

Tell us your views on the **Council's Budget proposals**

Consultation on
Cardiff Council's
2024/25
Budget Proposals



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Introduction

There's little doubt that councils across Wales and the UK are now facing financial challenges unlike any experienced before.

These challenges have been a long time in the making. A result of a decade of austerity, of Covid-19, of the cost-of-living crisis and now of a return to austerity once more.

Despite this we are committed to making Cardiff a stronger, fairer and greener city, and we are making great strides forward. Education results are now amongst the highest in Wales. We are building more new Council homes than ever before. More people are being paid the real living wage in Cardiff, and a record number of people are being helped into work and to access benefits.

However, like local authorities up and down the country, we have had to deliver services after more than a decade of austerity. This has meant that Cardiff Council has had to close a budget gap of over £350 million since 2010. Over recent years we have also had to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, a cost-of-living and energy crisis and rising costs and inflation which have hit our communities, our most vulnerable people and families, and our public services hard. More and more the people of Cardiff are looking to the Council and to our public service partners for support, be it for housing, for employment, for care for older relatives or for family support. And yet because of the economic conditions and UK government spending decisions we do not have the funding we need to respond.

We estimate that, because of a combination of rising costs and demand on services, just maintaining the services the city currently benefits from will cost an extra £56 million next year. Welsh Government is facing its own budget pressure, and so, whilst it has provided an extra £25 million to Cardiff Council this falls a long way short of what is required to meet the additional costs the Council is now facing. And so, despite an increase in funding from Welsh Government, that still leaves us with a £30.5m gap which we must close through further efficiency savings, increasing Council Tax or charges for services, or, in some cases by reducing or cutting services altogether. This budget consultation sets out the changes to our services that we are having to consider in order to balance the budget in 2024/25.

We want to know what you think of these proposals. So please, get involved, and respond to the questions contained in this consultation by midnight on the 4 February 2024. Your views matter. Together we can help shape a budget which protects our most vulnerable while striving to build a better future and a better Cardiff for everyone who lives here.



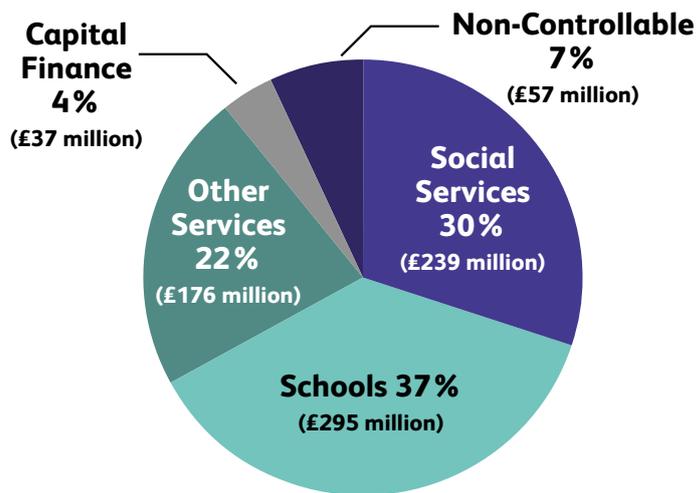
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw Thomas".

Cllr Huw Thomas
Leader, Cardiff Council

The Council's Budget Challenge

The Council has an overall net budget of £804 million that it uses to fund local services. How the budget is allocated is set out below.

Council Net Expenditure



In setting the budget for 2024/25 the Council is dealing with one of the hardest budget challenges it has ever faced. We estimate that the cost of delivering the same services next year has increased by around £56 million.

- **The demand for social care, and the cost of delivery, is the biggest driver of the budget gap we are facing.** Services supporting the most vulnerable - such as children needing protection or older people needing care - were already facing huge pressures. These pressures have continued to increase with the cost of delivery having risen sharply across the country. This is at a time when demand is going up and the level of support needed is becoming more complicated.
- **As the cost-of-living crisis deepens, more and more people are turning to the Council for support.** These wider demand pressures facing all Council services are taking their toll.
 - The number of people accessing the Council's advice services has doubled since before the pandemic.
 - Waiting lists for temporary accommodation are at historically high levels, having increased by 150% over the last two years.
 - The number of rough sleepers has more than tripled since 2022/23.
 - The work done by the Council's into-work advice team has increased by 75% over the last three years.
 - There has been a significant increase in the number of people seeking support to access Universal Credit.

