

Budget Consultation 2026/27

December 2025



Shropshire Council is spending more money than it earns. This means having to make big changes to save money. We will need to do this every year to keep things running well.



If we don't make changes, the government could step in and take control. This means local people won't have a say in decisions. The council is asking the government for more money to help



The council might have to cut some services or reduce the support given to people. The council might also have to charge more money for some things. These are difficult choices to make.



The council wants to know what is important to you. Your ideas and opinions will help the people running the council decide what to do next.



You can find more information and share your thoughts on the Shropshire Council website. There is a special page for people to get involved and give their views. [Get Involved - Shropshire Council Consultation Portal](#)

Managing Demand and Finding Savings



This is about using less and saving money. It means finding ways to do things better and cheaper. It helps make sure we have enough for everyone and don't waste what we have.



We want to use computers to make services better and cheaper. Some people like to do things online, but others need to talk to our staff. Helping more people online gives us more time for those who need us.



1. What do you usually use to go online?

☐

Smartphone

☐

Tablet

☐

Laptop

☐

Desktop computer

☐






Other (e.g. family device, library device)

☐

I don't have access to the internet



2. How confident are you at completing the following online tasks?

	 Not very Confident	 Not confident	 Neither confident or not	 Confident	 Very confident
Looking for information online					
Paying for things online					
Filling out online forms and bookings					
Video calling for online meetings/ appointments					
Web chat and online discussion forums.					



3. How likely are you to use a computer, tablet or your smart phone when using council services?

☐

Very likely

☐

Likely

☐

Neither likely or not

☐

Not likely

☐

Not very likely

☐

Don't Know



4. Would you like to get help or training to get better at using computers and the internet?

☐

Yes

☐

No



5. How happy are you with the online services from Shropshire Council that you have used?

☐

Very happy

☐

Happy

☐

Neither happy or unhappy

☐

Unhappy

☐

Very unhappy

☐




Don't Know



6. Please tell us if you have any ideas to make using the Council's services better on the internet. We want to know how we can help you more. Your thoughts are important to us.



7. The council wants to save money and manage demand. Do you agree with any of the listed ideas below?

	 Agree	 Don't agree	 Don't know
Working with other groups to make sure people get the help they need in the right places.			
Look at the services we give to other groups, like schools, to see how well we are doing.			
Look at how to use money from selling things or new projects to help local communities.			
Look at the rules for planning and housing to make sure there are more homes for people living in Shropshire.			
Charging for some services, like leisure and library services. We can decide how these services are given to people.			



8. Do you think Shropshire Council should change how it buys services?



Agree



Disagree



Don't know

Using the skills and knowledge of council teams when it is the right thing to do (instead of paying other people).

Checking the services we buy to make sure we get good value for our money.

Giving help early so that people need less help later.

Looking at the rules for planning and housing to make sure there are more homes for people living in Shropshire.

Asking everyone who works with the council and people who live here to look after planet and nature. This can help save money.

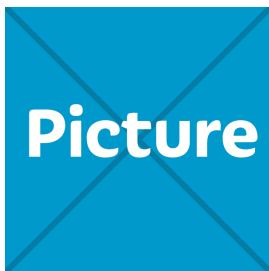
Council Tax



In 2026/27, we will spend more money than we have. From 2010 to 2016, Council Tax did not go up in Shropshire. This means we have £26.1 million less in 2025/26.



The Government thinks councils will raise Council Tax by 4.99%. If we don't do this, we will have £10 million less money. This is important for our income.



We lost money because of changes in Government funding. We no longer get the Rural Services Delivery Grant, which was nearly £10 million a year. This grant helped with extra costs in rural areas.

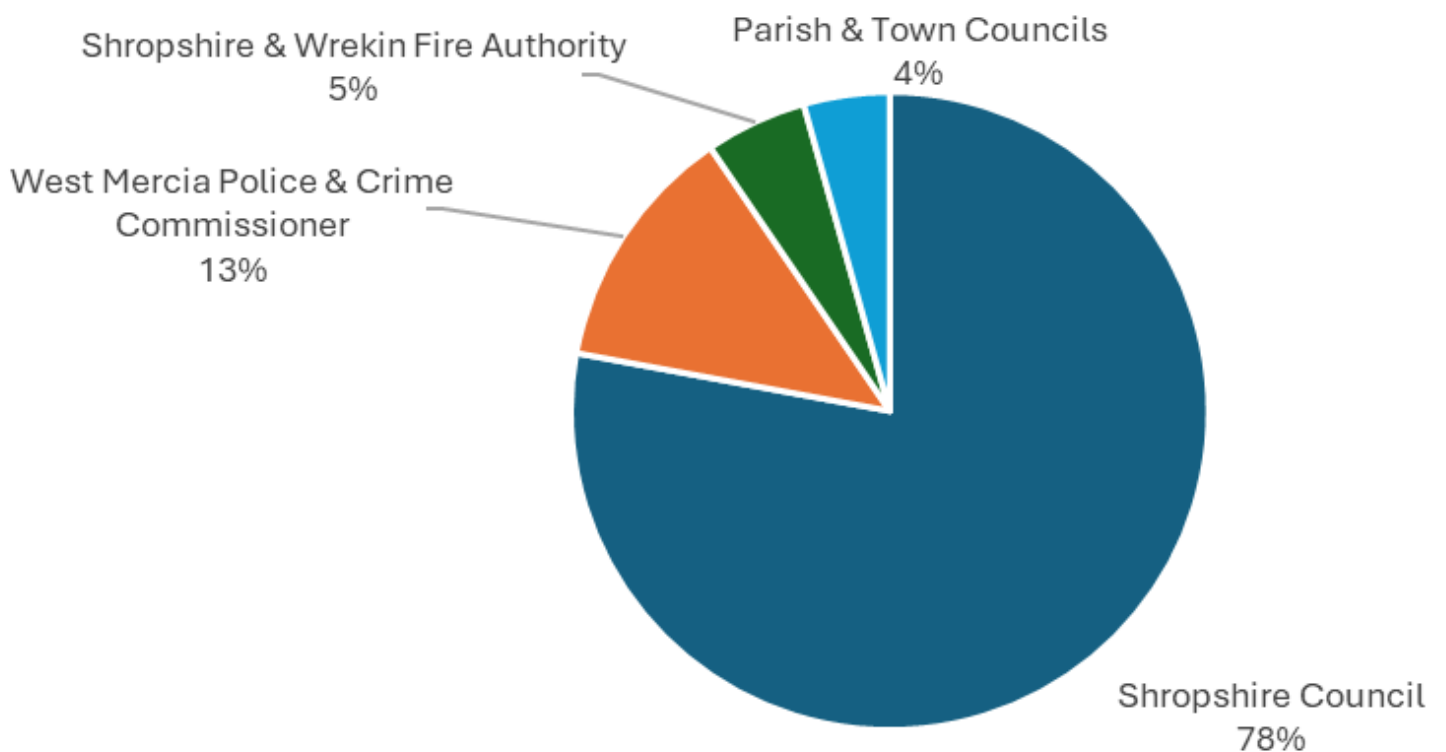


We have less money to spend on each home compared to other councils in England. This makes it harder to provide services. We need to think about how to manage our money better.



Shropshire Council collects council tax money and shares it with other public services. This helps pay for things like schools, roads, and rubbish collection. The chart shows how the money is shared in 2025/26.

Share of Council Tax for 2025/26



4.99%



9. Shropshire Council wants to raise Council Tax by 4.99%. This means 2.99% for council tax and 2% for adult social care. For a Band B home, it would cost £1.35 more a week, and for Band D £1.73 more.

Please tell us if you agree or disagree with this.

☐

Agree

☐

Disagree

☐

Neither
agree or
disagree



10. Would you agree or disagree with paying more Council Tax than 4.99% next year if the Government allows it?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't know



If we raise Council Tax by 1%, we will get £2 million more. This money can help us keep giving you the services you need.



The extra costs for each council tax band per week are listed below.

