

Norfolk County Council Questionnaire on 2025-2026 budget saving proposals

Introduction

The county council faces a significant challenge in developing the budget for 2025-26. There remains a budget gap of £44.722 million, there are spending pressures across wider public finances and substantial uncertainty about local government funding for 2025-26 onwards.

However the county council's 2025-26 strategic and financial planning has been undertaken in the context of continued uncertainty around the wider economic picture, as well as ongoing inflationary pressures and the consequent impact on both the cost of services we deliver, and the demand for services as households and communities continue to struggle with the rising cost of living.

It is in these difficult times that the county council cannot afford any complacency and, working with its partners, will have to consider how best to deploy its own limited resources to support the most vulnerable people and communities, whilst continuing to provide wider public services.

The October 2024 Cabinet meeting considered 2025-26 savings proposals totalling £33.552 million. The 2024 Cabinet meeting minutes are available on the [Norfolk County Council website](#). They make a significant contribution towards our target of £44.722 million and will help the council to continue to deliver the key services for Norfolk's residents, while balancing the books.

Overview

Norfolk County Council is facing difficult decisions as the pressures on local government budgets continue to grow. The council will need to put more money into its budget to protect vulnerable people despite substantial uncertainty about local government funding.

Even though our overall spending is expected to increase next year, forecast increases in funding are not sufficient to keep pace with projected increases in demand, particularly in adult social care and children's services.

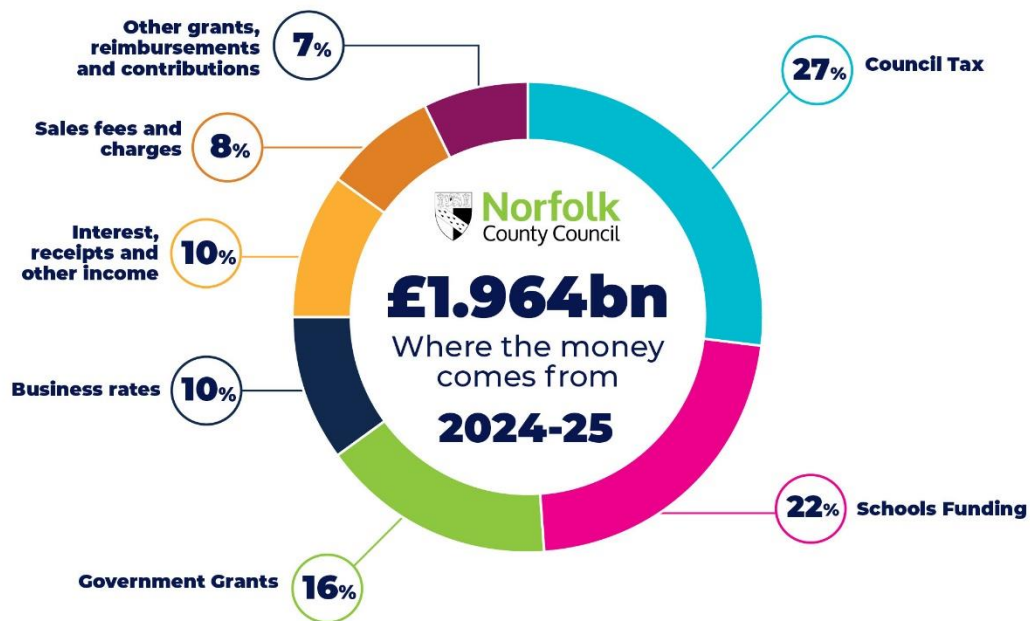
The council faces a significant challenge in developing Norfolk's 2025-26 spending plan that seeks to address a budget gap of £44.722 million.

