



Your Bucks, Your Say on Buckinghamshire Council priorities and budget

Open date: 28 August 2025

Close date: 9 October 2025

Name: Consultation and Engagement Team

Email: consultations@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Overview

Help us shape our corporate priorities and tell us which services you think should be prioritised in our budget next year.

When considering your response, think about the wider needs of Buckinghamshire as well as what matters most to you, your family, your community or your organisation.

Draft Corporate Plan priorities

Our Corporate Plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next few years. At its heart, it's about making a positive difference for the people, communities and businesses of Buckinghamshire.

When drafting these priorities, we've taken into consideration the many [policies and strategies](#) at the core of our Corporate Plan.

The priorities we are proposing are:

- **Opportunity and aspiration for all**
 - We want Buckinghamshire to be a place where everyone can thrive.
 - We will champion education, skills, and employment – supporting our schools, investing in young people, and helping residents of all ages to succeed.
 - We will back local businesses, attract investment, and ensure that prosperity is shared across all parts of the county – rural and urban alike.

- **Shaping great places**

- We will invest in the places that make Buckinghamshire special – our towns, villages, and countryside. From regenerating our high streets to improving roads, transport, and green spaces, we will deliver visible improvements that reflect local priorities.
- We will champion placemaking that celebrates our heritage, strengthens local identity, and supports sustainable growth. Communities will be at the heart of shaping the places they call home.

- **Thriving communities**

- We believe in the power of strong, connected communities. We will support local initiatives, strengthen civic participation, and work with voluntary, faith, and community groups to build resilience and pride in place.
- We will ensure that every resident has a voice in shaping their community and that every neighbourhood has the opportunity to flourish.
- We will collaborate with partners and engage others where appropriate, recognising that meaningful progress cannot be achieved in isolation.

- **Supporting the most vulnerable**

- Protecting and supporting our most vulnerable residents is a fundamental duty.
- We will continue to deliver compassionate, high-quality care for children, older people, and those with additional needs. Our approach will focus on prevention, early intervention, and helping people live with dignity and independence.
- We will work closely with families, carers, and partners to ensure support is timely, tailored, and effective.

The budget

Ensuring our residents get value for money from their council tax is really important to us – we know that every penny counts.

Like all councils, we have to balance our budget each year, meaning that we can't spend more than the income we receive. With the growing demand for services like social care and transport, councils across the country are facing a lot of financial pressure.

We provide over 700 different services. Our budget sets out how much we will need to spend on these services and where that money will come from.

71% of our budget is spent on four key services that we are legally required to provide:

- Adult social care
- Children's services
- Home-to-school transport
- Temporary accommodation

Despite these pressures, we remain in a stable financial position, having made substantial savings to help balance the budget and continuing to deliver savings each year. Finding ways to do things differently has helped us face these financial challenges while still modernising and investing in the county. For example, we are investing £120m in maintaining our road network over the next four years. We'll make smart use of technology, cut waste, and work with partners to get the best results for Buckinghamshire.

The Government recently launched its [Fair Funding Review consultation](#) which seeks to redistribute Local Authorities' spending power. Early indications are that there will be a negative impact on Buckinghamshire as the government seeks to redistribute funding. This is still subject to the outcome of the national consultation and, as a council, we need to plan for a number of different scenarios ahead of the final settlement announcement in Autumn/Winter 2025 (i.e. the amount of central funding that Buckinghamshire will receive).

How the council is funded

- 79.6% comes from Council Tax
- 12.5% comes from Business Rates
- 7.2% comes from un-ringfenced grants
- 0.7% comes from the New Homes Bonus

The New Homes Bonus has been paid to councils for a significant number of years to support and encourage the creation of additional housing to address the national housing shortage. The Government has announced it is removing the New Homes Bonus so we will not be receiving this funding for 2026/27.

Funding for the running of our schools is not set or controlled by the council. We distribute this to schools on behalf of government as part of the [Dedicated Schools Grant](#).

Public Health services are funded by specific grants. The grants are used in a variety of ways, such as support for alcohol and drug addiction, stopping smoking, eating healthily, ageing well and being more active.

How your money is spent

The spending breakdown for the year 2025 to 2026 (net) is:

- Adult Social Care – £215,009,000
- Children's Social Care – £112,333,000
- Roads and Transportation – £71,638,000
- Waste and Recycling – £21,859,000
- Customer Services – £12,595,000
- Education (excluding Dedicated Schools Grant) – £11,969,000
- Planning – £5,316,000
- Housing and Homelessness – £5,208,000
- Culture and Leisure – £3,933,000
- Regulatory Services – £2,962,000
- Community Safety – £1,921,000
- Community Boards – £1,851,000
- Street Cleaning – £1,765,000
- Environment – £1,692,000
- Strategic Infrastructure, Town Centre Regeneration and Economic Growth – £1,676,000

We also spend £53,091,000 on the costs of running the council. This includes providing the following services:

- 'Helping Hand'- our scheme for helping people struggling with the cost of living pressures
- Council Tax collection and Housing Benefit payments
- Legal and Democratic services, including elections
- Risk, Audit and Insurance services
- Information Communication Technology
- Finance
- Human Resources and Organisational Development

This adds up to a total net spend of £524,817,000 for 2025 to 2026 (total takes account of rounding).

