



09 February 2023

We've published our budget for 2023/24

Guildford Borough Council agreed its budget for 2023-24 at last night's meeting (8 February).

Our budget sets out how we will continue to deliver quality and vital services over the next three financial years. Through this unpredictable time and during a cost-of-living crisis, we will also deliver on our Business Plan priorities.

The proposals include a significant increase in spending to ensure the Borough remains a place that people want to live in, work and visit.

Lead Councillor for Finance, Councillor Joss Bigmore said:

"This remains a very challenging time for many local authorities up and down the country. This is because of the extraordinary national inflation rate, which is currently over 10%, the growing cost-of-living crisis driven by high energy costs and the continued impact of the pandemic.

"Due to the unprecedented inflationary pressures, we have included a budget gap to be resolved through a comprehensive service review. The deficit for 2023/24 is £3million with an overall £18million financial challenge between 2023/24 and 2026/27.

"We are legally obliged to set a balanced budget. The budget includes measures intended to ensure there is a strong financial foundation in place over the coming years. During such an unpredictable time, this could help minimise the use of reserves to address short term inflation and protect services."

Council tax

The Government has allowed councils greater flexibility in how they set their council tax. As a result, in 2023/24 we are increasing the council's element of council tax by 2.99%. This will mean an increase of £0.11 per week for those in a Band D property.

The Council Tax charges for 2023/24 can be viewed on our website.

More information about the budget detail, including a link to all the associated papers, will be published on our website.