With more people seeking to access Council services, the cost of delivery is going up.

- **Inflationary Pressures:** High inflation has meant that the cost of all goods and services are more expensive, meaning that everything we need to buy to deliver our services is costing us more.
- **Pay:** We believe public sector employees - who deliver vital services across the city - should be paid fairly. Higher pay awards are being agreed nationally, reflecting the rate of inflation, but this is putting pressure on our budgets.

Even though Cardiff Council is due to receive an increase in Welsh Government support of 4.1 % for next year – roughly £25 million - it is not enough to meet the additional costs the Council is now facing.

This gap between the cost of delivering services and the amount of money available is known as the 'budget gap.' For next year the Council is facing a 'budget gap' of £30.5 million, which we have to close.



How we propose to close the Budget Gap

The budget gap will need to be closed through a combination of:

- **Efficiency Savings:** The Council is committed to protecting frontline services and is therefore looking to generate as much savings as possible through back-office efficiencies. This means driving down the running cost of our buildings, reducing the amount of office space we need, and using new technology where it can save us money. Closing the budget gap will also require the Council to look at a managed reduction in the number of staff employed, through voluntary severance. This can generate savings whilst keeping compulsory redundancies to a minimum.
- **Council Tax:** Council Tax accounts for only 26 % of the Council's budget, with the remainder coming from the Welsh Government. Each increase of 1 % in Council tax only generates around £1.7 million, therefore any increase in Council Tax will not be enough to close the budget gap.
- **Use of Reserves:** The Council has to be very careful when using its financial reserves: there is only a limited amount available and once they're gone, they're gone. The majority of the Council's reserves are earmarked for specific purposes and are therefore already committed in support of delivering services, for example funding one-off community initiatives and supporting Homelessness Prevention Services. The Council does maintain a level of General Balance totalling £14.2 million to cover unforeseen costs and this equates to less than 2 % of the Council's overall net budget.
- **Changes or Reductions to Services:** Taken together, our efficiency savings will make the biggest component of our savings. Unfortunately, they will not be enough to balance the books, and some changes or reductions to services may be necessary, alongside increased charges. That is why we want to know what the people of Cardiff think about some of the potential changes that we could make to save money.

Consultation on Cardiff Council's 2024/25 Budget

Given the size of the budget shortfall for 2024/25, this consultation covers a wide range of proposals to fill this gap. We recognise that the survey is long, and will take about 35 minutes to complete in full.

It has, therefore, been divided into themes, and you can choose to complete the whole survey, or pick the themes of most interest to you.

The themes are:

- **Hubs & Libraries**
- **Parks**
- **Waste & Street Cleansing**
- **Parking**
- **Leisure & Sports**
- **Culture & Events**
- **Bereavement Services**
- **Fees & Charges and Other Comments**

The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget. We are proposing to bridge the budget gap through a mixture of internal efficiencies, use of reserves, reducing or changing the services we provide, increasing fees & charges, and raising Council Tax.

These are difficult choices we will have to make. We want to know what the people of Cardiff think about these proposals to help inform our budget for 2024-25, which will be considered by the Council in February.

The information that you provide in completing this form will be treated as confidential, in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Principles.

Any data supplied by you on this form will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Act requirements. In supplying it you consent to the Council processing the data for the purpose for which it is supplied. All personal information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used by the Council or disclosed to others for a purpose permitted in law.

If you wish to withdraw consent at any time, please email consultation@cardiff.gov.uk

*For further information on how we process your personal data please refer to our Privacy Policy - or contact the **Data Protection Officer, Room 357, County Hall, CF10 4UW**, email: dataprotection@cardiff.gov.uk.*

The first section covers **Hubs & Libraries**, and will take around 4 minutes to complete.