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
4.99%	1.16	1.35	1.54	1.73	2.12	2.50	2.89	3.47
6.99%	1.62	1.89	2.16	2.43	2.97	3.51	4.05	4.86
9.99%	2.31	2.70	3.09	3.47	4.24	5.01	5.78	6.94
14.99%	3.47	4.05	4.63	5.21	6.37	7.52	8.68	10.42



11. How much do you think it is okay to raise Council Tax?

An extra 2%. The total increase is 6.99%, which adds up to £4 million.	
An extra 5%. The total increase is 9.99%, which adds up to £10 million.	
An extra 10%. The total increase is 14.99%, which adds up to £20 million.	
I don't agree with paying any extra Council Tax	



12. Please add any comments below about Shropshire Council's idea to increase council tax:



13. Think about which services are not as important to you. These are the ones where you think it is okay to spend less money. Score 1 – 18, with 1 being the service that's not important to you at all, and 18 is the most important.

Highways repairs	
Traffic control	
Parking	
Street cleaning and grass cutting	
Transport (e.g. education and public transport).	
Leisure, arts, culture and museums	
Parks and outdoor spaces	
Libraries	
Public Health and regulatory services (e.g. noise complaints, animal health).	
Trading Standards and Licensing	
Waste and Recycling	
Adult Social Care	
Housing	
Administration of benefits and welfare	
Children and families services and youth services	
Children's Social Care	
Education, Learning and Skills	
Economic Growth	
Planning Services	
Council running costs and support services	

Fees



The council makes money from some services. This helps pay for other services. Costs go up every year. Some costs like paying wages and insurance also increase.



Shropshire Council might need to raise fees (the money we charge for some services). Raising fees by inflation could bring in £1.9m. This money would help pay for services people use.



The council might have to raise costs for all services with a charge. This is difficult. For example, we don't have to provide sports pitches, but they help people stay healthy. If we charge too much, people might stop using them.



If the council cannot make services pay, the Government might take over. This means local people would have less say in decisions about services.



14. Please choose the option that shows what you think about each statement.

Shropshire Council should make fees go up with inflation. This means prices should change to match how much things cost now.

☐

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither Agree or disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Don't Know

Shropshire Council will ask people to pay for some services that they don't have to give for free.

☐

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither Agree or disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Don't Know

The council wants to give more fines for things like illegal parking, littering, and not cleaning up after dogs. This means they will check more often to catch people breaking these rules.

☐

**Strongly
agree**

☐

Agree

☐

**Neither
Agree or
disagree**

☐

Disagree

☐

**Strongly
disagree**

☐

**Don't
Know**

Using buildings and land (like car parks) can help make more money. This means finding ways to use these spaces better, like charging more for parking. This can help bring in extra money.

☐

**Strongly
agree**

☐

Agree

☐

**Neither
Agree or
disagree**

☐

Disagree

☐

**Strongly
disagree**

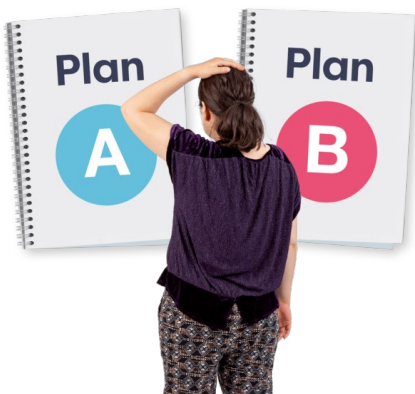
☐

**Don't
Know**

Service Options



Some hard choices need to be made. These choices should have been made before.



If there are plans to change or reduce services, people will be asked what they think.



It is important to know what you think about these topics.



Local people will be asked for their views before big decisions are made.

Leisure Services



Shropshire Council might need to spend less money. This means they could change or stop some leisure services. Leisure services are things like Meole Brace Golf Course and Church Stretton Leisure Centre.



These services are not required by law. The council must decide how to save money while still helping people.



15. Do you or your family often use the leisure services provided by Shropshire Council?

☐

No

☐

Yes
often

☐

Yes
occasionally



16. Please let us know which of the ideas below you like best. 9 is the best to 1 the worst. There are 9 ideas please try to put them in order with a number (9 is best).

