Balancing Bristol’s Budget 2019-20

What do you think?
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Introduction

Every year Bristol City Council works out:

- How much council tax to charge
- How much money it can spend on its services

This year the council is looking at increasing council tax so that it can afford to carry on providing the services that people want.

This document explains the different options.

Please read through this document and tell us what you think by answering the questions which start on page 14.

We need your answers by Monday 17 December 2018.
The Budget

Bristol City Council spends more than £1 billion a year on running day-to-day services.

These include:
- Schools
- Social services
- Care homes
- Libraries
- Planning and housing
- Transport

Each year, the council works out how much money it needs in the next year.

It also works out where this money is going to come from.

This is called the budget.
Spending on services

Bristol City Council spends well over £1billion a year on services.
This year we spent about:

- £740 million on adult social care
- £350 million on children’s services
- £160 million on collecting rubbish and recycling
- £85 million on transport
- £60 million on culture and tourism
• £45 million on sport and leisure

• £30 million on the roads

• £10 million on helping businesses

• £375 million on other things
The costs are going up

Next year we are having to spend more on services because:

- More people are wanting a service from the council
- People are living longer. So there are more older people who need a service from the Council
- There are more older people living with long term illnesses. These people are more likely to need a service from the Council
- Prices are going up
Money coming in

The Council receives money from many different places.

This includes:

- Council Tax
- Business rates
- The Government
- Rents

The amount we have been receiving from the Government has been going down since 2010.
Looking at increasing Council Tax

This year we will not have enough money coming in to cover all the money that we want to spend on services.

We are looking at options for increasing council tax.
Council Tax

Council tax is paid by people who live in Bristol.

The amount that you pay depends on how much your home is worth.

People’s homes are put into one of 8 bands depending on how much the home is worth.

Band A is for the cheapest homes and Band H is for the most expensive homes.

Council Tax Reduction

Bristol City Council has a Council Tax reduction scheme.

If you are low income you may not have to pay all of the council tax.

You can get more information from the council’s website: www.bristol.gov.uk
The council is looking at 5 options for council tax in 2019 - 2020.

**Option 1: No increase in council tax**

This would mean that we would have to reduce the amount of money we have for services by £6 million.

**Option 2: Increase council tax by 1%**

This would raise £2 million.

We would still have to reduce the amount of money we have for services by £4 million.

The average person would have to pay an extra 31p a week.
Option 3: Increase council tax by 2%

This would raise £4 million.

We would still have to reduce the amount of money we have for services by £2 million.

The average person would have to pay an extra 63p a week.

Option 4: Increase council tax by 3%

This would raise £6 million.

The average person would have to pay an extra 94p a week.
Option 5: Increase council tax by 4%

This would raise £8 million.

We would be able to increase the amount of money we spend on adult social care by £2 million or spend £2 million on other new things.

The average person would have to pay an extra £1.25 a week.
What do you think?

**Question 1:** Which option do you prefer?

- [ ] Option 1
- [ ] Option 2
- [ ] Option 3
- [ ] Option 4
- [ ] Option 5

**Question 2:** If you like Option 5, how would you like to spend the extra £2 million?

- [ ] Day to day services
- [ ] Building new things
- [ ] A mixture of day to day services and other things. Please tick any that apply:
  - [ ] Building new things
  - [ ] Schools
  - [ ] Public health
Question 3: Why did you make those choices in Questions 1 and 2?

Question 4: If you have any other ideas for ways to raise more money, or spend less money - please tell us here:
About you

Please answer these questions about you. Your answers will help us to make sure we are getting the views from all the different communities in Bristol.

We will treat your personal information as private and confidential.

You can get more information about how we look after your personal information at:

Web: bristol.gov.uk/surveyprivacynotice

**Question 1:** What is your postcode?

**Question 2:** How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 44
- 45 - 64
- 65 - 74
- Prefer not to say
Question 3: Are you...

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Question 4: Are you transgender?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Question 5: Are you...

- White British
- Other white
- Mixed race
- Black
- Asian
- Prefer not to say

Other - please say:

[Blank Box]
Question 6: Are you disabled?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say

Question 7: What is your religion?

☐ No religion
☐ Christian
☐ Buddhist
☐ Hindu
☐ Jewish
☐ Muslim
☐ Sikh
☐ Prefer not to say
☐ Any other religion - please say:

[Box for Any other religion]
Question 8: Are you...

- Heterosexual or straight. You are attracted to the opposite sex
- Lesbian, gay or bisexual. You are attracted to the same sex
- Other
- Prefer not to say
**Question 9:** How did you hear about this consultation?

- [ ] Poster
- [ ] Postcard
- [ ] A message from Ask Bristol
- [ ] A message from the Citizen’s Panel
- [ ] Voice and Influence Partnership
- [ ] A campaign group - please say which: 
  
  
- [ ] A city councillor
- [ ] MP
- [ ] Twitter advertisement
- [ ] Facebook advertisement
- [ ] Radio or TV
- [ ] A newspaper
- [ ] the library
- [ ] Citizen service Point
- [ ] Council staff member
- [ ] Word of mouth

**Other - please say:**


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Question 10: Are you...

- [ ] Someone who lives in Bristol
- [ ] Someone who works in Bristol but lives elsewhere
- [ ] A local business person
- [ ] A housing association manager
- [ ] A community group manager
- [ ] A councillor
- [ ] An MP
- [ ] A health or social care manager
- [ ] A transport manager
- [ ] A member of staff at Bristol City Council
- [ ] Other please say:

   [ ]
Thank you

Thank you for giving us your views.

The Council will take your views into account when it makes the final decision.

Please send us your answers back by:
Using the Freepost envelope.

You don’t need a stamp.

Email: consultation@bristol.gov.uk

We need your answers by Monday 17th December 2018.
For more information:

If you need more information please contact us at:

Telephone: 0117 922 2848

Email: consultation@bristol.gov.uk