1. A number of Council venues, including Hubs and the Llanover Hall Arts Centre, have spaces that could be made available for community and local business use. The Council is proposing to review the spaces available to create opportunities for room and space hire. This will help to create additional income.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

2. Hubs and Libraries in Cardiff currently provide copies of newspapers, magazines and journals. The library service offers a press reader, which allows people to access these newspapers and magazines electronically, using their tablet, mobile or the PCs in the Hubs and Libraries. Stopping the provision of the hard copies would save £35,000 per year, whilst still allowing access electronically.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

3. The Council is considering changes to Hubs and Libraries to help save money. Over 60 volunteers already support our Hubs and Libraries, and we are considering using more volunteers to assist in the Hubs and Libraries. Savings of £84,000 could be made by using more volunteers.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

4. Cardiff Council offers a range of library services. In addition to the 21 branches across the city, there is an online service with e-books and magazines readily available. There is also a mobile library service which visits 9 locations across the city on a timetabled basis and provides a home delivery service for our housebound residents.

Due to the increase in Community Hubs across all the city, the demand for the mobile library service has significantly reduced, and now costs an average of £27 per user to provide this service.

It is therefore proposed that the mobile library service would be streamlined to focus on the housebound service only, continuing to provide books to the city's most vulnerable residents, saving £52,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

5. The Council is considering changes to Hubs and Libraries to help save money, with a number of options being considered. **Which of the following options do you prefer? Please tick one box only**

Option 1: Close Central Library Hub, Whitchurch Hub, Penylan Library, Rhiwbina Hub, Rhydypennau Hub, Canton Library, Cathays Heritage Library and Radyr Hub for one additional day each week, saving £308,000

Option 2 – Change the opening hours for Central Library Hub, Canton Library, Cathays Heritage and Branch Library, Radyr, Rhiwbina, Rhydypennau and Whitchurch Hubs to 9am to 5pm, with all branches staying open throughout lunch times. To allow for late accessibility, Central Library Hub would stay open until 6pm for one evening a week. This proposal would save £120,000.

Option 3 – Close Radyr Hub, Rhiwbina Hub, Whitchurch Hub, Penylan Library and Rhydypennau Hub on Saturdays, saving £33,600

Option 4 – Close Rhiwbina Hub, Whitchurch Hub, Penylan Library and Rhydypennau Hub on a Saturday afternoon, saving £14,000

Option 5 – Keep the Hub & Library service as it is, and find the saving elsewhere.

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Hubs & Libraries?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Parks**, and will take around 4 minutes to complete.

6. The Park Ranger Service works to ensure that our parks and green spaces in the city are a safe and enjoyable experience for both residents and visitors to the city. Park Rangers are a visible presence in our parks, and are responsible for the enforcement of park bye-laws and work with partner organisations such as the police to address issues of anti-social behaviour. Our Park Rangers are also responsible for co-ordinating our network of 'Friends of' groups and volunteers.

Over the last 3 years, the Council has increased the number of staff working within the service, with an additional 6 Urban Park Rangers. The Council could run the service with fewer Park Rangers, reduce the number by 4, and save around £168,000 per year. The service would still have more Rangers than it did 3 years ago.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

7. The Council is responsible for managing over 520 individually named parks and green spaces in the city, spending £1.3 million on grounds maintenance which includes mowing, the maintenance of sports pitches, rose gardens, herbaceous borders, wild flower areas, trees, hedges, spring and summer bedding displays and bulb planting. Eighteen of the Council's parks and green spaces hold Green Flag status, an industry award which recognises well-maintained, welcoming and safe spaces.

The Council could save money by making small reductions to the maintenance of parks and green spaces, saving the Council £80,000.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

8. The Council currently offers Apprenticeship / Traineeship Schemes and could save money by making small reductions in the number being offered, saving the Council £87,000.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

9. Bute Park Nursery and the Visitor Centre in Roath Park are currently run by the Council. The Council could transfer this service to another organisation who would be responsible for running them on the Council's behalf, potentially removing or reducing the subsidy of £40,000 currently provided.

We would need to find out if there is another organisation who could take them over, and both would remain open as this process is conducted. We are asking for your views on whether you'd support finding an alternative operator for these buildings, which could remove the Council subsidy.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

10. The Council is responsible for the repair and maintenance of playground equipment, safety surfacing and general playground infrastructure. The Council could spend less money on these activities - returning to the levels we spent in 2020/21. Playgrounds would still be maintained by the Council, with playground equipment continuing to be repaired and replaced as necessary.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

11. The Council currently employs two Playground Inspectors to manage safety inspections across 226 playgrounds and associated sites. Under this proposal this would be reduced to one Playground Inspector, returning to the number we had in 2020/21. The Council would continue to manage safety inspections at playgrounds across the city.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