Find ways to make more money. Have more activities that will bring more money into the council.	
Spend more money to keep buildings in good shape.	
Fewer events and activities happening. This means there are not as many things to do or places to go.	
Have fewer buildings and places to use.	
Sports and activities that don't cost much money.	
Reduce opening hours. This means places will be open for fewer hours than before.	
Help is given to people who need the most care for their health.	
Find people or companies to give money or work with us. This can help us. Working together can bring new ideas. It is important to choose the right partners for success.	
Community ownership means people in a community run and look after services together. This can help make sure services meet the needs of the people who use them. It can also help people feel more involved.	



17. Please let us know any other comments you have about reducing the money spent on leisure services and how to improve health and wellbeing.

Library Services



Shropshire Council wants to keep libraries open for people who live there. But there is not enough money to do everything. This means some services might need to change.



The Council is trying hard to make sure libraries stay open, even with less money. They want to keep helping people in the community.



18. How often do you or your family use a library in Shropshire, like the library building or the mobile library?

Daily	
2 or more times a week (but not daily)	
Weekly	
A few times a month	
Once a month	
A few times a year	
Once a year or less	
Never	



19. Think about different ways to save money for libraries. Put them in order from the best way to save money to the worst way. Number them from 9 being the best to 1 being the worst.

Fewer library buildings and places. This means people might have to travel further to find a library.	
Fewer events and activities. This means there will not be as many things to do or places to go.	
Cut opening times. The libraries would not be open as much.	
Fewer books and resources. This means there might not be as many new books or things to borrow.	
More self-serve options.	
More online resources (information on websites).	
Reduce the mobile library service (the library bus).	
Move libraries to places that cost less money.	
Add more services into the libraries. This means you can do more things there.	



20. Please tell us any other comments you have about saving money for libraries.

Museums Service



Shropshire Museums Service helps places like Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery and Shrewsbury Castle. Not all councils have museums, but they help bring tourists and money to Shropshire.



Because of money problems, the council might need to make hard choices to save money. But they know museums are important for bringing visitors here.



21. How often do you or your family visit the museums run by Shropshire Council?

Daily	
2 or more times a week (but not daily)	
Weekly	
A few times a month	
Once a month	
A few times a year	
Once a year or less	
Never	



22. Think about different ways to save money for museums. Put them in order from the best way to save money to the worst way. Number them from 10 (best) to 1 (the worst idea).

Working with others in the community to deliver the museum in a different way (like a town or parish council).	
Charge people to come in, or to see a new display or event.	
Find a way of running museums where Shropshire Council is not in charge.	
Fewer events and activities or visits for schools.	
Reduce opening hours	
Fewer activities for schools. This means children might not go to museums as much.	
Closing some services.	
Working with government or others to find new ways of putting more money into museums services.	



23. Please tell us any other ideas you have to reduce the amount of money spent on museums.

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box for writing answers.

Partnerships



Working with others can help keep services running. This means teaming up with councils, charities, or businesses. It helps when Shropshire Council can't afford to do it alone.



The Council wants to help people in Shropshire by working together. This is very important to them.






Partnerships can help keep services like libraries, leisure centres, and parks open. They can also help with looking after these places.



By working together, we can make sure important services continue for everyone. This helps the community stay strong and supported.



24. We need to think about new ways to keep important services safe in the future. Please let us know if you think the below ideas will help?

	 Agree	 Disagree	 Don't know
Use the skills and knowledge of council teams when it is the right thing to do.			
Community ownership means local people help run places like libraries and museums. This can make these places better for everyone. People in the community can share ideas and work together to keep these services going.			
Working with charities can help stop problems before they start and make sure fewer people need social care.			
Looking at ways to move services to other groups, like private companies or public organisations.			
Hearing from people who use our services. This helps when hard choices have to be made. We can explain why things might change and learn what people think about ideas.			



25. Working together with local groups can help keep services going. It's important to share ideas and work as a team. This can make sure everyone gets the help they need and services stay strong. Do you have any comments about this?

