

## **What is the council's current budget situation?**

The council needs to make savings in order to meet the legal requirement all local authorities have to set a balanced budget for the financial year.

## **Why are savings needed?**

Pressures from caring for vulnerable adults, children and the homeless are having an impact on councils across the country – as well the rising cost of living.

Despite improvements, the council needs to transform the way it works to ensure it is delivering services within its available budget.

Where does the council's main funding come from?

A significant proportion of the council's funding comes from the Government in the form of grants including the Revenue Support Grant. Over the last 10 years, the level of Revenue Support Grant received by the council reduced by £97 million.

## **What about Council Tax?**

Another source of income is Council Tax. This will be considered by the Council early in the New Year.

80% of Nottingham's homes are in the two lowest Council Tax bands A and B – almost twice the national average – which means we are able to raise less through increasing Council Tax than many other councils.

## **How does the council propose to set a balanced budget in 2025/26?**

A wide range of proposals have been put forward by officers to improve the efficiency and performance of the council. We believe we can work better and smarter, which will not only cost less money but also improve the services our citizens receive. They can be viewed in full in the appendices to the [report to the executive board](#), but they include:

- Digital Resident Experience: Consolidate roles and improve digital access to services to achieve efficiencies and savings
- Fit-for-purpose Technology: Conduct a council-wide IT review to rationalise applications, systems, licenses, and subscriptions, ensuring business continuity and cost savings.
- Consolidating spans, layers and functions: Reduce management roles and improve efficiency by consolidating resources and addressing inefficient management spans of control.
- Improving Productivity & Performance: Improve productivity and manage staffing budgets by reducing sickness rates and enhancing performance management.
- Strengthening Workforce Management: This proposal is about having better systems to manage and monitor how people work for the council - as well as giving more support to teams that have vacant positions or people who are off work with illness.

- Reducing Third Party Spend: Introduce commercial expertise to reduce third-party spending and enhance procurement processes.

### **How can people have their say on the budget proposals?**

A four-week public consultation on the budget proposals has been launched following a meeting of the council's Executive Board meeting on 17 December. Add link

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A series of in-person and online consultation meetings will also take place throughout January where councillors and officers will discuss the proposals and answer questions. Details can be found on the event schedule.

### **When will final decisions be made on the proposals?**

Feedback from the consultation will be discussed by councillors at a meeting of the Executive Board on **21st January** and will help inform any decisions made.

The Board will then agree budget recommendations to go to Full Council for final approval on **3rd March**.