12. The Council currently employs three Tree Inspectors to manage more than 400,000 trees across the city, carrying out health and safety inspections and engaging with the public. Under this proposal the number of Inspectors would reduce from three to two. This proposal may lead to a reduction in inspection regimes and increased wait times for responses to requests for this service.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree



13. The Council sets aside money to carry out work on ‘hard infrastructure’ such as footpaths, steps and handrails, gates, fences, signage, bollards, seats, lighting, bridges, drains, culverts, walls and embankments. The Council is proposing to reduce this budget by half, saving £60,000, which will reduce the Council’s ability to respond to requests to fix problems and carry out maintenance.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Parks?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Waste & Street Cleansing**, and will take around 6 minutes to complete.

14. **Do you use the garden waste service?** *Please tick one box only*

- Yes No, I dispose of garden waste myself No, I don't have a garden

The collection of garden waste costs the Council around £1.5 million a year. Unlike the collections of black bins and bags, food waste and recycling, a Local Authority can charge for the collection of garden waste. Given growing financial pressures and the need to maintain the essential waste services we are required to provide by law, the Council is considering recovering costs by charging for the collection of garden waste, in line with most other Local Authorities in Wales. If this were to be introduced, the charge would be similar to what other local authorities are charging (in the region of £35 - £45 per year) which is less than £1 per week.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

15. Cardiff Council offers a Bulky Waste collection service for items that are not collected as part of general waste collections, and that are too big to take to a recycling centre. The collection of Bulky Waste costs the Council around £300,000 per year. A Local Authority can charge for items that weigh over 25kg or cannot fit into bins. Whilst some items already attract a charge, others are currently collected for free, including large electrical appliances, white goods, or items made of metal, wood, MDF or laminate.

Given growing financial pressures and the need to maintain the services we are required to provide by law, the Council is considering charging for all bulky waste collections, in line with most other Local Authorities in Wales. The charge would be £17.50 for up to 2 items, £30 for up to 4 items, £42.50 for up to 6 items and £55 for up to 8 items, including a £5 booking fee. This is similar to what other Local Authorities are charging, and would save the Council £71,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree



16. The Welsh Government is increasing its target to recycle, re-use or compost waste collected by Local Authorities from 64% to 70% in 2024/25. Authorities that do not meet this target will be fined by the Welsh Government.

Whilst Cardiff currently performs well, we need to do more to encourage households to recycle and compost more waste, and dispose of less using their black bins or bags. We know that more than 40% of the waste currently put into black bins or bags could be easily recycled at home.

In order to boost recycling rates and meet the higher target, the Council is proposing to reduce the frequency of black bin/bag collections from 2 weeks to 3 weeks, whilst continuing to collect recycling and food waste weekly. This would help to improve Cardiff's carbon footprint, minimise the risk of fines and reduce the cost of collecting and disposing of this waste, saving £244,000 per year on disposal costs.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

17. The Council currently spends £6.25 million on street cleansing. The Council could save up to £880,000 if it were to reduce the amount of work done cleaning streets and parks, emptying litter bins and doing targeted cleansing in some inner city areas. Street cleansing and the targeted work would continue to take place, but the frequency would reduce.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

18. There are approximately 3,000 public bins across the city. A significant number of these in residential streets are not used widely by local residents, but these public bins do attract fly-tipping. The Council could remove public bins from residential streets and focus instead on placing bins in city and district centres, parks, bus stops and dog walking routes. This would save £139,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

19. The Local Action Teams were introduced in 2020, and enhanced in 2022, and work to improve the neighbourhoods in and around 17 of the city's housing estates where there are a high number of council homes. This service is partly funded by the Council's Housing Team, which is responsible for supporting council homes. They work to create cleaner and safer places for residents by proactively removing rubbish and waste from gardens, removing fly tipping, carrying out clearance of open land, cut back trees and hedges and clear overgrown areas. They also carry out street action days, encouraging residents to get involved in improving their environment.

To save money the Council could stop the provision of this service or reduce the capacity of the teams.

Which of the following options do you prefer? Please tick one box only

- Option 1** – Remove the service, saving £854,000
- Option 2** – Reduce the service, prioritising areas by need, saving at least £312,000
- Option 3** – Keep the service as it is and find savings elsewhere

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Waste & Street Cleansing?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Parking**, and will take around 2 minutes to complete.