Three options are being considered:

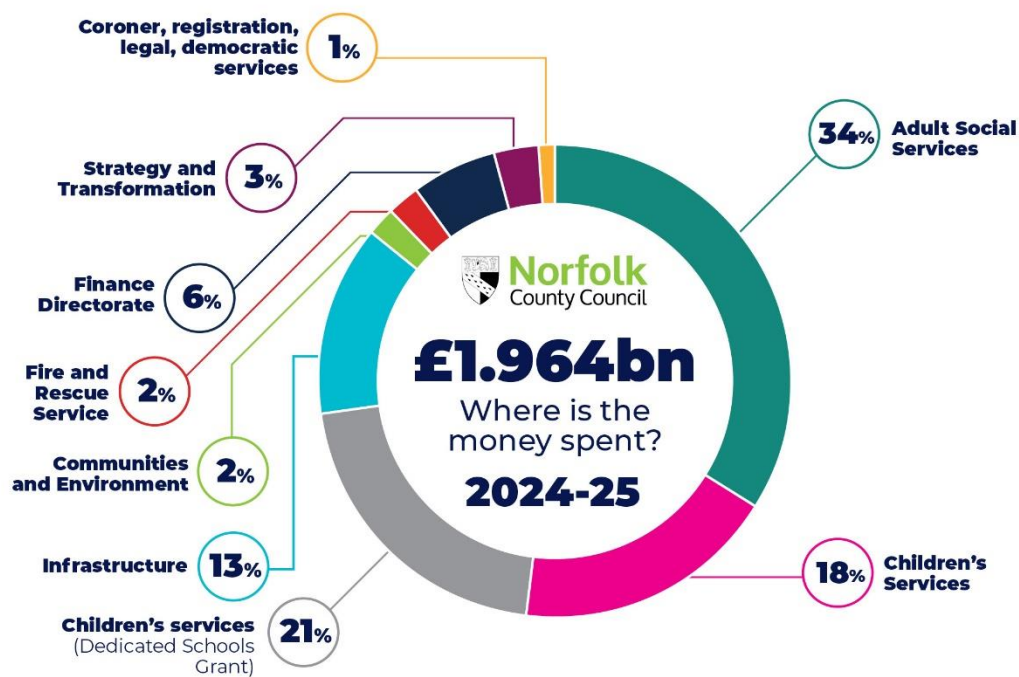
- An increase of 3%
- An increase of **up to** 5%
- An increase of **more than** 5%

Every 1% increase in council tax would equate to approximately £5.4m of additional income.

Where the money comes from



Where the money is spent



To help us deal with our cost pressures and invest in vital services our current budget planning is based on an assumption to increase council tax.

Three options are being considered:

- An increase of 3%
- An increase of **up to** 5%
- An increase of **more than** 5%

An increase of 3% would mean in 2025-26 Norfolk County Council's council tax charge for a typical Band D home would see an increase of approximately £1 per week or £50 for the year and the charge for a Band D home would be around £1,722.

Each further 1% increase in council tax would see Norfolk County Council's council tax charge for a typical Band D home increase by approximately 33p per week or £17 for the year.

1. How far would you agree or disagree with increasing Norfolk County Council's share of council tax (including any Adult Social Care Precept) by 3% in 2025-26? Please select one answer only.

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree Strongly /disagree / Don't know

2. Why do you say that?

3. How far would you agree or disagree with increasing Norfolk County Council's share of council tax (including any Adult Social Care Precept) by up to 5% in 2025-26? Please select one answer only.

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree Strongly /disagree / Don't know

4. Why do you say that?

5. How far would you agree or disagree with increasing Norfolk County Council's share of council tax (including any Adult Social Care Precept) by more than 5% in 2025-26? Please select one answer only.

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree Strongly /disagree / Don't know

6. Why do you say that?

Our 2025-26 budget savings proposals question

We welcome any comments you have, either about our budget approach or our savings.

There is a full list of all the budget saving proposals in the tables below.

If you wish to comment on INF014 Switch off a further 2% of Norfolk County Council maintained streetlights, or ASS005 Review of our Housing Related Support Services, there is more information and specific consultation questions on those two proposals here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget

[A list of all our 2025-26 budget savings proposals.](#)

7. Do you have any comments about our budget approach? If yes, please write below. If you wish to comment on an individual proposal, please include its reference number beside your comments. The reference numbers are listed in the first column in our budget tables.

Please write your answer here: