

Q5 Please tell us about any other ways that you think the council could save money or provide services more efficiently?

Q6 Please tell us about any other ways in which you think the council could support local communities to deal with these changes.

Q7 What do you think the impact of these changes will have on you, your local community and the services you receive?

Council tax

The council is considering its council tax levels for 2015/16 and future years.

The council has no control over the council tax collected on behalf of the police, fire services, or parish and town councils. Each of these bodies will make their own independent decisions.

The maximum amount the council can raise its council tax by next year is expected to be limited to 2% unless we hold a referendum of residents. South Gloucestershire Council's element of the Council Tax has been frozen for the past four years and the council's current budget planning assumption is for a council tax freeze for a fifth year in 2015/16, followed by a 2% p.a. increase in subsequent years.

A 2% increase would add about £25 (just under 50p per week) to the average band D annual council tax bill for South Gloucestershire Council services.

To increase council tax above 2% we would need to hold a referendum of residents. The cost of holding a referendum would be approximately £500,000. No council has taken up this option to date.

The government has indicated it will provide the option of a council tax freeze grant (equivalent to a 1% council tax rise) next year. If councils limit their underlying council tax increase to 1%, they will be eligible for the council tax freeze grant and can thereby freeze their council tax levels for 2015/16.

Q8 Which of the following options would you prefer?

- A council tax freeze in 2015/16. The council would still need to make the savings which have already been identified as part of the council's £36m savings plan over the next 5 years
- A council tax increase of 2% in 2015/16 which could delay by £1m the amount of service savings that need to be made over the year. This would add about £25 to the average band D annual council tax bill for South Gloucestershire Council Services.
- A council tax increase of more than 2% in 2015/16. For every extra 1% increase in council tax (approximately an extra £12.50 on the average band D council tax bill) the council would gain an additional £1m in funding to support services. One-off costs of approximately £500,000 for the referendum would be required.
- No preference
- Don't know

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 your home.

Q9 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly satisfied | | <input type="checkbox"/> Very dissatisfied | |

Q10 Over the past 2 years, do you feel that South Gloucestershire has become a better place to live, is the same or is worse?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better | <input type="checkbox"/> The same | <input type="checkbox"/> Worse | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Your local area receives services from South Gloucestershire Council. South Gloucestershire Council is responsible for a range of services such as refuse collection, street cleaning, planning, education, social care services and road maintenance.

Q11 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way South Gloucestershire Council runs things?

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly satisfied | | <input type="checkbox"/> Very dissatisfied | |

In considering the next question, please think about the range of services South Gloucestershire Council provides to the community as a whole, as well as the services your household 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.

Q12 To what extent do you agree or disagree that South Gloucestershire Council provides value for money?

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to agree | | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | |

Q13 To what extent do you agree or disagree that South Gloucestershire Council keeps you informed about the services it provides?

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to agree | | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | |

Q14 To what extent do you agree or disagree that South Gloucestershire Council keeps you informed about any proposals for change?

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to agree | | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | |

Q15 To what extent do you think South Gloucestershire Council acts on the concerns of local residents?

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A great deal | <input type="checkbox"/> A fair amount | <input type="checkbox"/> Not very much | <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Q16 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
I can influence decisions affecting my local area.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to agree | | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | |

Your comments

Q17 Please use this space to make any comments or suggestions that you think are relevant.

Q18 Are you responding as?

- A local resident A local voluntary or community organisation A parish or town council
 A local business Other

If you are responding on behalf of a group or organisation, please tell us its name.

About you

This section is really important as it helps us to understand more about the people who use council services and may be affected by any changes to the council's budget. Any responses to these questions will remain confidential, individuals will not be identified and personal details will not be published.

Q19 Please tell us your full postcode

Q20 Are you? Male Female Prefer not to say

Q21 How old are you?

- 16 to 24 35 to 44 55 to 64 Over 75 Prefer not to say
 25 to 34 45 to 54 65 to 75

Q22 Do you consider yourself to be disabled? Yes No Prefer not to say

Please tell us how any disability impacts on your use of council services

Q23 Please tell us your ethnic origin

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arab | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group - Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group - White & Asian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British - Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group - White & Black African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British - Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group - White & Black Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British - Other | <input type="checkbox"/> White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British - Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> White - Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British - African | <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British - Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British - Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Traveller | |

Other, please specify

Thank you for taking the time to tell us your views. Please return your completed survey by **19 December 2014** by posting it to: FREEPOST RTCT-JXLE-EET, South Gloucestershire Council, Budget Consultation, Civic Centre, High Street, Kingswood, BRISTOL, BS15 9TR