



# **Budget Consultation 2020**



**COTSWOLD  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

# Message from the Leader of the Council:

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Dear resident,

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and for your interest in our plans for rebuilding your Council.



We face a unique set of challenges when it comes to delivering for our people, and must meet these against the backdrop of reduced funding from the Government - since 2010 our Government funding has been cut by nearly 60%. However, these challenges also represent an opportunity to do things differently, to review how we serve our residents and businesses, and ensure what we do best suits the needs of our communities.

Our proposed budget for 2020/21 takes all of this into account and, we hope, paints a picture of a clear plan to invest in our key services, tackle the climate crisis, protect our most vulnerable and build financial resilience.

Please read through our plans overleaf and how we're intending to pay for them. We want to hear your views, and your feedback will be key to ensuring we are delivering what our communities want and need most, while meeting our financial challenges.

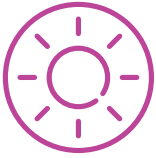
Councils and councillors can't get everything right but we can get close if we know your views!

Thank you.

**Cllr Joe Harris**  
**Leader of Cotswold District Council**

# Our Plan:

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## **£185,000 towards addressing climate change**

We have appointed a new climate change manager, an expert in their field, to develop and lead on an action plan to reduce the Council's own carbon emissions and help us to support individuals and communities to make changes. We'll also be undertaking benchmarking research to understand where we are now, so we can set ambitious, but realistic targets.



## **£850,000 over the next three years for updating our Local Plan**

We will update our Local Plan to ensure it is green to the core. This will ensure that we're planning to meet the housing needs in the District and acknowledge the challenge of the climate crisis. We need to do this in a way that suits our communities and protects the heritage of our District.



## **£677,000 for an improved waste service**

Starting in March 2020, we're launching a new waste service which will enable residents to recycle more at home than ever. Our new service will be greener too, with food waste to be used to generate electricity. Thanks to investment in new technology the service will also be more reliable.



## **£85,000 for community grants**

This will support the work of organisations in our communities to deliver on the Council's desire to make the District a better, greener and healthier place to live.



### **£16 million to increase parking**

To meet the demand for parking spaces in Cirencester we're planning to build a new car park. This will allow visitors to the town to find a space easily and stay as long as they want. We're also planning to improve car parks across the District by installing electric vehicle charging points and making them cashless to improve safety and security and save money.



### **£50,000 for a new health, leisure and wellbeing plan**

We want to develop an action plan to improve health and wellbeing and meet the leisure needs of our residents. We can then prioritise actions and seek grant funding from Government and other bodies to invest in facilities.



### **£350,000 to develop a commercialisation strategy and support economic development**

We need to invest in the economic development of the District to support businesses to grow. We also need to make more investments to improve the efficiency of the Council's services. We're also considering how we can borrow money to invest in delivering our priorities of renewable energy and housing for rent.



### **£20,000 investment in the Corinium Museum**

We want to fundraise for and promote visits to this nationally recognised Museum, following its current refurbishment.

# How we will pay for this plan:

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To pay for these investments and build financial resilience to meet the funding challenges we face, the Council needs to increase its revenues. We plan to do this in four key areas:

## **Commercialisation strategy**

As outlined, we plan to invest Council money in key areas, including local property, to provide a financial return which can then be reinvested. This strategy comes with a small amount of additional risk, but has proved very successful for other local authorities as we all look for new and innovative ways to increase revenues.

## **£5 a year increase in Council Tax**

The District Council element of Council Tax is low compared to other similar councils. For every £100 our residents pay in Council Tax, we receive just £7.40. Our plans include an increase of £5 a year for the average (Band D) household - that's 10p per week. And with changes to our Council Tax support system, we will ensure that these increases will not be paid by the most vulnerable people in our District.

## **Increases to parking costs**

Parking charges in the District have not been increased since 2010.

We're suggesting typical increases as shown:

- 30 minutes: from 50p to 70p
- 1 hour: from £1.30 to £1.60
- 2 hours: from £2.30 to £2.80
- 3 hours: from £3.00 to £3.70

Along with plans to make our car parks cashless, this would generate an extra £435k each year for the Council. We'll also continue free parking after 3pm where it's currently offered, and plan to introduce a number of free 20 minute bays.

## **Increasing the garden waste collection charge**

Our new fortnightly garden waste collection service will cost the Council £45 a year for each subscribing household. Subscribing households currently pay £30 for a weekly collection. We're proposing to make this service fully paid-for by its subscribers. We're therefore planning to increase the cost of this service by £5 each year from 2021/22 for three years. However, we'd like to hear whether you think we should make this change quicker by increasing the charge to £45 in 2020/21.



## We want your views:

Go to [cotswold.gov.uk/consultations](https://cotswold.gov.uk/consultations) to fill out our short survey on our budget plans. Your feedback will help us shape those plans.

### Join the conversation:



CotswoldDC



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#NewYearNewPlan  
#RebuildingYourCouncil