



Budget Consultation

2024-2027



We want your help to
shape our budget

www.mansfield.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

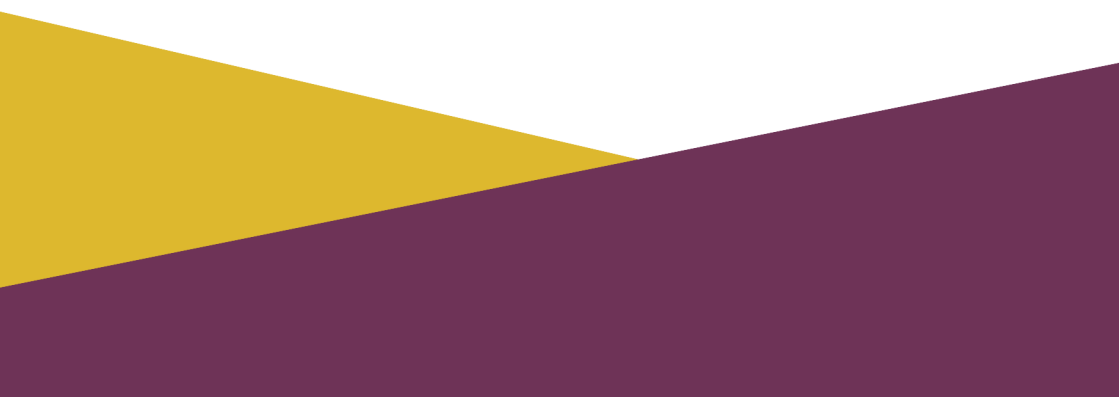


Mansfield
District Council

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Introduction



In January 2024, Mansfield District Council will meet to agree its budget for 2024/2025.

In anticipation of this, we are undertaking a high-level review to understand what services are important to residents and are putting forward suggestions and alternatives to help bridge our anticipated shortfall in the budget.

We are asking residents, businesses and wider stakeholders for their views on proposals for the next three financial years (2024-2027), with a specific focus on efficiencies and savings. We also welcome any ideas from you on how we can make savings and where you think our priorities should be for the future.

This feedback will be used throughout the budget setting process, which will go through our Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Corporate) in the autumn, followed by approval by Full Council in early 2024.

We know households across the country are facing huge financial challenges. Rising prices makes this a cost-of-living emergency. Mansfield District Council is also facing its most difficult budget pressures for many years.

All local authorities are having to deal with large increases in inflation that are driving up costs and prices for energy, fuel and materials. The cost-of-living crisis means that we also have increased demand on our services. We must also budget for the pending pay awards and bad debt provision for potential unpaid commercial rent.

Across our Medium-Term Financial Strategy, 2024 – 2027, we have an anticipated shortfall of over £4.5m. Due to the uncertainties highlighted above this could be much higher and we need to plan for that situation. We must prioritise our services and focus on delivering what is needed. In order to get this right, we need to know what is important to the residents that we serve.

This consultation booklet sets out where our money comes from, how we currently spend it and links to a consultation exercise that suggests ways we could meet this budget gap.

Now is your chance to help shape the future of our services. When we have made these changes, Mansfield District Council will be in a much stronger and viable position for the future.

The accompanying information provides background information on the council's finances and our approach to setting the budget for the coming year. We encourage you to read all the information before having your say.

Adam Hill

Chief Executive Officer, Mansfield District Council



Foreword

Like all other authorities across the country, Mansfield District Council's resources from Government have been falling significantly over the last 12 years.

To put the budget into perspective, the council receives 60 percent less funding from central government than 2010, £4.157m, compared to £10.36m back in 2010.

We have lost money due to the COVID-19 pandemic, inflationary pressures from the continuing cost-of-living crisis making service delivery more expensive. The council has tried not to pass the financial burden onto residents through an increase in its 8.55% of the Council Tax you pay for many years. However, now the council is at a crossroads where delivering services in the same way is no longer sustainable.

Along with changes to services and reviewing our assets, we will maximise income over the next four years by reviewing fees and charges and Council Tax.

