

City council budget 2025/26

Your value for money council.

These are challenging times for councils, with one in four councils reportedly considering bankruptcy and deep cuts planned by many others.

In Milton Keynes, while we are under severe pressure, we do not face bankruptcy. Our financial stability comes from making prudent decisions and focusing on cutting waste before cutting services for many years.

As well as finding efficiencies within our workforce, buildings and contracts, we've invested in ways to save money in the long term, such as running our electric waste collection vehicles using power generated from waste, and investing in lower energy LED streetlights.

This careful approach has allowed us to balance our budget and protect the services you value the most while finding more than £200m in savings over the last 15 years.

We need to find around £20m to balance next year's budget. This is partly due to the impact of inflation, which reduces our spending power. Inflation will cost us and our contractors at least an additional £12m next year.

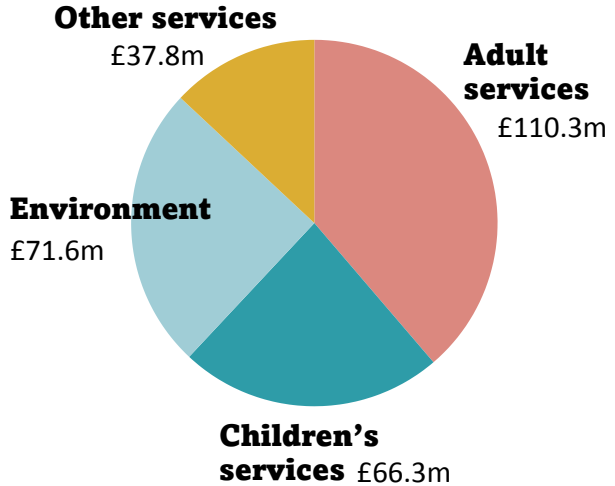
It's also due to the cost of, and greater demand for some highly complex and expensive services. More than two thirds of our budget is spent on care and support for vulnerable adults and children. We need more money to do this, for instance an extra £8m to pay for more residential placements for children with complex needs, and £6m to support vulnerable adults.



Our proposed spend in 2025/26

We are proposing an increase to our core Council Tax of 3% and a 2% increase in the Social Care Precept, which means 5% overall.

Increasing Council Tax is never an easy decision, but it allows to avoid the deep cuts to universal services that have happened in many other councils.



The draft budget in summary

Adult services

- Opening a modern day and overnight stay facility for people with complex needs in 2025.
- Continuing our support for homeless people, and in investing in better value temporary accommodation.
- Stopping some in-house charged social care services which are available from other providers.
- Reducing our subsidy so that the cost of our community alarm service is the same for everyone.



Children's services

- No cuts to libraries.
- Extra money to meet additional service need, such as £8m for placements for children in care, and £3m for additional foster placements.
- Reviewing our youth support services.
- Streamlining how we operate, which will reduce the number of roles needed.

Environment

- Continuing a weekly black bin collection for residents.
- Introducing a charge for an optional second green bin (first one remains free).
- Funding to improve roads, fix potholes and support public transport.
- Reviewing the free bus service for ExtraCare and some sheltered housing schemes due to a drop in demand.



Other services

Including Planning, Finance, Public Health, Legal Services and Customer Services

- Continued support for local people impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, including help for pensioners most impacted by the loss of the Winter Fuel Allowance.
- Streamlining how we operate, which will reduce the number of roles needed.
- Reviewing the resources we use, such as mobile phones.

Let us know what you think

We are consulting on our draft budget proposals until 15 January 2025.

This document summarises some of the proposals we are making to balance the council budget.

You can read the draft budget proposals in full at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations

Scan the QR code to go directly to the page.



To make a comment or suggestion, either take part in the short survey on our online consultation page or email your feedback to budget@milton-keynes.gov.uk before midnight on 15 January.

You can also attend one of our public budget meetings at Civic, or watch on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/MiltonKeynesCouncil

Budget & Resources Scrutiny Committee:
7pm on 4 and 18 December, and on 2, 9 and 14 January

Cabinet:
6.30pm on 4 February

Full Council:
7.30pm on 19 February