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2026/27 BUDGET CONSULTATIONS RESULTS

BUDGET CONSULTATION 2026-27

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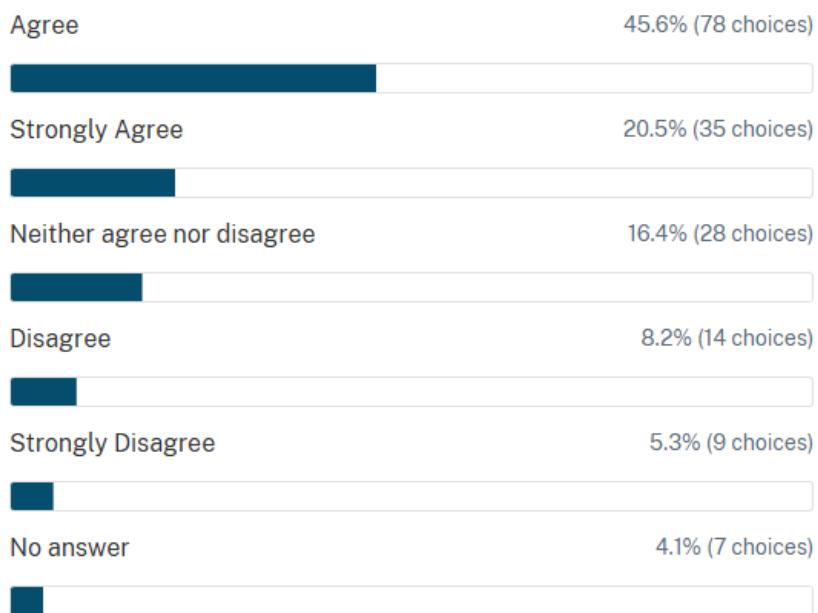
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Question 1: plan to protect services/balancing budget and preparing for reorganisation

Key figures

- 66.1% agree/strongly agree
- 16.4% neither agree nor disagree
- 13.5% disagree/strongly disagree



Question 2: Council Tax

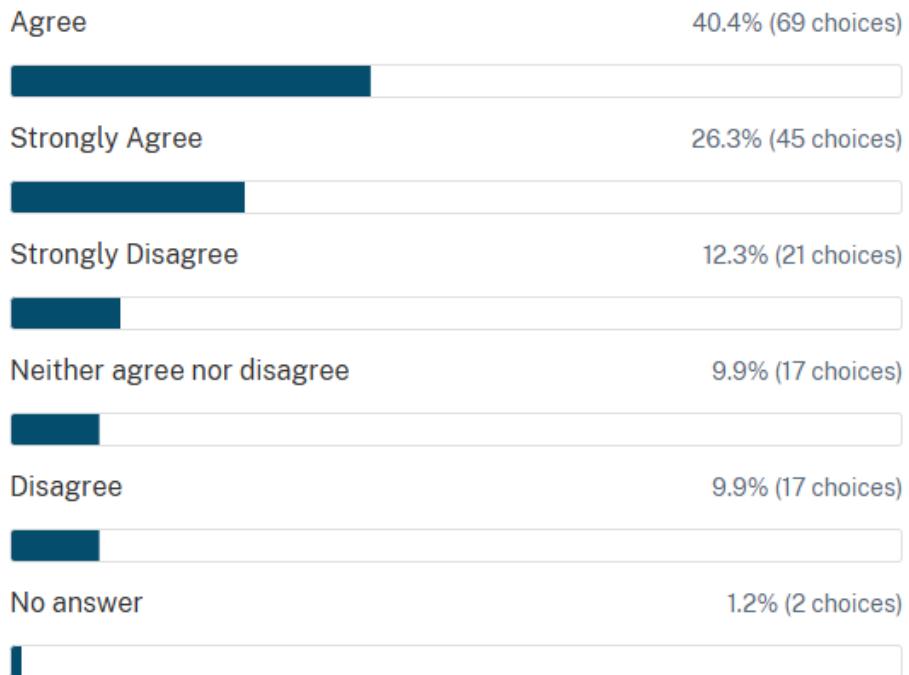
Key figures

- 66.7% agree/strongly agree
- 22.2% disagree/strongly disagree



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Question 3: service delivery and approach ahead of LGR

Key figures

- 56.7% transform
- 38.6% transform

Transform services so that they are more cost-effective and customer focussed 56.7% (97 choices)

Maintain services as they are so the new council can take them over easily, or 38.6% (66 choices)

No answer 4.7% (8 choices)



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Question 4: project delivery

Key figures

- 65.5% capital projects only
- 30.4% consider further investment

Only deliver capital projects that are necessary and within the current capacity and finances of the Council 65.5% (112 choices)



Consider further investment in capital projects to deliver benefit to Cotswold residents, or 30.4% (52 choices)



No answer 4.1% (7 choices)



Question 5: comments on spending for next 2 years

Key themes:

1. Roads, safety & infrastructure

Despite this not being a responsibility of CDC, many respondents reference poor road conditions, potholes, quality of repairs, embarrassment about road conditions, and the need for better maintenance methods.

