until 9th January 2022.



## **Aligning resources to Council Plan priorities**

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 to secure ongoing efficiencies in how services are provided.

There remains uncertainty over the amount of funding we will have in future. Levels of funding from the Government have yet to be confirmed although a multi-year settlement is due in the Chancellor's Autumn Budget which will provide further clarity. The ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to make it hard to be sure how much funding we will receive in future years from income sources like Council Tax and Business Rates.

South Gloucestershire Council has a successful track record of delivering savings and will have delivered over £102m by 2023/24 and in April 2021 commenced a programme to better align available resources and budgets with Council Plan priorities. This focused on planning ahead to tackle financial challenges, allowing time for more innovative and transformative measures that may take longer to implement whilst seeking to invest in our priorities.

As a priority the Council is focussing its investment over the next four years in delivering upon its commitment to achieving the best start in life for children and young people in the local area. To do this it is proposing to invest in areas that will support this aspiration to improve performance and support the workforce in our Children's Services.

At the same time, we continue to focus our resources on delivering support to those most in need and to helping people to help themselves; and in promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure and growth. All while ensuring that we continue to deliver value for money for local people.

## Maintaining standards of services whilst reducing costs

Balancing the need to be financially sustainable and deliver value for money to residents, the Council will need to continue to deliver efficiency savings year-on-year to manage growing cost pressures and maintain service levels. This will be dependent on the income received by the Council over the coming years which at this point remains uncertain.

In addition to £1.8m of savings currently in progress, the Council has identified further £19.7m of savings over the next four years considering how to deliver services at the same level for less cost. These have come about for several reasons as detailed below:

- Adapting to different ways of working, building on what the Council has learned by working flexibly over the past two years, for example remote working, reducing travel and reduced printing costs.
- By adopting new technologies and automating systems where this can improve the way we work and improve our online offer, for example, so that more residents can access the support they need at any time.
- Ensuring that where the Council levies fees and charges, those reflect the cost of delivering services and are set at a rate comparable with other local authorities, for example in the way we charge utilities companies to compensate for roadworks that cause disruption on commuter routes.
- Implementing improved cost recovery, where the Council can charge to cover the cost of providing some services, such as recovering our full overheads against pre-application planning fees on large developments.

The details of these proposals can all be seen here:

<https://council.southglos.gov.uk/documents/s129147/Appendix9>

and are summarised below:

	<b>2022/23</b> <b>m</b>	<b>2023/24</b> <b>m</b>	<b>2024/25</b> <b>m</b>	<b>2025/26</b> <b>m</b>
Different Ways of Working	£4.6	£9.3	£11.4	£13.5
New Technology & Automation	£0.2	£0.7	£1.1	£4.5
Fees & Charges	£0.8	£0.9	£1.0	£1.1
Cost Recovery	£0.5	£0.6	£0.6	£0.6
	<b>£6.1</b>	<b>£11.5</b>	<b>£14.1</b>	<b>£19.7</b>

## The next year

Our new proposed savings programme delivers £6.1m of savings in 2022/23 across services through a variety of efficiency drivers.

Q2 Looking at the information in the consultation document, how do you feel about the proposed amount of savings by category?

	Far too little	Slightly to little	About right	Slightly too much	Far too much	Don't know
Different ways of working to save £4.6m (75.4% of savings)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Introducing more New Technology & Automation to save £0.2m (3.3% of savings)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing Fees and Charges to save £0.8m (13.1% of savings)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing the recovery of our costs by £0.5m (8.2% of savings)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Q4 To help us plan for the future, please tell us what impact - if any - the Council's reduction in spending over the last eight years has had on your organisation or the services you receive? Please be as specific as possible.

## The next 5 - 10 years

Q5 In the next 5 - 10 years, the Council will continue to find ways to make services more affordable to run. How strongly do you agree or disagree with using the following approaches?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Targeting resources on the most vulnerable and people most in need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reducing the quality of some services provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing fees and charges for some services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making more services available online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using digital technology more widely to support the delivery of services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making more efficient use of council assets such as land and buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scaling back or stop providing some services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stopping provision of some discretionary services to protect services to older people and the vulnerable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changing working practices to make better use of technology and more efficient ways of working	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working in partnership and sharing services with other councils and public sector agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transferring services to other organisations like commercial companies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transferring services to other organisations like community groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encouraging more people to volunteer their time to become involved in the delivery of services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Any other comments about the budget and proposed plans to focus our resources on Council Plan priorities

Q6 Please use this space to make any other comments about the budget and proposed plans to focus our resources on Council Plan priorities:

# What do you think of your local area and 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 South Gloucestershire 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 with the following statements about South Gloucestershire Council

	Strongly trust	Somewhat trust	Neither trust nor distrust	Somewhat distrust	Strongly distrust
The Council keeps my organisation informed about the services it provides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Council keeps my organisation informed about any proposals for change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My organisations can influence decisions affecting my local area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q9 To what extent do you think South Gloucestershire Council acts on the concerns of local organisations?

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

Q10 Are you responding...?

- On behalf of a local business
- As a voluntary, community sector organisation
- As parish or town council
- Other

If 'other' please specify, or if you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us its name.

Q11 Please tell us the full postcode of your organisation i.e. BS\* \*\*\*

**Thank you for taking the time to tell us your views.**

Please return your completed survey by **19th December 2021** by posting it to: Freepost SGC, South Gloucestershire Council, Insights and Engagement Team, Council offices, Badminton Road, Yate, BRISTOL, BS37 5AF