

Introduction from Joe Harris, Leader of Cotswold District Council



Dear Resident,

Even though a new government was elected last year, money is still very tight for local councils. This means that when your Council Tax bill arrives in April, you'll notice an increase.

For years, different governments have given councils like ours less money while asking them to do more. People in the Cotswolds come to the council for help with things like housing and financial support, but there isn't enough funding to cover it all.

Because of this, the council has had to raise fees, increase Council Tax, and even cut some services just to make ends meet.

It's like running a household; if your income drops but your bills keep going up, you either need to find extra money or cut back on spending. That's exactly what the council is dealing with.

Even with these challenges, the council has worked hard to make improvements and find new ways to fund important projects. One great example is our **Crowdfund Cotswolds** scheme, which has raised over £1 million to support local projects and good causes.

Our main goal is to help those who need it most. If you're struggling with money, we have one of the best Council Tax support schemes in the country. You can learn more about it on the council's website, along with our '**cost of living hub**', which has lots of useful advice and support for anyone worried about money.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Joe Harris', written over a dark green background.

Cllr Joe Harris
Leader of Cotswold District Council



COTSWOLD
District Council



COTSWOLD District Council

Cotswold District Council's priorities - how we build a better council and care for our Cotswolds

Cotswold District Council aims to be proactive and responsive to the needs of its residents and businesses and to build for the future while respecting the district's heritage.

Our priorities



Delivering Good Services.



Responding to the Climate
Emergency.



Delivering Housing.



Supporting Communities.



Supporting the Economy.

Our principles



Rebuilding trust and confidence in the council by promoting a culture of openness and transparency.



Providing value for money for our residents and businesses by using our resources wisely and investing in the district's fabric and future.



Listening to the needs of our community and acting on what we hear.

Help if you are struggling to pay your Council Tax

We understand that Council Tax can be a challenge for some to pay and we have support in place to help those who need it. If you are on low income or claim benefits you could be entitled to help under our Council Tax Support Scheme.

For more information visit: www.cotswold.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport
If you are not online you can call: 01285 623035



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Cotswold District Council

www.cotswold.gov.uk



COTSWOLD
District Council

Balancing the budget

Against a backdrop of inflation
and government cuts

Explaining the Cotswold District Council
budget for 2025/26



Councillor Mike Evemy
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Explaining the Cotswold District Council budget for 2025/26

Our net budget for the 2025/26 financial year is £15.7m. This funds the essential services we provide for our community and comes from your Council Tax, a share of business rates, and Government grants.

Over the past decade, government funding has significantly decreased, impacting how we deliver services. The funding that the Council receives from the Government to run its services is lower than in 2024/25. This year, we've also seen the removal of the Rural Services Delivery Grant (worth over £800,000), which helped offset the higher costs of providing services in a rural area like ours. This makes careful budget management crucial.

Only 7% of the Council Tax you pay comes to Cotswold District Council. The majority goes to Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Police, with a portion also going to your local town or parish council. You can find a detailed breakdown on your Council Tax bill.

We use our share of the funding to provide a range of vital services, including:

- Waste collection and recycling
- Leisure facilities
- Fly-tip removal
- Environmental health
- Parks and open spaces

Please note, Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for services like road maintenance, libraries, adult social care and public health.

To help us maintain essential services in the face of reduced funding, the Cotswold District Council portion of this year's Council Tax bill will increase by less than 10p a week (£5 a year) for the average Band D household. This modest increase will help offset the loss of Government grant funding and ensure we can continue to deliver the services you rely on.

Only 7% of the Council Tax you pay comes to Cotswold District Council



New Brewery Hearts Crowdfund Cotswold

Where the Council's money comes from

17%

Government grants

42%

Service income, fees & charges

26%

Council Tax

15%

Business rates

Where the Council's money will be spent in 2025/26

6%

Land, legal & property

5%

Revenues & housing support

26%

Customer, HR, IT & other support services

24%

Environmental services & waste collection

6%

Organisational running costs

7%

Democratic services

9%

Planning & strategic housing

4%

Environmental & regulatory services

13%

Leisure & communities



Davies Road, Moreton-in-Marsh

What we delivered with your Council Tax last year

Last year we made great progress on our priorities to improve the Cotswolds for you as residents. On top of delivering over 50 services we achieved the following:



Our award-winning Crowdfund Cotswold scheme continues to be successful raising over £200,000 last year for local projects across the District.



We continued to tackle fly-tipping and littering in the district, issuing more fines as we continue to take environmental offences seriously.



We continued our Cotswold Home Solar scheme, with 20 residents across the district now equipped with solar panels, helping them to experience significant financial and environmental benefits.



We continued to help people stay active such as making improvements to our leisure facilities, including new state of the art studios and water play features for children.



We provided a wide range of support to help people through the cost-of-living crisis, including setting up our innovative Low Income Family Tracker tool. This will provide targeted support to residents most in need.



We helped build more affordable homes across the district, including an innovative project to build 15 new affordable low-carbon homes in Moreton-in-Marsh.