In the past, we have continuously made efficiencies to deliver statutory services such as collecting refuse, keeping our streets clean and maintaining our housing stock and parks.

We have used your Council Tax to subsidise all our discretionary services. These are the services that we choose to deliver for our community alongside our statutory duty for housing, finance, and street cleansing. These include the events in the town centre and across the district; the Palace Theatre, the Museum, arts and education, the market and supporting our businesses and volunteers in the community.

Unfortunately, with a three-year budget deficit of £4.5m which has the potential to increase due to rising costs, inflation, pay awards and debt provision, it is no longer feasible for the council to continue all these discretionary services.

This is where we need your help.

Please complete the online questionnaire to tell us what is important to you.

You need to let us know which additional services we provide you value most. Please complete the online questionnaire to tell us what is important to you.

We are continually reviewing our whole organisation to make us as lean and efficient as possible to ensure we deliver all our services to a high standard.

These are very difficult decisions, and we have some tough choices to make on our running costs in the medium term. We hope all the inward investment we have attracted will regenerate our town and district, and we will come out the other side fitter with a bright future ahead.

As well as all the externally funded projects, such as our Towns Fund schemes, the £14m regeneration of White Hart Street and £20m to transform the former Beales building into Mansfield Connect, we also have new affordable council houses being built at Bellamy and Centenary Road.

All of these new projects greatly benefit our communities when built. However, new developments bring with them increased costs for services such as street cleansing and grounds maintenance.

None of these choices are easy, but together, all your views and feedback will help inform our decisions during the budget setting process.

Thank you, and best wishes,



A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'A' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Andy Abrahams

Executive Mayor,
Mansfield District Council

About the survey



The central part of the budget consultation is a survey for residents and businesses to give their opinion and feedback on what is important to them.

In the survey, you will be asked to prioritise what services are important to you. You will then be asked a series of questions regarding service changes, including the reduction and stopping of some services and activities.

For example:

We're asking people if they would support a reduction in CCTV monitoring or a reduction or stopping the amount of events we deliver in Mansfield.

We'll also be asking about the town centre, Mansfield Market, car parks, business support, customer services and public facilities.

The survey is available online at www.mansfield.gov.uk/budgetconsultation.

Printed copies will be available through community groups and at the Civic Centre in Mansfield.

We can also provide alternative formats on request, including large print and translations. Please email marketingandcommunications@mansfield.gov.uk

The results of the survey will be considered as part of the budget setting process.



About the council

Mansfield District Council provides a range of services to more than 110,000 residents, including emptying bins, park and green space maintenance, events, housing, environmental health, planning and design services, the theatre and museum, to name but a few.

The council has a vision for the district and the Making Mansfield Strategy sets out four priorities to focus on.

Our vision

To grow a
confident
and **vibrant**
place

These priorities are:

Growth

To create a place for investment and opportunity through the development of infrastructure, embracing technology and encouraging investment in our district.

Aspiration

To be a place where people can achieve and succeed in life. Where people can thrive along with access and opportunity to learn, develop and achieve.

Wellbeing

A flourishing place where people live happy and healthy lives. We need to support people to make choices to improve their wellbeing.

Place

To be a place to be proud of and a place of choice. Improving the cultural experience and creating a green infrastructure that enhances the quality of life for people.



The service plans that we deliver each year are directly linked to the outcomes identified in the strategies for Growth, Aspiration, Place and Wellbeing and our funding is allocated to those services.

We are proud to provide and support a huge range of services that enhance and improve the lives of people across our communities.

Our services

Below are just some of the ways we used your money in the year 2022/23 to maintain and enhance the district for our 110,000 residents and thousands more visitors.

Some of the services Mansfield District Council provides include:



Over the last 12 months, the council has worked hard to find savings to support the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The council has made efficiencies through transformation and service redesign to save considerable money, but we need to go further, which will affect services.

We need your view on what changes you will support in the future.

Did you know?

This budget consultation focuses on services Mansfield District Council directly delivers to residents, whether that be statutory or discretionary.

