

Council Tax

2023/24



Also includes the spending plans for:



OPCC
Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner
for Gloucestershire



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Council Tax 2023/24

The county council has been busy delivering on the ambitions set out in our four-year strategy this time last year.

This includes the opening of the £35 million High School Leckhampton which is already providing a wonderful, enriching environment for the students learning there. By the end of this financial year, we will have invested around £34 million into highways resurfacing schemes, repairing potholes and doing other routine maintenance of the county's roads. We also launched the £550,000 Community Speedwatch Fund and the £1.5 million Levelling Up Fund to help our communities tackle the biggest challenges they are facing.

Our ambition is not wavering for the year ahead. Our spending for 2023/24 will reach £560 million, a rise of more than £40 million on 2022/23 levels. There is also £119 million committed to complete transformative infrastructure projects such as the Gloucester South-West Bypass, Arle Court Transport Hub, the flagship 26-mile cycle spine, and flood alleviation schemes like projects in Nailsworth, Coleford and Pittville town centres.

We also enter the second year of our four-year £100 million commitment to continuously improve Gloucestershire's roads. We have a further £44 million commitment in this budget to go on delivering the best possible educational facilities for children and young people in the county.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Councillor Mark Hawthorne
Leader of Gloucestershire County Council

Our number one priority is always to protect our most vulnerable and that is why we are also committing a further £22 million to make sure we continue to improve children's services and £24 million to support vulnerable adults and those living with a disability.

All this ambition, of course, needs to be funded. Like most households, we have challenged ourselves on how we can be more efficient to make the money go further for the year ahead and we have already identified £32 million of savings.

The budget proposes raising £13.60 million to help fund services through a council tax increase of 2.99%. We are also proposing to raise £7.37 million specifically to support our work with the most vulnerable adults in the county through a 2% increase in the adult social care precept. These figures take account of an increase in the number of people in the county eligible to pay.

Despite this, we still expect to have one of the lowest council tax levels of any county council. Based on a band D property, this equates to a £6.04 monthly increase.

We know this comes at a time when every household's purse is being squeezed. It is not a decision we have taken lightly, but to go on delivering for every resident in Gloucestershire, it is a necessary one.

This budget is another step towards delivering our strategy to create a greener, healthier and more prosperous Gloucestershire.

Some of the essential services and schemes your money helps to deliver



£119m

million injection to deliver schemes like the Gloucester South-West Bypass, Arle Court Transport Hub, the flagship 26-mile cycle spine, and flood alleviation schemes



A further

£44m

investment on school buildings and facilities



An extra

£22m

into protecting vulnerable children



Year two of our four-year

£100m

investment to continuously improve our roads



£24m

towards supporting vulnerable adults

Foster for
Gloucestershire
County Council

Change the life of a local child



Models have been used in these photos

Gloucestershire County Council needs foster carers in your area for children of all ages.

You could support a parent and their baby, help keep siblings together or guide a teenager through a challenging time.

We offer full training, generous fees and out of hours support. Whatever type of fostering you do, Gloucestershire County Council will be here to support you.

If you'd like to find out more, ring our friendly Fostering Recruitment Team or chat to us at one of the events advertised on our website.

01242 532654
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering

 Gloucestershire Fostering

 @FosteringGlos

 **gloucestershire**
COUNTY COUNCIL

**LOCAL
FOSTER
CARERS
FOR LOCAL
CHILDREN** 

Council tax helping to firm-up the front line

When I presented my budget to the county's Police and Crime Panel, I was pleased that a cross-party grouping of experienced councillors and independent members unanimously supported my proposals to strengthen the Constabulary.

I was able to report that we had funded plans to increase the size of the force by over 300 officers, Police Community Support Officers and police staff – most of them already in place, the balance recruited by the summer. I also plan to recruit around 200 more volunteer Special Constables and 100 Volunteer Police Community Support Officers. We also have over 60 people supporting victims of crime, and youth groups helping to divert youngsters from the possibility of becoming involved in crime.

These increases have been possible due to a combination of sources – extra funding from the Home Office, your hard earned council tax contributions and my team's success in bidding for financial support from a range of Government outlets. Indeed, in securing over £3M from the Safer Streets initiative, we have outperformed most other forces, acquiring money to tackle anti-social behaviour, male violence against women and girls, and rural crime.

The Chief Constable and I continue to work on a new operating model for the Constabulary, based on an assessment of where crime and police demand are coming from – something which has changed substantially in recent years. The force is working hard to improve its understanding and recording of all crime incidents, re-assessing its ability to prevent crimes at source and capacity to cope with 999 calls.

Our force control room, for most the first point of contact with the police, is now performing better, having benefited from substantial investment in extra call handlers and new technology. In January, our average answer time for 999 calls was 9 seconds (one second inside the national target), and 101 non-emergency calls answered in 2 minutes 40 seconds (my target is 2 minutes) – our best figures in 2 years. Still more to do, but we are starting to see significant improvements in effectiveness across the Constabulary, all tangible results of the extra investment from you, the tax payer.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Nelson".

Chris Nelson
Police and Crime Commissioner
For Gloucestershire



OPCC

Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner
for Gloucestershire

Strengthening your Constabulary



312

funded police officers,
PCSOs and staff



£3.1m

total funding we've secured
through Safer Streets



100%

house burglary
attendance



£450k

provided directly to District Councils
in Gloucestershire to help them
improve community safety and tackle
anti-social behaviour



300

Volunteer Special
Constables and PCSOs



75

Community speedwatch
cameras



53%

reduction in ASB calls
(from December 2021 - December
2022)



2 new

police hubs in rural
fire stations



My Six Priorities



Creating safer communities

Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and increasing feelings of safety



Tackling male violence against women and girls

Challenging unacceptable attitudes and behaviour



Strengthening your Constabulary

A trusted, visible and responsive policing family. Expanding the Force by more than 400 officers and staff, split roughly 50:50 between full-time and volunteer enhancements



Targeting the causes of crime

Prioritising those most at risk of harm



Supporting victims and reducing reoffending

A people centred justice system



Empowering local communities

Giving you a voice in policing

You can find out more about the PCC's priorities and see his Police and Crime Prevention Plan in full here:

www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan-priorities/



Here when you need us

The Police and Crime Commissioner

Phone: 01452 754348 • Email: PCC@gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk
Website: www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk

Gloucestershire Constabulary

Phone: 101 for non-emergency calls • 999 for emergencies
Website: www.gloucestershire.police.uk (you can now report some crimes online - www.gloucestershire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/)

Forest of Dean & Gloucester Local Policing Area

Superintendent Carl Bourne • Location: Waterwells, Quedgeley
Email: Carl.Bourne@gloucestershire.police.uk

Cheltenham & Tewkesbury Local Policing Area

Superintendent Roddy Gosden • Location: Cheltenham Police Station
Email: Roddy.Gosden@gloucestershire.police.uk

Cotswolds & Stroud Local Policing Area

Superintendent Matthew Tite • Location: Stroud Police Station
Email: Matthew.Tite@gloucestershire.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

<https://yourcommunityalerts.co.uk/pages/4194/1/Home.html>

Your Community Alerts

Receive community updates from your local policing team so you know exactly what's going on in your area. Sign up for free at <https://yourcommunityalerts.co.uk/>



Phone 101 for non-emergencies and 999 for emergencies.
Report non-emergency crime or to find advice and information visit <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk>

All details are correct and up to date at time of publication.



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