



Budget Consultation 2018-19

The Council needs your views about how we spend your money during the 2018-19 Financial Year. We especially need to take into consideration the potential effects that public sector cuts will have on the services that are delivered to you, the residents of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.

In these challenging economic times, we appreciate that you will be concerned about what effect this will have on the services that we deliver to you, our citizens.

Your views are very important to us. We would be grateful if you would take just a few moments to complete this questionnaire.



Section 1: Council Tax

Council Tax funding is a significant revenue source that supports the delivery of services within Merthyr Tydfil. The level at which Council Tax is set annually impacts on the spending decisions of the Council. Council Tax is in addition to the revenue support grant it receives from Welsh Government.

A 1% increase in Council Tax raises approximately £250,000 that the Council can spend on services.

NOTE: A 3% increase, for example, would add approximately 55p per week to the lowest band property in Merthyr Tydfil, and 83p per week to an average band property.

Q1. When making decisions about spending next year, should the Council:

(Please tick one)

Maintain as many services at the current level as possible, even if it means a reasonable increase in Council Tax.

Cut services to keep any increase in Council Tax to a minimum.

Q2. What would be your preferred level of Council Tax increase for next year, taking into account the significant reduction in Central Government funding, key local government related inflationary pressures rising by more than the rate of general inflation, demands on services for the most vulnerable in society are increasing and there is a need to fund growing pressures on our key front-line Services?

(please tick one)

Additional Council Income

1. No increase

2. Between 0% and 2%

3. Between 2% and 4%

4. Over 4%

£0

Between £0 and £500,000

Between £500,000 and £1 million

Over £1 million

Section 2: Priority of Services

Merthyr Tydfil CBC has the following 10 service areas to consider when allocating its budget.

By using only 8 ticks, please tell us which services you think should be prioritised:

Schools & Education Including: School Expenditure, Special Education Needs, School Transport, School Improvement, Flying Start/Early Years, Play & Youth Services, Preventing Youth Unemployment (NEETS), Adult Community Learning		Highways & Infrastructure Including: Road Maintenance & Repair, Street Lighting, Traffic Management, Gullies & Drainage	
Children's / Adult's Social Care Including: Looked After Children, Fostering & Adoption, Children with Disabilities, Family Support (prevention & Statutory), Parenting Support, Family Information		Refuse & Waste Including: Waste Disposal, Civic Amenities, Refuse Collection, Recycling	
Care for the Elderly Including: Homes for the Elderly, Day Care Services, Community Based Activities, Safeguarding		Street Scene Including: Cleansing, Maintenance, Parks, Cemeteries, Sports Fields	
Physical Regeneration Including: Heritage Developments at Cyfarthfa Castle and Park, Town Centre Development in Merthyr Tydfil & Treharris, Developing Our Heritage, Parc Taf Bargoed		Environmental Health & Community Safety Including: Food safety, Environmental protection, Pest Control, Housing and Homelessness, Trading Standards, Licensing	
Community Regeneration Including: Support for Business, Getting people Ready for Work, Creating new Jobs, Developing Tourism, Supporting Local Community Groups		Leisure & Culture Including: Leisure Facilities, Libraries, Museum	

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please return this questionnaire to:

***Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Consultation Office
Civic Centre
Castle Street
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8AN***