It is important for residents and businesses to understand that other agencies, including Nottinghamshire County Council, the community voluntary sector, and other business organisations deliver some services across the district.

For example, the below services are provided by Nottinghamshire County Council:



Libraries



Recycling centres



Road and pavement repairs; including street lights, pot holes and gritting



Fostering and adoption



Children's centres



Schools



Care and support for vulnerable children and older people



Trading standards

Business Rates

Did you know that all businesses within our district have to pay business rates? These rates are a tax collected by Mansfield District Council on behalf of central government, not a service charge.

We all want to see a vibrant and thriving Mansfield with local businesses supported by increased footfall. However, these rates are a national government requirement.

Rates are set at a national level and the council has no influence on how much these are.

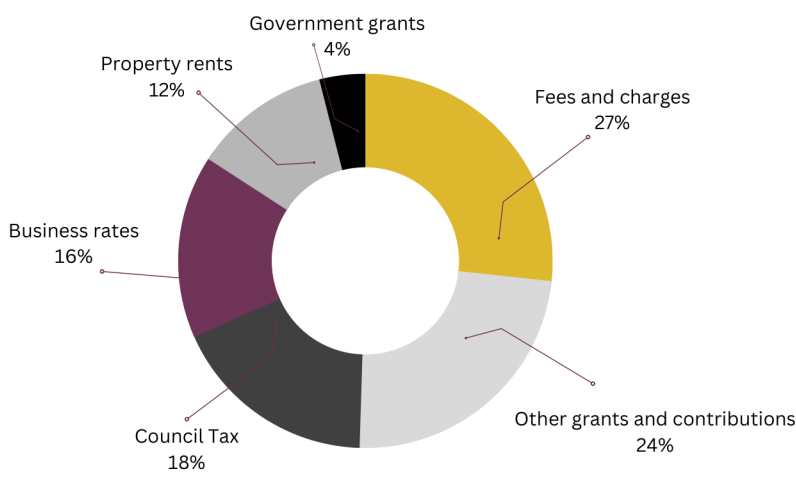
Partnership Work

We also work with various partners to best support our communities and the local economy. These include Mansfield 2020, Mansfield BID, and Mansfield CVS, to name but a few. Through our place-based partnerships, we also work closely with community groups such as the Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group, Vibrant Warsop, and the Friends Of groups to make real changes in the heart of communities. We also offer them support, grants and advice.



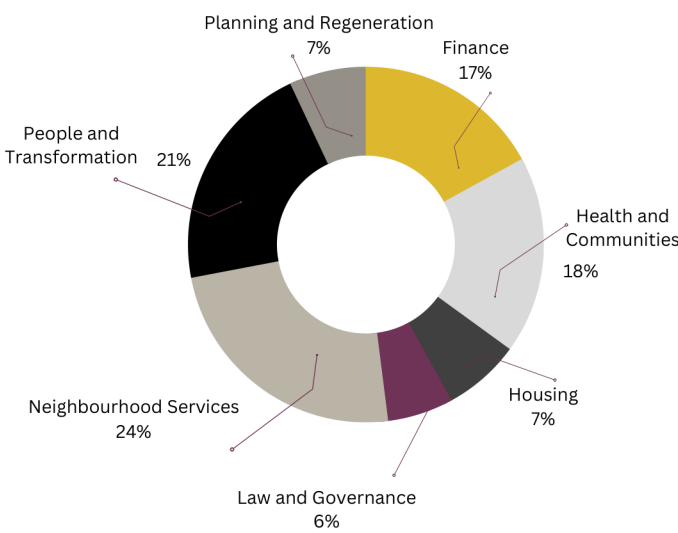
How we are funded

In 2022/2023, 27 percent of the district council's funding for services came directly from fees and charges, with the rest coming from other grant contributions, Council Tax and business rates.



How we spend our budget

In 2022/2023, the council spent most of its budget on Neighbourhood Services, followed by People and Transformation and Health and Communities. The table explains what services are provided under these categories.

