

Caerphilly County Borough Council - Budget Consultation

Have your say on savings

A significant reduction in this year's budget allocation from Welsh Government means that councils across Wales are bracing themselves for tough times ahead.

Caerphilly Council needs to make savings of £14.53m in 2014/15 as a result of UK government austerity measures, with further additional savings of £6.54m for 2015/16 and £7.06m for 2016/17. This amounts to £28.13m over the next three years, although there is still much uncertainty about future funding levels, so this savings target could increase.

We are keen to find out residents' views about how the budget should be spent to help us identify priority services. Please complete the questionnaire below by clicking the appropriate boxes.

Do you understand the reasons why CCBC needs to make significant cuts over the next three years?

728 (94.2%) Yes
45 (5.8%) No

Do you agree or disagree that CCBC needs to identify priority services?

710 (91.5%) Agree
45 (5.8%) Disagree
21 (2.7%) Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that CCBC needs to review other less essential services?

678 (87.5%) Agree
64 (8.3%) Disagree
33 (4.3%) Don't know

What do you feel is an acceptable increase in Council Tax in order to generate more income for the council?

212 (27.6%) 0% 200 (26.0%) 1% 168 (21.9%) 2% 83 (10.8%) 3% 23 (3.0%) 4% 82 (10.7%) 5%

What do you feel is an acceptable increase in Fees and Charges in order to generate more income for the council (eg leisure centre charges, car park fees etc)?

361 (47.2%) 0 - 1.9% 204 (26.7%) 2 - 3.4% 98 (12.8%) 3.5 - 5% 102 (13.3%) >5%

In terms of community facilities (such as leisure centres, libraries and community centres), do you agree or disagree with the idea of ‘Fewer but Better’ (i.e. reduction the total number of facilities but develop better quality, centralised facilities to serve a wider area instead)?

169 (22.0%) Strongly agree 245 (31.9%) Tend to agree 152 (19.8%) Tend to disagree 185 (24.1%) Strongly disagree 17 (2.2%) Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with the principle that we should target ‘assets before services’. In other words, should we make cuts to assets like community centres or corporate offices before we cut frontline services?

257 (33.4%) Strongly agree 318 (41.3%) Tend to agree 82 (10.6%) Tend to disagree 64 (8.3%) Strongly disagree 49 (6.4%) Don't know

Savings will continue to be made in many ‘back office’ functions (such as Human Resources, IT, finance and admin support), but this will not be enough. We also need to look at frontline services in order to meet the cuts that are needed. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree that the following services should be subject to cuts (schools are not included in the list as their budgets are protected).

	Agree to cuts	Disagree to cuts
Additional Learning Needs/Inclusion Services	278 (37.7%)	460 (62.3%)
Arts Development and Blackwood Stute	605 (80.9%)	143 (19.1%)
Cleansing Services (street cleaning, litter collections)	176 (23.6%)	571 (76.4%)
Community Centres	438 (58.5%)	311 (41.5%)
Community Education (local courses and classes)	476 (63.8%)	270 (36.2%)
Community Safety (e.g. Community Safety Wardens, CCTV)	278 (37.3%)	467 (62.7%)
Countryside Services (country parks, educational schemes etc)	381 (51.1%)	365 (48.9%)
Customer First centres (face to face customer service)	473 (63.2%)	276 (36.8%)
Day Centres	249 (33.4%)	497 (66.6%)
Environmental Health (e.g. food safety, pollution teams)	248 (33.3%)	496 (66.7%)
Events and marketing (e.g. Big Cheese, Christmas markets, Tour of Britain etc)	575 (75.7%)	185 (24.3%)
Health Improvement Schemes (e.g. healthy living classes)	577 (77.1%)	171 (22.9%)
Highways (e.g. road resurfacing, pothole repairs)	86 (11.5%)	665 (88.5%)
Home care / sitting services	182 (24.4%)	563 (75.6%)
Home to School Transport	408 (54.2%)	345 (45.8%)
Leisure Centres	413 (55.1%)	336 (44.9%)
Libraries	378 (50.7%)	368 (49.3%)
Maintenance of sport pitches, parks and open spaces	345 (46.6%)	396 (53.4%)