20. Currently the Council has 12 different on-street Pay and Stay tariff bands across the city, operating at different times and on different days. We propose to simplify this by reducing the number of tariffs from 12 to 4. To help manage demand, we propose higher charges for parking locations closer to the city centre, with an average increase of £1 per hour in the city centre, and 50p in districts outside the city centre. The amount of “long-stay” parking available to commuters will also be reduced, to support residents and local businesses, and encourage the use of public transport or active travel.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

21. Some Pay and Stay locations managed by the Council currently provide up to 2 hours of free parking in car parks and on-street, as long as a free ticket is obtained. This subsidises parking and doesn't reflect the costs of maintaining and managing the parking areas. It is proposed that this window of free parking be removed in car parks, with a charge introduced of £1 for the first hour (or £1.50 for the first two hours) in locations within the central parking area and 50p for the first hour (or £1 for the first two hours) for other locations outside the city centre.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

22. **Do you currently have a residential parking permit?**

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

The Council offers parking permits as a service to residents in specific areas across the city. There are four levels of permits, which limit parking in particular streets to holders of residential or visitor permits. This service includes administering the relevant type and number of permits to applicants, and monitoring vehicles parking in restricted areas to ensure these areas are only used by permit holders. The cost of parking permits in Cardiff is well below the average amount charged by similar Local Authorities across the UK, who charge an average of £48 for a first permit and £82 for additional permits. It is proposed that the cost of a first permit should increase from £24 to £30, and a second permit increase from £54 to £80.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Parking?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Leisure & Sports**, and will take around 3 minutes to complete.

23. The Council provides a subsidy of £11,000 each for 4 bowling greens across the city to support the maintenance of the greens, and two of these clubs are not charged for the use of park pavilions. The Council is proposing to increase charges to the clubs to cover the cost of this maintenance, and introduce a charge for the use of each park pavilion to cover the cost of providing this facility.

Do you support increasing the charge to the bowling clubs for the maintenance of the greens by:

- Up to £1,000 £1,001 – £2,000 More than £2,000
 No increase in the charge to bowling clubs

Do you support charging for the use of park pavilions?

- Up to £1,000 £1,001 – £2,000 More than £2,000
 No charge to bowling clubs for the use of park pavilions

24. The Cardiff Riding School, based in Pontcanna Fields, is run and subsidised by the Council. The Council could transfer this service to another organisation who would be responsible for running the Riding School on the Council's behalf, potentially removing or reducing the subsidy needed.

We would need to find out if there is another organisation who could take it over. It would continue to operate whilst this takes place. We are asking for your views on whether you'd support finding an alternative operator which could remove the Council subsidy.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

25. The Council currently spends £240,000 subsidising the cost for adults hiring sports pitches and changing facilities across the city. Fees vary by sport and whether changing rooms are included. The Council is proposing to reduce subsidies for the provision of football, rugby, cricket and baseball pitches. Currently, hire fees range from £50.92 to £76.12, however the Council is considering increasing the fees to help cover costs.

Which of the following levels of increase do you support?

- 10% increase in fees 20% increase in fees 30% increase in fees
 No increase in fees, find the savings elsewhere



26. The Council is currently responsible for running a number of pitches and changing facilities used for community sports across the city, and has arrangements in place with a number of clubs who have taken over responsibility for managing the pitches and facilities they use. The Council is proposing to repeat these arrangements with more clubs, which could save a further £25,000.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know / No opinion

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Leisure & Sports?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Culture & Events**, and will take around 3 minutes to complete.

27. The Council currently spends around £36,000 per year subsidising events including Artes Mundi and The Big Gig. The Council proposes removing this funding.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

28. The Mansion House is the former residence of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, which is now used to host civic and corporate events. The Grade II listed building is in a worsening state of repair, and needs investment over the medium to long term, which cannot be funded by the income it currently generates. The Council is proposing to lease the building to a third party, who would take on the responsibility for repairs and maintenance of the building, saving the Council £31,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

29. The Old Library building in the Hayes is in the process of being leased to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for use as a campus. This will deliver new performance spaces, opportunities to promote and protect the Welsh Language, and provide a 'city living room' for public access. The Old Library is also currently home to the Museum of Cardiff (not to be confused with the National Museum of Wales in the Civic Centre).