Care and Wellbeing



Social care services might need to be cut to save money. This is because care costs more now. Things like the National Living Wage and National Insurance make it more expensive.



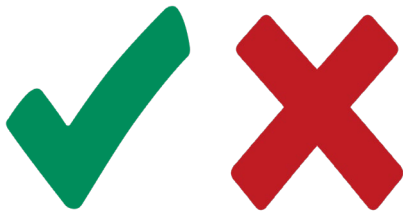
The Government gives money differently to cities and countryside areas. This makes things harder. Many people who get help from adult social care will be asked to fill out a survey in January 2026.



Family carers have already been asked what they think. Their feedback is important to understand the situation better.



These surveys help us know what people need and how to make things better for everyone.



26. Please say how much you agree with each choice.

Help people get support when they need it. This can help them stay in their own homes.

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither Agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't Know

Use new technology to help people be more independent.

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither Agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't Know

Reablement – this is care that helps people learn to do daily tasks again. This can help people need less home care or not need to live in a care home.

☐

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

**Neither
Agree or
disagree**

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Don't Know

More accommodation like on-site care and support (supported living).

☐

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

**Neither
Agree or
disagree**

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Don't Know

Look at the social care services Shropshire Council runs to see if there are ways of spending less money.

☐

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

**Neither
Agree or
disagree**

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Don't Know



Wellbeing

27. Please tell us any more comments you have about care and wellbeing and ways of saving money.

Capital Programme



Capital money is from selling things or getting money from developers. This money is used for big projects like building roads or fixing buildings. These projects are called capital projects.



Capital projects are one-time investments. The money for these projects cannot be used for everyday costs like paying staff or bills. This is called revenue funding.



Revenue funding is used for daily costs like wages and bills. We cannot use capital money for things like adult social care costs and running services.



Examples of capital projects are building new places like leisure centres or houses. These projects help improve the community.



28. Think about different ways Shropshire Council should spend money on building or repairing things. Put them in order from most important to least important. Number them from 1 (most important) to 15 (least important).

Highways and road maintenance	
Safe walking and cycling routes	
Car parks	
Public transport and park & ride	
Economic development	
Housing development	
Parks, outdoor spaces and rights of way	
New technology and sustainability	
Leisure centre facilities	
Arts, culture and heritage (e.g. museums)	
Library building improvements and refurbishment	
Community hubs and service access points	
Residential social care	
School development and site improvements	
Other public buildings	



29. Please think about what is most important to you. Score the most important thing as 1 and the least important as 4.

Money for buildings and equipment should be used when it can to help with service running costs.	
Looking after old buildings and special places. This helps us remember our past. By looking after these places, we make sure they are there for children in the future.	
Use money to look after buildings and land where public services, like schools and hospitals are running.	
Roads and transport, include things like roads, buses, trains, and bike paths.	



30. Please add any other comments you have on how Shropshire Council should spend its capital (money for buildings and equipment) for next year.

Resident Satisfaction



The next questions are about Shropshire council and how happy or unhappy you are with them. Please let us know if you have any suggestions to make the services better.



31. How happy or unhappy are you with the way Shropshire Council runs things?

Please tell us if you agree or disagree.

☐

**Very
Happy**

☐

Happy

☐

**Neither
Happy or
unhappy**

☐

Unhappy

☐

**Very
unhappy**

Think about the services Shropshire Council gives to everyone and the ones your home uses. It's okay if you don't know all the services. We just want to know what you think about them.



32. Do you think Shropshire Council provides good value for money?

Please tell us if you agree or disagree.

☐

Very
Happy

☐

Yes

☐

Neither yes
or no

☐

No

☐

Very
unhappy



33. Do you think Shropshire Council listens to local people and takes action when they are worried?

Please tell us if you agree or disagree.