Net spend is expenditure minus the income we receive from customers and ringfenced grants.

We are proposing to allocate the 2026 to 2027 budget in a similar way.

View detailed proposals in our [Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2027/28](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-bucks-your-say) at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-bucks-your-say](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-bucks-your-say).

More information on the service areas

Adult Social Care:

- Care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults which includes support for people:
 - living at home
 - living in care
 - coming out of hospital
 - with disabilities
- Mental health services

Children's Social Care:

- Improving outcomes and actively promoting the life chances of children in care and care leavers
- Safeguarding and encouraging the welfare of children, including protection against child sexual exploitation
- Support for children with disabilities
- Fostering and adoption services
- Helping young people stay away from crime and avoid re-offending

Roads and Transportation:

- Road maintenance including inspections, pothole and road repairs, drainage and emergency response
- Public transport, client transport and home to school transport
- Transport strategy, including our ambitions, policies and plans for future investment in local transport
- Keeping roads safe, including winter gritting and improving the flow of traffic
- Rights of way, including footpaths

Waste and Recycling:

- Collection and disposal of waste, including fly-tipping and littering
- Household waste recycling centres
- Converting non-recyclable waste into electricity (Energy from waste)

Customer Services:

- Customer Contact Centre
- Face to face information, advice and support to residents at Council Access Points
- Digital and web services

Education (excluding the schools' Dedicated Schools Grant):

- School admissions, school improvement and school place planning
- Support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- Support for young people not in education, employment or training
- Early help for children and young people
- Adult learning and skills

Planning:

- Advice services and management of the planning application process
- Investigating alleged breaches and taking enforcement action where appropriate
- Building control
- Development management, including highways
- Strategic and local planning policy, including local development plans and neighbourhood planning

Housing and Homelessness:

- Advice when looking for a home
- Help if you're homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Housing grants, loans and debt advice

Culture and Leisure:

- Country parks, parks and play areas
- Leisure centres
- Libraries
- Arts and culture
- Museums and heritage including archives

Regulatory Services:

- Cemeteries and crematoria
- Environmental health including food safety, health and safety in the workplace, pollution control and housing standards
- Trading standards

- Coroners
- Licensing
- Registrars and celebratory services

Community Safety:

- Crime, anti-social behaviour and drug or alcohol abuse
- Domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking or harassment
- Extremism and terrorism
- Modern slavery and child exploitation

Community Boards:

- Local partnerships between the council, community groups, organisations and local people to identify key local issues and take action to address them

Street Cleaning:

- Street cleansing
- Grounds maintenance
- Dog control

Environment:

- Protecting and improving the environment
- Tackling the challenges presented by climate change
- Energy and water management
- Flood management

Strategic Infrastructure, Town Centre Regeneration and Economic Growth:

- Highways infrastructure projects
- Town centre regeneration
- Supporting the local economy through jobs, skills, homes and amenities

How to have your say

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey at **[buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-bucks-your-say](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-bucks-your-say)**
- complete, and return, the printed version of the survey below

If you have any questions about this activity, or require this information in another format or language, please email us at consultations@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on Thursday 9 October 2025.

What happens next

We will consider all the feedback we receive and use the findings to help us develop the draft corporate plan priorities and budget further.

A detailed draft budget will be published in early 2026 for further feedback and scrutiny. It will then be finalised and agreed at Council in February 2026.

The Corporate Plan will be presented to Council in Spring 2026 for adoption.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. Survey responses will be analysed using Microsoft products including Copilot, Excel and Word. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

Your Bucks, Your Say - Printed consultation survey

Draft priorities

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our draft priority 'Opportunity and aspiration for all'?

We want Buckinghamshire to be a place where everyone can thrive. We will champion education, skills, and employment – supporting our schools, investing in young people, and helping residents of all ages to succeed. We will back local businesses, attract investment, and ensure that prosperity is shared across all parts of the county – rural and urban alike.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our draft priority 'Shaping great places'?

We will invest in the places that make Buckinghamshire special – our towns, villages, and countryside. From regenerating our high streets to improving roads, transport, and green spaces, we will deliver visible improvements that reflect local priorities.

We will champion placemaking that celebrates our heritage, strengthens local identity, and supports sustainable growth. Communities will be at the heart of shaping the places they call home.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our draft priority 'Thriving communities'?

We believe in the power of strong, connected communities. We will support local initiatives, strengthen civic participation, and work with voluntary, faith, and community groups to build resilience and pride in place.

We will ensure that every resident has a voice in shaping their community and that every neighbourhood has the opportunity to flourish.

We will collaborate with partners and engage others where appropriate, recognising that meaningful progress cannot be achieved in isolation.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

**4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our draft priority
‘Supporting the most vulnerable’?**

Protecting and supporting our most vulnerable residents is a fundamental duty. We will continue to deliver compassionate, high-quality care for children, older people, and those with additional needs.

