

The Caerphilly Conversation - Council budget setting 2023/24

We recently asked residents to offer their views on the services Caerphilly County Borough Council should prioritise over the next few years. This information was most helpful and it has been used to help shape the council's draft budget proposals for 2023/24. Draft budget proposals were presented to Cabinet on 18 January 2023 and a period of consultation will now take place prior to finalising the budget at a Council meeting on 23 February 2023.

Your views matter as they will help inform the final budget for 2023/24!

So please do take the time to answer the questions below by WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2023.

One of the main proposals detailed in the report is a one-off use of council reserves in 2023/24 totalling £15.051million. Caerphilly has healthy reserves at present. These are essentially our savings which we have either earmarked for specific projects or are keeping safe for a "rainy day". These reserves can therefore only be used once. The one-off use of reserves and temporary savings in 2023/24 provides a short-term fix and will buy us time to reshape our services in order to continuously meet the needs of our communities whilst working with far less money due to the significant financial challenges that lie ahead.

Do you agree or disagree with this approach at this time?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know



THE CAERPHILLY CONVERSATION



The draft budget proposals, include proposed permanent (£5.559m) and temporary savings (£6.862m) totalling £12.421m. Having read and considered the list of savings proposals, please indicate if you particularly agree or disagree with any of those listed.

Select up to 3.

Savings proposals that I particularly agree with
Savings proposals that I particularly disagree with

As part of our plan to achieve the savings we must make, we are proposing a council tax increase of 7.9% for 2023/24. This would generate £4.880m of additional net income for the Council. This would equate to an additional £1.91 per week based on a council tax Band D property. This would still hold us firm as one of the lowest levels of Council tax across Wales. Taking this and the level of savings required into account, please select one of the following options to tell us your preference about council tax. Please select one only.

- I support the proposed increase in council tax (7.9%) which would mean an increase of £1.91 per week for a Band D property.
- I do not support the proposed council tax increase – it's too much. However, I'd support a lower increase in council tax. (Please note – every 1% reduction from the proposed 7.9% would mean us having to find an extra £606,000 of savings).
- I support the proposed increase in council tax but would be prepared to pay an even greater increase if required. (Every 1% increase above the proposed 7.9% would mean we have to find £606,000 less savings).
- I do not support any increase in council tax and understand that this would mean the council having to find £4.880m of further savings elsewhere in order to balance the budget. This could affect the delivery of frontline services to residents.

If your responses to any of the questions in this survey have been influenced (positively or negatively) because of any of the following; ethnic origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, religious beliefs or non- beliefs, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents, please give details below:

Please tell us a little bit about yourself...

We must ensure we achieve a representative sample of responses in order to provide views that are fully representative of our county borough population. It would therefore, be most helpful if you could answer the following questions about yourself.

- I am responding as a resident of Caerphilly County Borough
- I am representing a third sector group or organisation
- I am representing another public sector organisation
- I am responding as a local business person
- I am responding as a local elected member
- I am responding as a member of staff

Other please write in: _____

My postcode is: _____

I am:

- Female
- Male
- Prefer to self describe,
please write in: _____
- Prefer not to say

What is your main language?

- English Welsh
 - Other (including British Sign Language)
- If other, please write in:

Do you have a disability?

- Yes No
- Prefer not to say

Thank you for completing the survey.

Please return this form to any of the main council offices or your nearest Library or Leisure Centre.

If you prefer, you can also return the survey in the post to: Consultation and Public Engagement Officer, Corporate Policy Unit, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG.

Please return your survey by WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2023.

Privacy notice:

You have a number of rights in relation to the information including the right of access to information we hold about you and the right of complaint if you are unhappy with the way your information is being processed. For further information on how we process this information and your rights please visit: www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/FOI/PrivacyNotices/Privacy-Notice-Consultations-Surveys.aspx