The Museum of Cardiff is currently costing the Council £525,000 a year to run. The Council is considering finding an alternative location for the Museum of Cardiff to reduce its running costs in the longer term. Whilst this work is on-going, the Council is proposing to reduce the cost of running the Museum by closing it one day a week, probably on Sundays, which would save £24,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Culture & Events?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Bereavement Services**, and will take around 2 minutes to complete.

30. Thornhill & Western cemetery offices would not be open at weekends. General enquiries will not be available face to face on the weekends, however, a digital portal for all enquiries will be available online. The out of hours service for cultural funerals will continue.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

31. The Council's Bereavement Service is responsible for undertaking over 4,000 funerals per year, as well as the upkeep and maintenance of 9 sites across the city, including Thornhill Cemetery and Crematorium, Western Cemetery and Cathays Cemetery. Cardiff Council charges less than most other UK cities for its cremation and burial services, however inflationary pressures have increased the cost of running this service. The Council is proposing to increase burial and cremation fees in line with the average charge in other UK core cities, with cremation fees to increase by £50 to £870 and burial fees to increase by £100 to £1,040.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

32. There is an additional cost to the Council for providing burial services on bank holidays and weekends. Burial services on weekends and bank holidays are currently subsidised, with the fees charged not reflecting the full cost of providing this service. The Council is proposing to increase the additional fees for the weekend and bank holidays service, but thinks that increasing the fees to reflect the actual cost of delivery - which includes additional staff cost - would be too great a rise.

As a result, it is proposed that the extra fees for weekend and bank holiday burial services would increase from £310, so that they are closer to the true cost of delivery, which is £735.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Increasing the fees by 10% to £341 Increasing the fees by 20% to £372
 Increasing the fees by 30% to £403 Increase the fees to £735 and remove all subsidy
 No increase in the cost of Burial Services on weekends and bank holidays

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Bereavement Services?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Fees & Charges and Other Comments**, and will take around 5 minutes to complete.

33. **Does your family use the school meals service?** *Please tick one box only*

- Yes, I pay for my child's school meals No, I provide my child with a packed lunch
 Yes, my child is entitled to free school meals Not applicable

The Council currently subsidises the cost of school meals for secondary school pupils. The cost of providing school meals continues to rise with inflation. This means that, without an increase in the costs of meals, the Council would face additional costs to deliver this service.

The Council is therefore considering increasing the cost of secondary school meals to meet the rising cost, but thinks that passing on the increased cost in full would be too great a rise.

The charge for Secondary School Meals is currently £3.20, and the Council is proposing to increase the cost of the meals in secondary schools whilst continuing to provide a subsidy to meet any additional cost for delivering the service. Children eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) will continue to receive school meals for free.

Which of the following options do you support? *Please tick one box only*

- Increasing the cost by 10p, to £3.30 Increasing the cost by 20p, to £3.40
 Increasing the cost by 30p, to £3.50 No increase in the cost of secondary school meals

34. **With funding support from Welsh Government, the Council is in the process of rolling out universal free school meals to all primary age school children in Cardiff.**

However, some children in years 5 and 6 are still having to pay until all primary age children in all primary and special schools receive their meals for free, which will be from the next school year (starting in September 2024).

The cost of providing school meals continues to rise with inflation. This means that, without an increase in the costs of meals, the Council would face additional costs to deliver this service. The Council is therefore considering increasing the cost of primary school meals for children in year 5 and 6 who are not yet receiving the universal free school meal offer for the rest of this school year.

The charge for Primary School Meals is currently £2.75, and the Council is proposing to increase the price for children in years 5 and 6 who currently pay for school meals. The amount charged still does not reflect the cost of preparing the meals and the Council will continue to subsidise school meals. Children eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) will continue to receive meals for free.

Which of the following options do you support? *Please tick one box only*

- Increasing the cost by 10p, to £2.85 Increasing the cost by 20p, to £2.95
 Increasing the cost by 30p, to £3.05 No increase in the cost of primary school meals



35. The Council provides home care services (personal care and support) for older and vulnerable people in Cardiff. It is estimated that next year the Council faces an increase of over £15 million in meeting the cost of care for vulnerable people. Cardiff Council currently charges for home care services, however the amount of the hourly charge is much lower than that made by other Welsh councils and meets less than half of the hourly cost of the service.