Our approach will focus on prevention, early intervention, and helping people live with dignity and independence. We will work closely with families, carers, and partners to ensure support is timely, tailored, and effective.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

Your priorities for spend

5. Which services would you prioritise for council funding?

You can select up to 5 services, in no particular order.

Please tick (✓) one option per column

	1	2	3	4	5
Care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Car parking such as car parks, street parking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community safety such as working with other organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour, violence and hate crime	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Culture and tourism such as museums, country parks and archaeology	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Educational services such as childcare, pre-school, school admissions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Environmental health such as food safety, health and safety in the workplace, pollution control, housing standards and trading standards	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Housing such as finding a home, social tenancy issues, homelessness issues	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maintaining parks, open spaces, playing fields, rights of way and the countryside	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pavement maintenance including footpaths	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning services such as advice, enforcement, development plans, planning applications, building control	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Protecting the environment such as development of green spaces, renewable energy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public Health services such as stopping smoking, drug / alcohol services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

More answer options on the next page

Public transport	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Road infrastructure and planning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Road maintenance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Services and support for children and young people	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Services to attract and support local businesses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sport and leisure services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Town centre regeneration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waste collection	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waste management such as fly-tipping prosecutions and recycling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. Which services would you not prioritise for council funding?

You can select up to 5 services, in no particular order.

Please tick (✓) one option per column

	1	2	3	4	5
Care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Car parking such as car parks, street parking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community safety such as working with other organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour, violence and hate crime	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Culture and tourism such as museums, country parks and archaeology	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Educational services such as childcare, pre-school, school admissions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

More answer options on the next page

Environmental health such as food safety, health and safety in the workplace, pollution control, housing standards and trading standards	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Housing such as finding a home, social tenancy issues, homelessness issues	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maintaining parks, open spaces, playing fields, rights of way and the countryside	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pavement maintenance including footpaths	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning services such as advice, enforcement, development plans, planning applications, building control	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Protecting the environment such as development of green spaces, renewable energy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public Health services such as stopping smoking, drug / alcohol services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public transport	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Road infrastructure and planning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Road maintenance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Services and support for children and young people	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Services to attract and support local businesses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sport and leisure services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Town centre regeneration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waste collection	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waste management such as fly-tipping prosecutions and recycling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Proposed budget allocation for 2026 to 2027

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with how we propose to allocate Buckinghamshire Council's budget for 2026 to 2027?

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

8. If you have any comments about the proposed budget allocation for 2026 to 2027, please tell us here:

9. How easy to understand was the following information?

Please tick (✓) one option for each statement

	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Not very easy	Not at all easy	I don't know
How the council is funded	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
How the council spends its money	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
What 'statutory' spend is	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The financial challenges the council faces	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal information.

10. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- ☐ I live in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ I work in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ I study in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- ☐ Other (please give details below):

11. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- ☐ Local media (newspaper, radio, TV, website or newsfeed)
- ☐ Social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn)
- ☐ Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- ☐ Email or newsletter from Buckinghamshire Council
- ☐ Buckinghamshire Council staff or other professionals
- ☐ Bucks County Show
- ☐ Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- ☐ Poster or leaflet
- ☐ Friend or family member
- ☐ Local community or special interest group
- ☐ Councillor, town/parish council or community board
- ☐ Other (please give details below):

12.Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ As an individual (go to question 14)
- ☐ On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

13.Please provide the following details:

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

End of survey for organisations

More about you

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer, or you can skip all the questions.

14.What is your postcode?

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

15.What is your age?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Under 16
- ☐ 16 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 to 74
- ☐ 75 to 84
- ☐ Over 85
- ☐ Prefer not to say

16.Are you:

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say

17.Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long-term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long-term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- ☐ Disability / disabilities
- ☐ Impairment(s)
- ☐ Long-term health condition(s)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

18. How would you describe your ethnicity?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Asian - British
- ☐ Asian – Bangladeshi
- ☐ Asian – Chinese
- ☐ Asian - Indian
- ☐ Asian - Pakistani
- ☐ Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- ☐ Black - African
- ☐ Black - British
- ☐ Black – Caribbean
- ☐ Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- ☐ Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- ☐ White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- ☐ White - Irish
- ☐ White - Gypsy or English traveller
- ☐ White - Irish Traveller
- ☐ White - European
- ☐ Any other White background - Please give details below
- ☐ Other ethnic group - Arab
- ☐ Other ethnic group - Arab British
- ☐ Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

19.Are there any children aged under 18 in your household?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different households.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

20.What is your employment status?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different employment statuses.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Employed full-time
- ☐ Employed part-time
- ☐ Self-employed full-time or part-time
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Carer
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Looking after the family or home
- ☐ Long-term illness or condition that prevents you from working
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please give details below):

End of survey

Thank you for completing the survey.

Please return your completed survey by **Thursday 9 October 2025**. You can:

- email it to consultations@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

- post it to **Your Bucks, Your Say consultation**, Business Intelligence Team, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UA
- take it to one of our Council Access Points