

Easy Read

Our plans to raise and spend money on services in Rhondda Cynon Taf

We want to know what you think

Please tell us what you think by 7 December 2020



This document was written by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. It is an easy read version of '**Budget Consultation 2021/22 – Questionnaire**'

October 2020

How to fill in this response form



These questions are about our plan to raise and spend money on services in Rhondda Cynon Taf.



We want to know what you think. Please try to explain your answers. And give your own thoughts and ideas too.



We will use your ideas to make next year's **budget**.

A **budget** is the money that councils are given to pay for public services.



You may need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **blue writing** may be hard to understand. They are explained in a box underneath. You can also check what words in blue mean on **page 26**.



Where the document says **we**, this means
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.



Please send this form back to us by **7 December 2020.**



Address: Freepost RSBU-HJUK-LSS
Research & Consultation
The Pavillions
Clydach Vale
Tonypandy
CF40 2XX



E-mail: consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk



Website: www.rctcbc.gov.uk



Phone: 01443 425014



This document was made into easy read by
Easy Read Wales using **Photosymbols.**

Introduction



We have less money to spend on **services** now.



Services are things like:

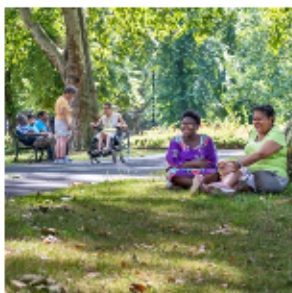
- Your park or playground
- Your local sports centre
- Community transport
- Supported housing



And the cost to provide **Social Care Services** is increasing.



Social Care Services provide support to people who need extra help to live in their home. Social care is also day centres and social workers.



We want to make our **services** better. This includes:

- schools
- town centres and roads
- parks and play areas.



We must make hard choices about how we spend the money.

Part 1 -Spending money on schools



We have always aimed to spend as much as we can on our schools. Even though we have less money overall, the money we spend on schools has gone up.



We have over £161 million to spend on our schools in total.



We want to keep supporting our schools like this. The costs of running schools is going up. We want to increase the money schools get so we can fully cover the increased costs.

1. Do you think we should increase the money schools get so we can cover all the costs that have gone up?



Yes



No



Not sure

2. Should schools get more money than other **services**?



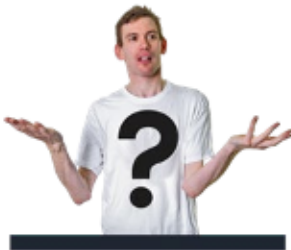
Yes



No



Not sure



Is there anything you would like to say about schools getting more money?

Use the box below to tell us what you think:

Fees and charges



Fees and charges are money you pay for some **services**. We get about **£19 million** this way.



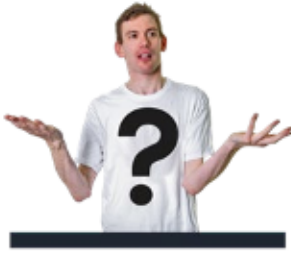
This money is spent on improving important **services**.



We think these charges will rise by 1.7%. But we could make charges higher, lower, or keep them the same.

3. Do you think we should change the fees and charges you pay for the **services in the list below? Should they be higher, lower, or stay the same?**

| | Higher | Lower | Stay the same |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Leisure centre pay and play | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sports club playing fees | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Car park charges | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cinema tickets | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pontypridd Lido adult tickets | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rhondda Heritage Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Meals on Wheels | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adult Social Care Charges for care services in your own home | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bereavement Fees – after a death | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fines for things like dropping litter | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Is there anything you would like to say about changes to fees and charges?

Use the box below to tell us what you think:

4. What council services are most important to you? Please tell us what **services** you think should be protected. Or given extra money so they can keep running at the level they do now.

- Schools
- Libraries and Adult Learning
- **Apprenticeships**

An **apprenticeship** is when a person learns the skills for a job whilst working. They are usually paid less because they are still learning.

- Youth services
- **Access, engagement, and inclusion services.** These services make sure everyone can take part in their community.
- Adult social care services
- Children's social care services
- Public health
- Housing
- Parks
- Roads and transport
- Waste and **recycling** services

Recycling means turning our rubbish into something we can use again.

- **Cultural, tourism and heritage services.** These services protect and celebrate our history and traditions. They also look after places that people like to come and visit for fun and learning.
- **Regeneration** and helping people who are out of work

Regeneration means improving areas to make them as good or better than they used to be.

- Leisure services like swimming pools and gyms
- Music services

Our budget



We want increase **Council Tax** by **2.85%** next year.

Council Tax



Council Tax is money you have to give to your local authority to pay for things like schools, roads, social services and parks.



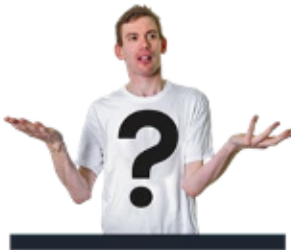
We had the **lowest** increase in **Council Tax** in Wales last year. Most other places in Wales increased their **council tax** by nearly 5%

5. Do you think we should:

increase **Council Tax** by about 3% and keep **services** as they are.