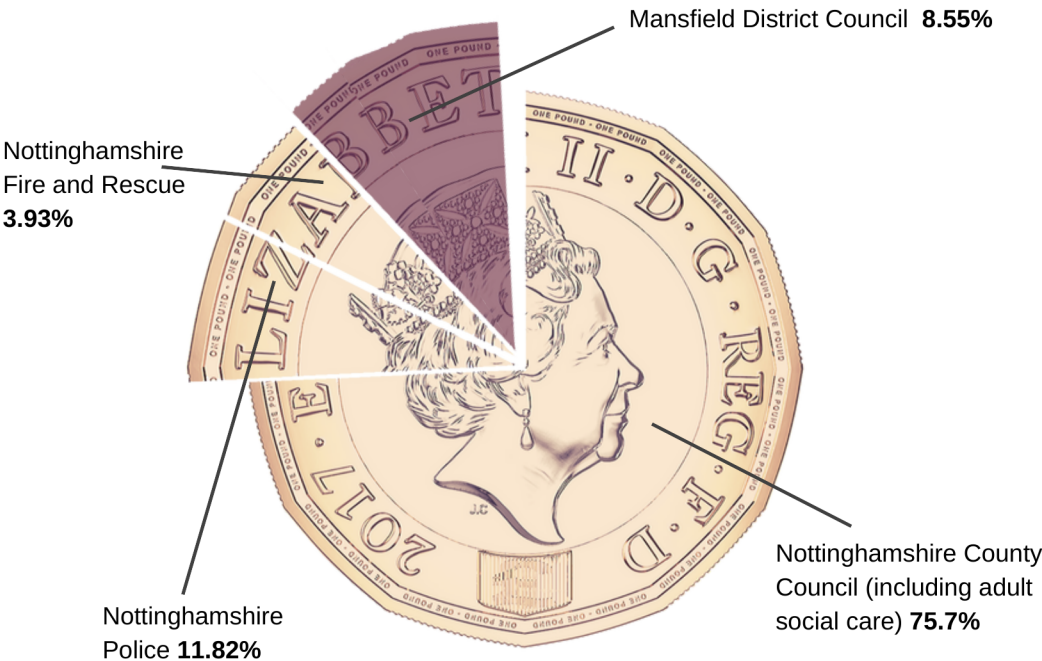


Planning & Regeneration	Planning policy, regeneration, development management, design services, land charges
Finance	Revenues and benefits, financial services and property services
Health & Communities	Community safety, licensing, environmental health, cultural services, leisure
People & Transformation	Business transformation, human resources, ICT, marketing and communications, customer services, facilities management
Neighbourhood Services	Waste and recycling, parks and street cleansing, town centre and market, cemeteries and crematorium, fleet
Law & Governance	Internal audit, elections, democratic services, health and safety, legal services, procurement
Housing	Housing needs, private sector housing, homelessness prevention

Council Tax

Mansfield District Council collects Council Tax on behalf of other authorities. Below is the percentage breakdown for each one.

Totals are for the 2022/2023 financial year.



Residents living in Warsop will pay approximately 1.48% additionally to the Parish Council.

The Government has traditionally set a maximum limit for Council Tax increases that can be introduced without holding a referendum. Last year this limit was 2.99%, the equivalent of a £5 annual increase for a Band D Council Tax payer.

What you pay towards Mansfield District Council services, per day



*These figures are rounded to the nearest 1p.

Have your say



By taking part in this survey you will be able to tell us about what services are important. The outcomes will help to determine what service reductions could be implemented in future years.

You can have your say between 15 September 2023 and 6 October 2023 by visiting and completing the online survey at **www.mansfield.gov.uk/budgetconsultation**

The outcomes of this consultation will be considered by the council's Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Corporate) in November. This will help to inform the budget setting process before it is presented to Full Council for approval in January 2024.



Sign Up

For regular news and updates from across the district, sign up to My Mansfield Newsletter at **www.mansfield.gov.uk**. Or, join us on the My Mansfield Facebook page to get the latest information direct to your mobile.



www.mansfield.gov.uk



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