



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Weathering the storm and investing in the Cotswold District

Your guide to Cotswold District Council spending in 2022/23

Cotswold District Council Cabinet



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.



Supporting businesses to grow in a green, sustainable manner, and to provide high-value jobs.



Responding to the challenges presented by the climate crisis.



Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing.



Providing good quality social rented homes.



Presenting a local plan that's green to the core.

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.



Introduction from Joe Harris, Leader of Cotswold District Council



Dear resident,

Tough times require tough decisions and that is the theme of our budget this year.

The budget was agreed by Full Council a few weeks ago and it was set in the context of one of the most challenging years on record, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of inflation and the continued uncertainty about the future financing of local government.

Putting it simply, the services the Council provides are costing more to deliver and the money we receive to pay for them is reducing.

The Government assumes that councils will raise Council Tax in order to maintain their current level of funding.

This raised difficult questions for the Council this year, as we do not believe raising Council Tax and increasing fees, such as parking charges, is a sustainable long-term solution and ultimately hits you, the residents we represent, in the pocket.

Since 2010, the Government has cut the District Council's core funding by around 60%. This year is no different and over the next few years, we're preparing for further cuts to our funding which could see as much as a third of our Government funding wiped out.

I want to stress that it's not all doom and gloom.

We're working hard to weather this financial storm and looking at different and innovative ways we can fund and run our services.

That has included saving and raising over £400,000 last year through efficiencies and bringing in nearly £2.5 million in external funding which is explained in this leaflet.

Alongside managing our finances carefully, we want to continue to invest in the Cotswolds to help tackle some of the important issues we all face such as responding to the climate emergency, helping to keep our communities clean and green and improving transport. We have outlined in this leaflet the key areas we believe we can invest in to make a difference and help shape the future of the Cotswolds.

The Council continues to provide good quality services and it's great to see that we remain one of the best councils in the country for recycling.

We know how hard the cost of living crisis is hitting some of our residents. We've introduced one of the most generous Council Tax reduction schemes in the country, so if you're worried you'll struggle to pay your Council Tax, please get in touch via our website or by calling us on 01285 623000.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Joe Harris', written over a dark blue background.

Cllr Joe Harris
Leader of Cotswold District Council

Explaining the Cotswold District Council budget for 2022/23

Our net budget for the 2022/23 financial year is £12.595m. This is funded through your Council Tax, a share of business rates and Government grants. Over the past 10 years the Government grant has reduced significantly.

Only 7% 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.

We use our budget to provide many services including waste collections, leisure facilities, fly-tipping collection, tourism services and car parks among many others. We do not provide other services such as road maintenance, libraries, adult social care or public health which are run by the County Council.

The Cotswold District Council part of this year's Council Tax bill, will rise by 3.6% - that's just 10p a week, or £5 a year for the average band D household.

As you can see from the graphic opposite the money you pay in Council Tax which totals £6.108m across the Cotswold District, still only covers 17% of our total income.

Only 7% of the Council Tax you pay comes to Cotswold District Council



Where the Council's money comes from

42%

Government grants

31%

Service income, fees & charges

17%

Council tax

10%

Business rates

Where the Council's money will be spent in 2022/23

5%

Land, legal & property

2%

Revenues & housing support

22%

Customer, HR, IT & other support services

28%

Environmental services & waste collection

10%

Organisational running costs

8%

Democratic services

12%

Planning & strategic housing

3%

Environmental & regulatory services

10%

Leisure & communities

Investing in the Cotswolds

Over the life of our Council Plan 2020-24 we are looking to invest in the Cotswolds to improve services, protect our environment and support our amazing communities and businesses.



£780,000

towards addressing climate change by encouraging sustainable transport, reviewing the use of our buildings and assets and engaging communities.



£200,000

to improve the cleanliness and appearance of the District through the Clean and Green Cotswolds Programme.



£740,000

towards reviewing the local plan to make sure it's the right fit for our communities and helps tackle the climate emergency.



£400,000

for investment in feasibility studies and other work to support the provision of social housing built to be carbon zero.



£100,000

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



£35,000

each year to continue to fight against fly-tipping.



£25,000

towards a review of open space on new developments, working with builders and residents on new public open space.



£23,000

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



£350,000

to fund the Recovery Investment Strategy which aims to make the Council's money go further and maximise support for the District in its recovery from Covid-19.



£30,000

to develop the Council's Leisure Strategy to improve access to health and wellbeing activity for residents.

○ Bringing money into Cotswold District

We have been working hard to bring nearly £2.5 million in national and regional funding to help make up for our reduced funding from Government. This vital funding has helped us to work with partners on key issues we know matter to you. They include:

£1.2 million

of Government funding for investment in our buildings to reduce their carbon footprint.

£250,000

from the Clinical Commissioning Group to help us tackle health inequality.

£130,000

of Covid-19 funding for investment in community wellbeing by encouraging people to be more active.

£73,000

from the Department of Work and Pensions to support young people that are not in education, employment or training through our Cotswold New Start Project.

£160,000

of Covid-19 funding to support our town centres to recover from the impact of lockdowns.

£150,000

to improve sustainable transport options.

£65,000

to explore sustainable travel options between Kemble and Cirencester.

£50,000

to support the visitor economy including providing new walking and cycling routes and improved signs to enable our visitors to enjoy the Cotswolds without negatively impacting the people who live here.

£255,000

to support our most vulnerable households who need help to put food on the table for their families and to keep their children active and engaged during the school holidays.

£60,000

from the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure our communities feel safe.

£53,000

to improve our engagement with communities on our plans for the future of the Cotswolds.

£300,000

We have launched Crowdfund Cotswold which has seen £300,000 pledged on the back of an investment of £100,000 from the Council towards 19 projects across the District.





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