Mayoral functions	737 (96.1%)	30 (3.9%)
Meals on Wheels	130 (17.4%)	618 (82.6%)
Newsline	678 (90.4%)	72 (9.6%)
Public Transport (e.g. bus subsidies)	361 (48.4%)	385 (51.6%)
Recycling initiatives	409 (54.8%)	337 (45.2%)
Residential care	142 (19.1%)	600 (80.9%)
Road Safety work in the local community	412 (55.2%)	334 (44.8%)
Schools Music Service	556 (74.5%)	190 (25.5%)
Social Care services for children	134 (17.9%)	613 (82.1%)
Sports Development work in schools / local community	447 (60.3%)	294 (39.7%)
Street Lighting	397 (52.9%)	353 (47.1%)
Support for businesses	440 (59.5%)	299 (40.5%)
Terms and conditions for council staff	385 (51.6%)	361 (48.4%)
Tourist Attractions (e.g. Winding House, Llancaiach Fawr, Cwmcarn Forest)	469 (62.6%)	280 (37.4%)
Town Centre Management (Looking after town centres)	502 (67.4%)	243 (32.6%)
Trading Standards (consumer protection / under age sales etc)	299 (40.9%)	432 (59.1%)
Twinning	718 (94.5%)	42 (5.5%)
Youth work / Youth facilities	286 (38.4%)	458 (61.6%)

Please provide us with any ideas/suggestions for savings or additional comments you feel will help us prioritise our budget savings over the next three years:

518 (100.0%)

About you

We need to ask you the following questions to make sure we get as wide a response as possible to this consultation. If you don't want to answer any of the questions however, you are welcome to skip them and go on to the next one.

The information from this section will only be made available as total numbers and WILL NOT be related back to any individual, to ensure your privacy is respected.

Please provide your **postcode** so we can make sure that residents from right across the county borough have given their views.

642 (100.0%)

I am responding as

697 (92.4%) A resident of Caerphilly County Borough

12 (1.6%) An organisation based in Caerphilly County Borough

7 (0.9%) An elected member for Caerphilly County Borough

17 (2.3%) A business based in Caerphilly County Borough

21 (2.8%) Other

If other, please write in

28 (100.0%)

I am

350 (47.0%) Female 393 (52.8%) Male 1 (0.1%) Transgender

What was your age last birthday?

53 (7.2%) 16-24 95 (12.8%) 25-34 169 (22.8%) 35-44 161 (21.7%) 45-54 91 (12.3%) 55-64 172 (23.2%) 65+

Are you disabled?

69 (9.4%) Yes

662 (90.6%) No

What is your ethnicity?

719 (98.1%) White

4 (0.5%) Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

5 (0.7%) Asian/Asian British

1 (0.1%) Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

4 (0.5%) Other

If other, please write in

9 (100.0%)

What is your main language?

- 710 (96.5%) English
- 21 (2.9%) Welsh
- 5 (0.7%) Other (including sign language)
- If other, please write in
9 (100.0%)

What is your religion or belief?

- 334 (47.1%) No Religion
- 358 (50.5%) Christian (All denominations)
- 1 (0.1%) Jewish
- 3 (0.4%) Buddhist
- If other, please write in
14 (100.0%)
- 4 (0.6%) Muslim
- 0 (0.0%) Hindu
- 1 (0.1%) Sikh
- 8 (1.1%) Other

What is your sexual orientation?

- 642 (96.3%) Heterosexual/Straight
- 11 (1.6%) Gay man
- 5 (0.7%) Gay woman/lesbian
- 9 (1.3%) Bisexual

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please hit the submit button to complete the survey.