

Budget consultation feedback form

Please take the time to read through the consultation document and savings options, and feedback your thoughts in the context of the budget limitations the council is facing. You can comment on any or all of them. You can also give us your views on our overall priorities, Council Tax levels and the council's budget in general.

Have your say

- We are strongly encouraging people who can submit comments online to do so using our online form at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/budget
- We recognise however, that not everyone has access to the internet or has computer skills. Comments can be submitted in writing to:

Budget consultation

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No further address details required)

If you need any help with taking part in this consultation please ring 01865 792422 or email budget@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Alternative formats of this consultation are available on request. These include other languages, large print, Easy Read, Braille and electronic formats.

This consultation is open from Tuesday 20 October until Monday 30 November 2015.

Budget savings proposals

We would now like your views on our budget savings options for 2016/17. There are 95 in total and you can comment on any, none, or all of them.

Name of the savings option you are commenting on:	
How you are responding? <i>(Please tick one box only)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> User of the service	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a group/organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Carer / relative of a user of the service	<input type="checkbox"/> Councillor (parish/town/city/district/county)
<input type="checkbox"/> Oxfordshire resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
How do you think this option might impact on people using the service or communities?	

Name of the savings option you are commenting on:

How you are responding? *(Please tick one box only)*

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Carer / relative of a user of the service

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Oxfordshire resident

Other

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<input type="checkbox"/> Oxfordshire resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
How do you think this option might impact on people using the service or communities?	

If you would like to comment on more options than the space below allows, please do so on the additional savings grid sheet provided, and attach it to this document before sending.

Council Tax

Another way of protecting frontline services is to increase Council Tax levels.

Council Tax was increased last year by 1.99% and our budget plan assumes that we will raise it by 3% in 2016/17. However, in recent years, any council that wants to increase Council Tax by 2% or more was required by government to hold a local referendum. This is a public vote on the proposed Council Tax level and would cost up to £800,000. The council would have to pay for the referendum and its result is final. In practice no other council has done this.

We have not yet been told if the referendum limit will be applied this year. If it is the same as previous years, we would have to meet the shortfall from additional savings – which are included in the estimated £50m savings we will need to make.

Taking this into account, tell us: what level of Council Tax rise you would accept if it helped protect frontline services?

Please tick one box only

		This would be an increased cost per year of... (on an average Band D Council Tax bill)	This would mean the council would have to make savings of ...
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase council tax by 2%	£24.65	£50 million
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase council tax by 3%	£36.97	£47 million
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase council tax by 5%	£61.62	£41 million
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase council tax by 10%	£123.25	£27 million
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase council tax by 15%	£184.87	£12 million
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not increase council tax	£0.00	£56 million
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know		

Purpose and priorities of the council

Oxfordshire County Council support a thriving Oxfordshire by providing essential public services and helping people and communities take more responsibility for their own lives. That includes:

- A strong and growing economy
- Keeping children safe
- A safety net for adults who can't look after themselves
- Helping communities thrive

Despite the need to reduce our services to save money we remain focussed on our ambition for the county. This can only be achieved by working with others, from parishes to national government. We will:

- Work with local partners and national government to attract investment and plan for growth, particularly roads and schools
- Encourage people to volunteer and communities to help themselves
- Help parishes and town councils respond to local needs
- Join forces with other councils in Oxfordshire and beyond to attract investment and deliver services more efficiently

Do you have any views on the purpose and priorities of the council?

Comments:

Do you have any other comments about the council’s savings options, or Council Tax levels that you would like councillors to consider?

Comments:

Overall, how are you responding to this consultation?

Please tick one box only

<input type="checkbox"/>	As an Oxfordshire resident
<input type="checkbox"/>	As a councillor (parish/town/district/county). Please give your name and the area you represent
<input type="checkbox"/>	As a representative of a group or organisation. Please give the name of the organisation you represent:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):

Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Please post your completed form to:

Budget Consultation

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

This consultation finishes on **Monday 30 November 2015**. We will only accept postal responses received by this date.