OR

have a smaller rise in **Council Tax** and cut back **services?**



Is there anything you would like to say about this?

Use the box below to tell us what you think:



We would like to increase **Council Tax** by **2.85%** next year.

This means that if your **Council Tax** was £1,000 this year, you will have to pay about £28 more next year. Or 55p more a week.

Spending money carefully



We have been working more **efficiently** over the last 10 years and have saved £95 million.

Efficiently means being better at what we do and spending money carefully, so we can spend less money and still provide services that people need.



We are going to save **more money** next year by working **even more efficiently**.

6. Do you think we should carry on working in this way?



Yes



No



Not sure

Our reserves



Reserves are an amount of money that we keep aside in case something happens that we cannot plan for.



For example, we spent over £1 million last year to support people and fix things after Storm Dennis.



We have just under £9 million in **reserves** now. We will keep checking this. We will keep thinking about the risks we may face. And we will add more money to it to make sure we always have enough money in **reserves**.

7. Do you think we should keep money in **reserves** like this?



Yes



No



Not sure



8. Is there anything more you want to tell us about our reserves?

Use the box below to tell us what you think:

Part 2 - What is most important to us



There are 5 things we want to focus on to make the best use of our time, money, and staff. And to provide the best **services**.

We want to focus on:



1. Using technology to provide better services, and to work in the best ways.



2. Using our abilities and skills to make money.



3. **Services** that support people early on, before problems happen or get worse.



4. Making sure our care **services** help people to be independent.



5. Working in the most **efficient** ways to save money.



9. Do you think we should be focussing on these 5 things?



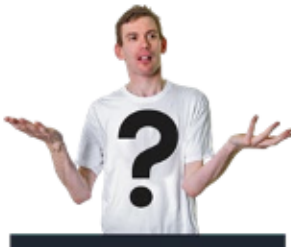
Yes



No



Not sure



Is there anything more you want to tell us about the things we should focus on?

Use the box below to tell us what you think:

Using our money to improve services

10. Do you think the council should spend money on the following things?

Please tick the boxes that you think the council should spend money on.

21st Century Schools - Making schools better or building new schools.

Repairing roads and making transport better.

Recycling and the environment.

Improving town centres

Making leisure centres and other places for leisure better.

Improving play areas and parks.

More care and community hubs to help older people live independently.

Jobs, apprentices, and work placements for people leaving education.

Events and the arts. For example, improving our theatres and things that people want to come and visit or see.

Planning for and building defences against floods.

Equality



We want to make sure that everything we do is fair to people. This is called **Equality**.

Equality means treating people fairly and making sure they have the same chances in life.

We want to make sure that people have equality because of:

- Their age.
- Whether they are a woman or man or describe themselves in another way.
- Their disability.
- Their race or background. For example black, white or Asian.
- Whether they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or straight.
- Their religion.
- If they are married, single or in a civil partnership.
- If they are pregnant.
- The language they prefer to use.



11. Do you think our plans will treat people fairly and make sure they have the same chances in life?



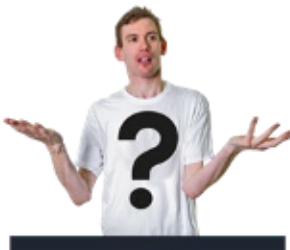
Yes



No



Not sure



Is there anything more you want to tell us about **equality**?

Use the box below to tell us what you think:

Welsh language



We want to make sure that people can use Welsh when they want to, and more people get the chance to use Welsh.



We want to make sure that our plans don't make it harder for people to use Welsh if they want to.

12. Do you think our plans could make it harder for people to use Welsh if they want to?



Yes



No

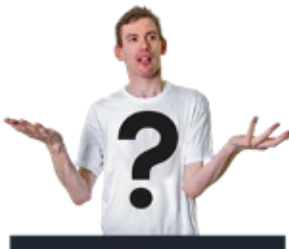


Not sure



How do you think we could change our plans to make it easier for people to use the Welsh language?

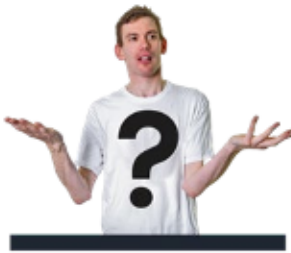
Use the box below to tell us what you think:



Is there anything more you want to tell us about how our plans could affect the Welsh language?

Use the box below to tell us what you think:

Anything else



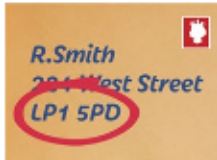
Is there anything you would like to say about our plans for how we spend money in 2021 to 2022?

Use the box below to tell us what you think:

Tell us about yourself



We need to know a little bit about you so we can understand your answers better.



What is your postcode?

Why did you fill out this form?



I live in Rhondda Cynon Taf

I run a business in Rhondda Cynon Taf

I work for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

I belong to a community group in Rhondda Cynon Taf

Other reason:

Thank you



Thank you for filling out this form



Please send this form back to us by **7 December 2020.**



Address: Freepost RSBU-HJUK-LSS
Research & Consultation
The Pavillions
Clydach Vale
Tonypandy
CF40 2XX



E-mail: consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk



Phone: 01443 425014

Hard words

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