

Message from Joe Harris Leader of Cotswold District Council

Dear resident

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet, and for your interest in our plans for Cotswold District Council in 2021/22.



The past year has been incredibly challenging due to Covid-19. I'm extremely proud of the work Council staff have undertaken to support our communities through the pandemic, all whilst continuing to deliver the many services you use.

We've contacted and helped thousands of vulnerable people, we've helped the homeless back into accommodation and increased temporary housing provision, we've supported those affected by flooding and paid out millions of pounds in Government grants to local businesses.

Last year we set a budget that aimed to rebuild the Council's finances after nine years of Government funding cuts. Despite the pandemic, we are making good progress on doing just that so we can continue to improve services and rebuild trust and confidence in Cotswold District Council.

The funding we have still represents a challenge and the money you pay in Council Tax still only covers 15% of our total income.

We relish the challenge though and as we look at new and innovative ways to raise more income, we do so with the aim of delivering the high-quality services we all expect, whilst improving efficiency and innovation within the Council so we can deliver more for our residents.

I hope you find the following information helpful.

Thank you

Cllr Joe Harris
Leader of Cotswold District Council

Investing in the Cotswolds during 2021/22

Over the coming year we are looking to invest in the Cotswolds to improve services, protect our environment and help communities bounce back from Covid-19.

£600,000

towards addressing climate change, kickstarting our action plan to make the Cotswold District green to the core.

£740,000

over the next three years towards reviewing our Local Plan to ensure any new development in the District suits the needs of our communities, and protects our landscapes and heritage.

£35,000

each year to continue our fight against fly-tipping by accelerating education and enforcement.

£100,000

over two years to plan and develop better, greener transport options in the District including cycle and walking routes and innovative bus options.

£350,000

over three years to fund our Recovery Investment Strategy which aims to make the money we have go further and maximise our support for the District in its recovery from Covid-19.

£25,000

towards championing a review of Open Space, working with house-builders and residents on good maintenance of public open space on their estates.

£23,000

towards helping individuals with complex needs, facing homelessness, to access secure accommodation and support.

£200,000

investment in our Civic Pride Programme over two years, to strengthen our fight against environmental crime and improve the public realm.

Rebuilding the Council's finances: Investing in the Cotswolds

Your guide to Cotswold District tax and spending in 2021/22



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Cotswold District Council priorities - how we build a better council and stronger communities

Cotswold District Council aims to be proactive and responsive to the needs of its residents and businesses, and to build for the future while respecting the District's heritage.

Our priorities

-  Delivering our services to the highest standards
-  Responding to the challenges presented by the climate crisis
-  Providing good quality social rented homes
-  Presenting a Local Plan that's green to the core
-  Helping residents access the support they need for good health and wellbeing
-  Supporting businesses to grow in a green, sustainable manner, and to provide high-value jobs

Our principles

-  Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Council by promoting a culture of openness and transparency
-  Providing value for money for our residents and businesses by using our resources wisely and investing in the District's fabric and future
-  Listening to the needs of our community, and acting on what we hear

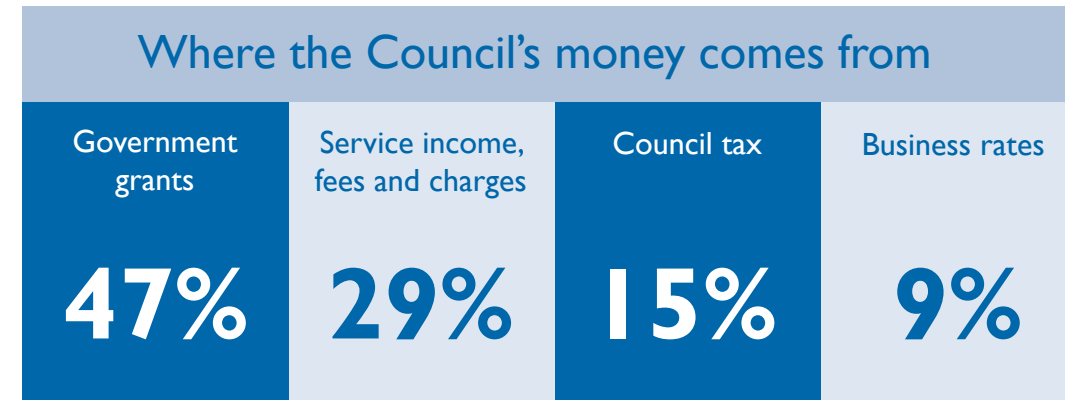
The Cotswold District Council budget for 2021/22

Our net budget for the 2021/22 financial year is £12.5m. This is funded through your Council Tax, a share of business rates and Government grants.

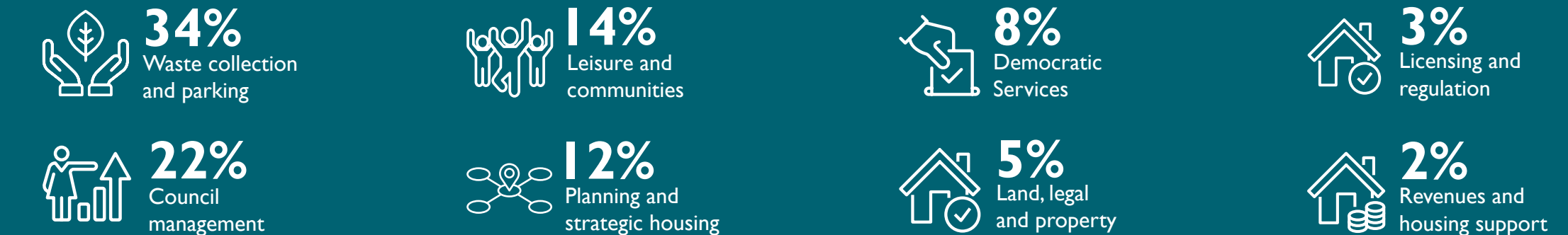
Only 7.3% of the Council Tax you pay comes to Cotswold District Council. Most of it goes to Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Police with your local town or parish council receiving the remainder.

The Council consulted on its budget in November and December 2020 for feedback on the proposed budget approach. You can read the responses on our website.

The Cotswold District Council part of this year's Council Tax bill will rise by just 10p a week - the equivalent of £5 a year for the average band D household.







Where the Council's money will be spent in 2021/22



Supporting our communities through Covid-19

Since we first went into lockdown last year, we have been supporting local communities through this difficult time.

-  More than **4,500** vulnerable people contacted to ensure they had access to food, medicine and other essentials during lockdown periods
-  Over **£49m** in Covid-19 support grants passed on to local businesses
-  **752** residents given emergency support via our Help Hub
-  Over **£18m** in business rates relief granted to businesses