The Council is considering increasing the charge for home care services to more accurately reflect the cost of the services provided. It is also proposed that the increase in charge is phased in, with half of the increase made in 2024/5 and the remainder in 2025/6.

Each individual's ability to pay the charge will be assessed and they will not be charged more than they can afford to pay, or more than the Welsh Government cap on the amount that an individual has to pay each week (currently £100). Ensuring that the charge better reflects the cost of these services will help the Council to fund sustainable social care services into the future, supporting the needs of the growing older population in the city.

Do you agree the Council should increase the hourly amount charged for home care services, to better reflect the cost of the service? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

If the increase in the hourly amount charged for home care services goes ahead, do you agree with the proposal to phase in the increase? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

36. The Welsh Government sets a maximum amount (a 'cap') that an individual has to pay each week. Currently this is £100 per week but the level of this cap may be increased by the Welsh Government in 2024/25. The Council can choose whether it increases its charge to the level of the Welsh Government cap.

Again, each individual's ability to pay the charge will be assessed and they will not be charged more than they can afford to pay. Ensuring that the charge better reflects the cost of these services will help the Council to fund sustainable social care services into the future, supporting the needs of the growing older population in the city.

If the Welsh Government were to increase the maximum weekly amount that an individual has to contribute towards their home care, do you agree that the Council should apply this new cap to better reflect the cost of the service? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

37. The Council is facing a budget shortfall of £30.5 million next year because of rising prices and greater demand for our services. The proposals outlined in this consultation document will help to meet the budget gap by changing how services are delivered, by cutting some services completely, or by removing subsidies and increasing income. Another source of funding is Council Tax, which accounts for around 26 % of the Council's budget. Increasing Council Tax by 1 % would generate an additional £1.7 million, which would be used to protect some of the services identified as a way of saving the Council money. The Council is proposing an increase of 3 %. We are aware that there is a cost-of-living crisis, and everyone has been impacted by rising prices, so we want to understand how residents feel about increasing Council Tax to protect services.

Which of the following options would you prefer? Please tick one box only

- Increasing Council Tax a greater amount than currently planned to help protect some services.
- Keeping any Council Tax increase as low as possible, even though this will mean more services will be reduced or stopped.
- Don't know.

38. The Administration continues to consider Education its top priority, alongside Social Services, and we know from the Ask Cardiff survey that these are the public's priorities, too. The Council proposes to continue to prioritise schools.

Do you support this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Yes, continue to prioritise school budgets
- No, schools should make a bigger contribution to bridging the funding gap
- Don't know

Do you have any further comments or suggestions on how the Council can reduce the budget gap?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

39. If you access any Council services in Welsh, we want to know if you think the proposed changes will have any impact on how you access these services.

Do you currently access any Council services in Welsh? Tick all that apply

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hubs & Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure & Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Domiciliary Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Culture & Events | <input type="checkbox"/> School meals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Bereavement Services | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these, go to Q41. |

40. **Do you feel any of these proposals will impact your ability to access Council services in Welsh?**

- Yes No **Please specify which proposal(s), and outline the impact you think these proposals will have (positive or negative) Please continue on a separate page if necessary.**

About You

The following questions help us to make sure that we hear the views of people from all backgrounds, and from all parts of the city, so that everyone's voice is heard. We'd be really grateful if you could answer the questions in the following section, but it's OK if there's a question you'd rather not answer - just leave it blank and move on to the next. All of the answers you give us will be treated in the strictest confidence, and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - if you give us your contact details, we'll only use it to contact you if you join our Citizen's Panel.