Respondents also commented on the dangers of speeding in the area.

Includes comments about:

- Prioritising road repairs
- Poor workmanship or outdated methods
- Damage to vehicles
- Desire for rapid response to reported potholes
- Infrastructure support for communities

Total responses relating to the above: 6



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2. Value for money

Comments reflected on pressure facing CDC financially and the choices made. However, some respondents suggested the survey was not an effective means of collecting data, requesting full financial information and breakdown.

Includes comments about:

- Lack of detail on costs and alternatives
- Pension increases not covering tax rises
- Requests to restrict pay rises
- Calls for council tax increases on second homes
- Concerns about wasteful spending
- Worry about burdening a future unitary authority

Total responses relating to the above: 5

3. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and representation

Several responses express strong opinions about governance models, councillor standards, or abolition/retention of councils.

Includes comments about:

- Abolishing Tetbury Town Council
- Concern about CDC being abolished
- Doubts that "bigger is better"
- Desire for councillors with higher standards/knowledge
- Whether current councils should only make changes aligned with unification
- Ensuring CDC protects district interests before unification

Total responses relating to the above: 6

4. Climate views

Mixed responses: some strongly reject climate emergency positioning; others want the council to stay green.

Includes comments about:

- Claims climate emergency is a "deception"
- Saying climate is not the council's job



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- Calls to "stay green"
- Protecting greenfield sites and using brownfield first

Total responses relating to the above: 3

5. Housing, planning and development

Several responses relate to planning policy and community needs.

Includes comments about:

- Support for "right housing" and affordable/social homes
- Restricting second homes, Airbnb and holiday homes
- Delivering the Local Plan on time and to budget
- Prioritising rural areas and access to services
- Praise for rural engagement work

Total responses relating to the above: 5

6. Local services

A theme around maintaining or improving the quality of everyday services and place-based outcomes.

Includes:

- Keeping towns flourishing
- Protecting landscape and historic environment
- Keeping good green spaces
- Leisure centre appreciation
- Supporting local business through parking incentives

Total responses relating to the above: 4

Question 6: general comments

1. Finance and budget discipline

Criticisms of spending and budget discipline.

- Spending is "too high"; must cut costs significantly.
- Reduce waste, avoid unnecessary projects, stick to core remit.



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- Stronger VFM checks, proper design sign-off and contractor supervision.
- "Live within your means" — the council should budget like residents.
- Concerns about uncontrolled spending and "woke/politicised" expenditure.
- Calls for major efficiencies across all services.
- Keep capital projects to a minimum.

Total responses relating to the above: 10

2. Governance and LGR

There are a mix of concerns regarding LGR – namely, what this means for residents, but also the benefits of doing so (maximising savings).

There were also comments about governance and councillor behaviours.

- Opposition to abolishing CDC; preference to retain local governance.
- Calls for unitary transition to maximise savings.
- Accusations of mistrust and concerns about councillor behaviour/ethics.
- Requests to freeze or reduce councillor allowances.
- Feeling that investment unfairly favours Cirencester over other towns (e.g., Tetbury).
- Desire for more decisions and assets held locally (town councils).
- Want more councillors involved in shaping services.

Total responses relating to the above: 10

3. Transparency and public reporting

Comments reflected difficulty to make informed decision on consultation with lack of detailed financial information. Comments suggested a regular report on expenditure – although these can be found on our website.

- Need more financial information to comment meaningfully.
- Requests for past and projected income/expenditure.
- Publish six-monthly, simplified reports on spending and service results.
- Perception that the council plan lacks detail and financial clarity.
- Calls for transparency around performance, budgets and capital projects.

Total responses relating to the above: 9



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4. Roads and infrastructure

Similar comments to the former section: improving potholes, infrastructure for housing developments, opposing restrictions on traffic measures, plus a call for more traffic wardens.

Total responses relating to the above: 8

5. Revenue

Comments reflected on tax, parking and chargeable amenities as a way to raise funds and control overtourism.

- Strong opposition to parking fee increases — described as punitive.
- Reform council tax: reband properties when heavily rebuilt.
- Ensure visitors pay a fair share, not just residents.
- Explore a tourism levy.
- Chargeable services (e.g., toilets) should cover their costs.

Total responses relating to the above: 7

6. Praise for CDC

- Praise for CDC's overall performance, especially over long residency.
- Appreciation for support to low-income households.
- Bulk waste collection team commended.
- Some residents feel services offer good value for money.

Total responses relating to the above: 7