

Budget Priorities consultation – 2018/19

The questionnaire

Herefordshire Council's aspiration for the future

Herefordshire Council's aspiration for the future is: *"People, organisations and businesses working together to bring sustainable prosperity and well-being for all, in the outstanding natural environment of Herefordshire."*

The council's strategic objectives are described within the corporate plan. The four priorities are to:

- Enable residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives;
- Keep children and young people safe and give them a great start in life;
- Support the growth of our economy; and
- Secure better services, quality of life and value for money.

Q1 Are there any areas within these priorities that you think the council should do more?

Yes, please specify below

No

Enable residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives

Q2 How can communities support people with vulnerabilities/disabilities to maintain independent lives?

(Please tick all that apply)

- Support with day to day tasks such as shopping, cleaning and gardening
- Arrange social events for people to meet each other
- Pop in to chat to them and keep them company
- Help them access employment
- Help people feel safe and secure in their communities and homes
- Provide meals for people or arrange lunch groups
- Bring people together from different background and ages
- Set up car share schemes and encourage community transport
- Other (please specify)

Q3 How should the council develop a network of groups and individuals across the county, who can offer advice and guidance for people wanting to adopt a healthier lifestyle? (Please tick all that apply)

- Provide financial incentives to groups who enable people to make lifestyle changes
- Use a time-banking system where volunteers are rewarded through giving their time (rewards can be other voluntary services/activities or discount schemes etc.)
- Expand the remit of professionals, such as pharmacies and dentists
- Provide training and support to individuals so that they can offer support and advice within their own local communities
- Commission a provider to do this as part of the information and signposting service
- Other (please specify)

Q4 How should the council make it easier for people who need care to manage their own budget?

- Choose their own care
- Choose from a selection of providers chosen by the council

Q5 How should the council prioritise getting more houses built in Herefordshire? (Please tick all that apply)

- Encourage housing associations
- Build new houses itself
- Invest in more roads and transport
- Speed up the processing of planning applications
- Make council owned land available to builders
- Offer incentives to landowners
- Other (please specify)

Keep children and young people safe and give them a great start in life

In 2016/17 Herefordshire achieved national uptake targets for childhood immunisation and antenatal, newborn and children screening programmes. This is central to the council's policy of giving children a great start in life.

Q6 Should the council continue investing in promoting these programmes to achieve national targets in the next year?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Q7 How should the council work with parents and other services to give children the best start in life in their early years? (Please tick all that apply)

- Offer parenting classes in local areas
- Focus support to the most disadvantaged families to ensure children are 'school ready'
- Promote healthy eating for parents and young children
- Improve information, advice and guidance on local support via the web
- Work with parents to improve the dental health of their children
- Other (please specify)

Q8 How should the council support young people to make the most of their education and employment opportunities? (Please tick all that apply)

- Focus more work on developing opportunities for young people with special needs and disabilities
- Make apprenticeships available across the county and explore transport options to support this
- Other (please specify)

Support the growth of our economy

Q9 How should the council assist in ensuring that the infrastructure and support needed to provide jobs and houses within the local economy is in place? (Please tick all that apply)

- Improve road network
- Invest in superfast broadband
- Support housing growth
- Promote investment into Herefordshire
- Support local business start-ups
- Make more land and buildings available for business and industrial use
- Support for the university
- Other (please specify)

Secure better services, quality of life and value for money

Q10 The capital budget funds schemes and investments which will derive a long term benefit for the county. Capital expenditure is funded from the sale of land and assets, borrowing and annual contributions from the revenue budget. Where should we invest our capital budget? (Please tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New roads | <input type="checkbox"/> Road safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Investment in housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential care | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting/facilities for young people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

Q11 The council is responsible for improving the health of its residents and commission a number of public health services. How would you choose to prioritise the following services? (1 = most important and 6 = least important)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| School nursing and Health Visiting service | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Stop smoking service | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Substance misuse service | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Healthy lifestyle trainer service | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sexual health service | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| NHS Health Check | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Council tax

Council Tax and business rates currently only meet around 30% of the council's costs. Furthermore, grants from government have been drastically cut in recent years (to around 10%) and will be almost eliminated by 2020. There are a number of council services which are chargeable and provide an income, such as car parking, planning, licensing and burial services.

Q12 In order to ensure the council raises sufficient income, how would you choose to prioritise the following options? (1 = first and 3 = last)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Council tax increase for general use | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Adult social care precept on Council Tax | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increased fees/charges | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q13 Do you have any other comments you would like to make? Please state below:

About you

Q14 Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group, or as an individual?

Organisation or group

Individual

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or group please tell us the name of the organisation/group:

If you are responding as an individual please answer the following questions about yourself. This information helps us to understand the profile of respondents and whether views vary amongst different groups of people across the county. It will only be used for the purpose of statistical monitoring, treated as confidential and not used to identify you.

Q15 What is your full postcode?

Q16 What is your gender?

Male

Female

Q17 What is your age band?

0-15 years

25-44 years

65-74 years

16-24 years

45-64 years

75+ years

Q18 Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Yes - limited a lot

Yes - limited a little

No

Q19 **How would you describe your national identity? (Please tick all that apply)**

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish | <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> British | <input type="checkbox"/> Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

Q20 **How would you describe your ethnic group?**

- White British/English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish
- Other White (please specify below)
- Any other ethnic group (please specify below)

Q21 **Do you feel that the council has treated you differently (positively or negatively) because of who you are? (e.g. your gender, age, disability or ethnicity)**

- Yes No

Thank you

You can complete this questionnaire online at:

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/current-consultations>, but completed hard copies can be sent to:

Herefordshire Council Research Team, Freepost SWC4816, PO Box 4, Hereford, HR4 0BR

Data Protection Act 1998

The data collected in this form will only be used for the purpose of statistical monitoring. This information will only be retained for as long as is considered necessary for monitoring purposes and then it will be destroyed. At all times it will be kept in accordance with the Act.