41. Please provide your full postcode below (e.g. CF10 4UW).
This allows us to more accurately understand respondents' views and needs by area, and to make sure we've heard from people in all parts of the city:-

42. What was your age on your last birthday? Please tick one box only

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 16 | <input type="radio"/> 16-24 | <input type="radio"/> 25-34 |
| <input type="radio"/> 35-44 | <input type="radio"/> 45-54 | <input type="radio"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="radio"/> 65-74 | <input type="radio"/> 75+ | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |

43. Are you...? Please tick one box only

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Female | <input type="radio"/> Non-binary | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> Male | <input type="radio"/> Other | |

Other - Please specify

44. Do you identify as Trans? Please tick one box only

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> Prefer to self-describe | | |

If you prefer to self-describe, please specify

45. Do any children live in your household? Please select all that apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> No children | <input type="radio"/> Yes, aged 11 - 16 (secondary school) |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes, under 5 years old (pre-school) | <input type="radio"/> Yes, aged 16 - 18 in full-time education, or working |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes, aged 5 - 11 (primary school) | <input type="radio"/> Yes, aged 16 - 18 but not in full time education or working |

46. Are you pregnant, or have you given birth within the last 26 weeks? Please tick one box only

- Yes, I'm pregnant Yes, I've given birth No
 Prefer not to say

47. Do you care unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without your support? Please tick one box only

- Yes No Prefer not to say

48. Which of the following best describes what you are doing at present? Please tick one box only

- Working full time (30+ hours per week) On a zero hour contract
 Working part time (less than 30 hours per week) Permanently sick or disabled person
 In full time education Wholly retired from work
 On a government training scheme Looking after home
 Unemployed - Registered Job Seeker Caring for a child or adult
 Unemployed - Unregistered but seeking work Other

Other - Please specify

49. Which of the following best describes your housing tenure? Please tick one box only

- Owned outright Rented from a Housing Association
 Owned with a mortgage Private rented
 Rented from the Local Authority Other

Other - Please specify

50. Are you, or a member of your household: Please tick all that apply.

- | | <i>Currently serving (regular or reserve) in the UK Armed Forces</i> | <i>An armed forces service leaver (veteran), regular or reserve</i> | <i>Not applicable</i> |
|----------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| You | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A member of your household | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

51. Do you identify as a disabled person? Please tick one box only

- Yes No Prefer not to say



52. Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

- Deaf/ Deafened/ Hard of hearing
- Mental health difficulties
- Learning impairment/ difficulties
- Visual impairment
- Wheelchair user
- Mobility impairment
- Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)
- Neurodivergent (e.g. Attention Deficit Disorders, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Dysgraphia)
- Prefer not to say
- Other
- None of these

Other - Please specify

53. Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? Please tick one box only

- No, no religion
- Buddhist
- Christian (Including Church in Wales, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

Other - Please specify

54. How would you describe your sexual orientation? Please tick one box only

- Bisexual
- Gay Man
- Other
- Gay Woman/ Lesbian
- Heterosexual/ Straight
- Prefer not to answer

Other - Please specify

55. Are you: Please tick one box only

- Single
- In a same-sex Civil Partnership
- Married
- Living together/Co-habiting
- Separated/divorced or legally separated if formerly in a same-sex Civil Partnership
- Widowed
- Other

Other - Please specify

56. How would you describe your Welsh language skills? Please tick one box only

- Fluent
 Moderate
 Basic
 Learner
 None

57. Do you consider yourself to be Welsh? Please tick one box only

- Yes
 No

58. What is your ethnic group? Please tick one box only

Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/
British | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Chinese |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Irish | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Indian |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Pakistani |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Any other white background | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Any other |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian
Welsh / British / Other | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British -
African |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and
Black Caribbean Welsh / British / Other | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British
- Caribbean |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and
Black African Welsh / British / Other | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British
- Any other |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Any other | <input type="radio"/> Arab |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Bangladeshi | <input type="radio"/> Any other ethnic group (please specify) |
| | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |

Other - Please specify



59. How did you hear about this survey?

- Cardiff Council social media account (X/Facebook/Instagram)
- Other social media account
- From a local councillor
- I'm a member of the Citizen's Panel
- A paper copy in my local library/Hub
- Staff email where I work
- Other
- Don't know

Other - Please tell us

60. Are you are interested in taking part in further consultations from Cardiff Council?

- Yes, I would like to Join the Citizens' Panel and be contacted about other Cardiff Council consultations
- No

Please leave your contact details below if you would like to join the Citizens Panel:

Name:

Email:

Phone number:

Thank you for taking the time to give us your views.

You can return completed questionnaires by post using the address
FREEPOST CRC (you don't need a stamp for this),
or by posting it in the blue collection box in your local Library or Hub.

The survey closes on Sunday 4th February 2024, and the results will be published on
www.cardiff.gov.uk/askcardiff in due course.