☐

Yes a lot

☐

Yes
someti
mes

☐

Not very
much

☐

Not at all

☐

Don't
know



34. How happy or unhappy are you with what the council does?

	 Very Happy	 Happy	 Neither happy or unhappy	 Unhappy	 Very unhappy	 Don't know
Rubbish collection						
Street cleaning						
Road maintenance						
Pavement maintenance						
Library services						
Sports and leisure services						
Services and support for older people						
Services and support for children and young people						
Parks and green spaces						



35. What one thing could Shropshire Council do that would make you happier with the services you have received from the council?

Overall thoughts



36. How happy or unhappy are you with Shropshire Council's plan for spending money next year?

☐

**Very
Happy**

☐

Happy

☐

**Neither
Happy or
unhappy**

☐

Unhappy

☐

**Very
unhappy**



37. Do you have any other ideas of ways to save money or make things better in the future.



38. Shropshire Council wants to make sure everyone is treated fairly and is included. They think about how changes might affect people's health and lives. If you have thoughts on how the way money is spent might affect different people, please share them.



You can sign up to get updates about future budget talks by following the link provided.

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSHROPSHIRE/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKSHROPSHIRE_259

About you



We use this information to make sure we hear from everyone in our community. The survey is anonymous, so we don't know who you are. You can skip any questions you don't want to answer.



39. Are you:

A local resident (someone living in Shropshire)	
From a local business	
A member of a local interest or community group	
A representative of a local town, parish or rural parish council	
A Shropshire ward councillor	
A Shropshire Council employee	
A visitor to Shropshire or a member of the public living elsewhere	
None of these	
Prefer not to say	
Other	



40. What is your gender?

Male	
Female	
Non-binary	
Prefer not to say	



41. How old are you?

Under 16	
16 – 20	
21 – 30	
31 – 39	
40 - 49	
50 - 59	
60 – 69	
70 – 79	
80+	
Prefer not to say	



42. Do you have an illness or disability that makes it hard to do things every day?

Yes, limited a lot	
Yes, limited a little	
No	
Prefer not to say	



43. Do you help look after a friend or family member who needs regular care and support without getting paid?

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	



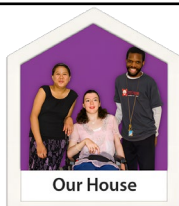
44. What do you do?

At school	
At college/ university/ in further education	
Working (employed or self employed)	
Unemployed	
A full-time carer or looking after the home	
Retired	
Prefer not to say	
Other	



45. What is your ethnic background?

Arab	
Asian (Asian British; Bangladeshi Chinese; Indian; Japanese; Pakistani; any other Asian background).	
Black (Black African; Black British; Black Caribbean; any other Black background).	
Mixed (White and Asian; White and Black African; White and Black Caribbean; any other mixed background)	
White (British; Irish; Welsh)	
White (Gypsy, Roma or Irish traveller)	
Other white background e.g. Bulgarian, French, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, White South African, etc.	
Stamina or breathing or fatigue	
Other Ethnic Group	
Prefer not to say or don't know	



46. How many people live in your household?

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7 or more	
Prefer not to say	



47. What is the total money your household makes before tax is taken out?

£6,499 or less per year	
£6,500 to £9,499	
£9,500 to £16,999	
£17,000 to £24,999	
£25,000 to £39,999	
£40,000 to £59,999	
£60,000 to £74,999	
£75,000 and over	
Don't know	
Prefer not to say	



48. Please share your **postcode**.
We will use this to see how many people reply and make sure everyone in Shropshire can join in. We won't use postcodes to find homes.

How we'll use your information



This survey is private. We won't know who you are from your answers. Your answers help us plan and make decisions. We will only share answers that don't show who you are.



We might use some of your words to show what people think. Your answers will be kept safe and stored properly. We will not share your information with other people outside of Shropshire Council.



We follow rules to keep your information safe, like the GDPR. Your information is kept safe and shared safely if needed.



To learn more about how we keep your information and your rights, you can read our privacy policy. This tells you how we look after your information and what you can do if you have questions.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. The survey closes on the 16th January.

Please return your completed survey using one of the following:



Email

TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk



Post

Tell Us, Feedback and Insight Team
Shropshire Council,
PO Box 4826,
Shrewsbury
SY1 9LJ



Phone

If you need any help, please telephone:

0345 678 9000