

BUDGET CONVERSATION

SURVEY 2024



HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW YOUR COUNCIL BUDGET IS SPENT
bassetlaw.gov.uk/budget-2024



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —



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INTRODUCTION

In 2023 we launched our ambitious Vision 2040 which seeks to transform our district into a hub of new technologies, to regenerate our town centres in the process, and to genuinely improve the opportunities and life chances for Bassetlaw residents of all ages and backgrounds. We will do this alongside promoting greener and more sustainable ways of living and “doing business”.

A key part of delivering Vision 2040 is to build the financial resilience of the Council, so we can maximise the benefits of opportunities like the STEP Fusion Energy project at West Burton, support our communities facing cost of living pressures and continue to deliver quality services to residents.

To build this resilience the Council must be pro-active in how we manage our finances and take action to deal with emerging pressures. Funding from central Government has reduced significantly over the last decade and costs have risen due to inflation, including increases in energy, fuel and the cost of materials.

The Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) sets out our expected financial position over the next five years and is projecting a budget shortfall of £3.8million to March 2030.

As part of our approach to tackling this shortfall, we want to know what services matter most to our residents and businesses, find out which services people use the most and capture any ideas the public may have on how to balance our budgets. This information will then be used by Councillors and Officers during the budget setting process, culminating in the annual budget meeting on 27th February 2025 at Retford Town Hall. At this meeting the Council will agree its budget for the next financial year and crucially, agree yearly savings targets for the next five years until 2030.

Please take the time to tell us your views. Your feedback will be crucial in helping inform the decisions we make. Your responses are highly valued, and we thank you for your time in helping us shape our future services.



Councillor Julie Leigh
Leader of the Council



Councillor Alan Rhodes
Cabinet Member for Corporate and Financial Services

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The Council's financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. This means that we start setting our annual budget for the following year in October. As part of this process, we would like residents and businesses to let us know what is important to them.

In this survey you will be asked about how satisfied you are with your area and the Council, how we should balance our budget and whether you think Council services should either be; funded, reduced or stopped, or transformed to deliver cost savings. There are also some standard demographic questions that help us understand the views of different groups and of people living in different areas of the district.

The results of the survey will be presented to Cabinet on 6th February 2025 as part of the General Fund Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30 report. This report will set out the considerations that have had to be made to balance the budget for 2025/26 and to establish savings targets for future years.

We will also publish the result of the survey on our website in January 2025.

The survey runs from 1st November 2024 to the 12th December 2024. The easiest way to complete this survey is online at www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/budget-2024. This survey should take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

You can also return paper versions of the survey to Bassetlaw District Council, Queen's Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop, S80 2AH or leave them in one of the ballot boxes next to where you picked up your survey.

We can also provide alternative formats on request, including large print and translations. Please email policy@bassetlaw.gov.uk

Prize Draw

If you would like to take part in a prize to win one of six £25 love to shop vouchers,

please tick this box and provide your contact details below.

Bassetlaw District Council will only use this data for the purpose of contacting the winners of the prize draw and it will be destroyed once all winners have been notified.

Name:

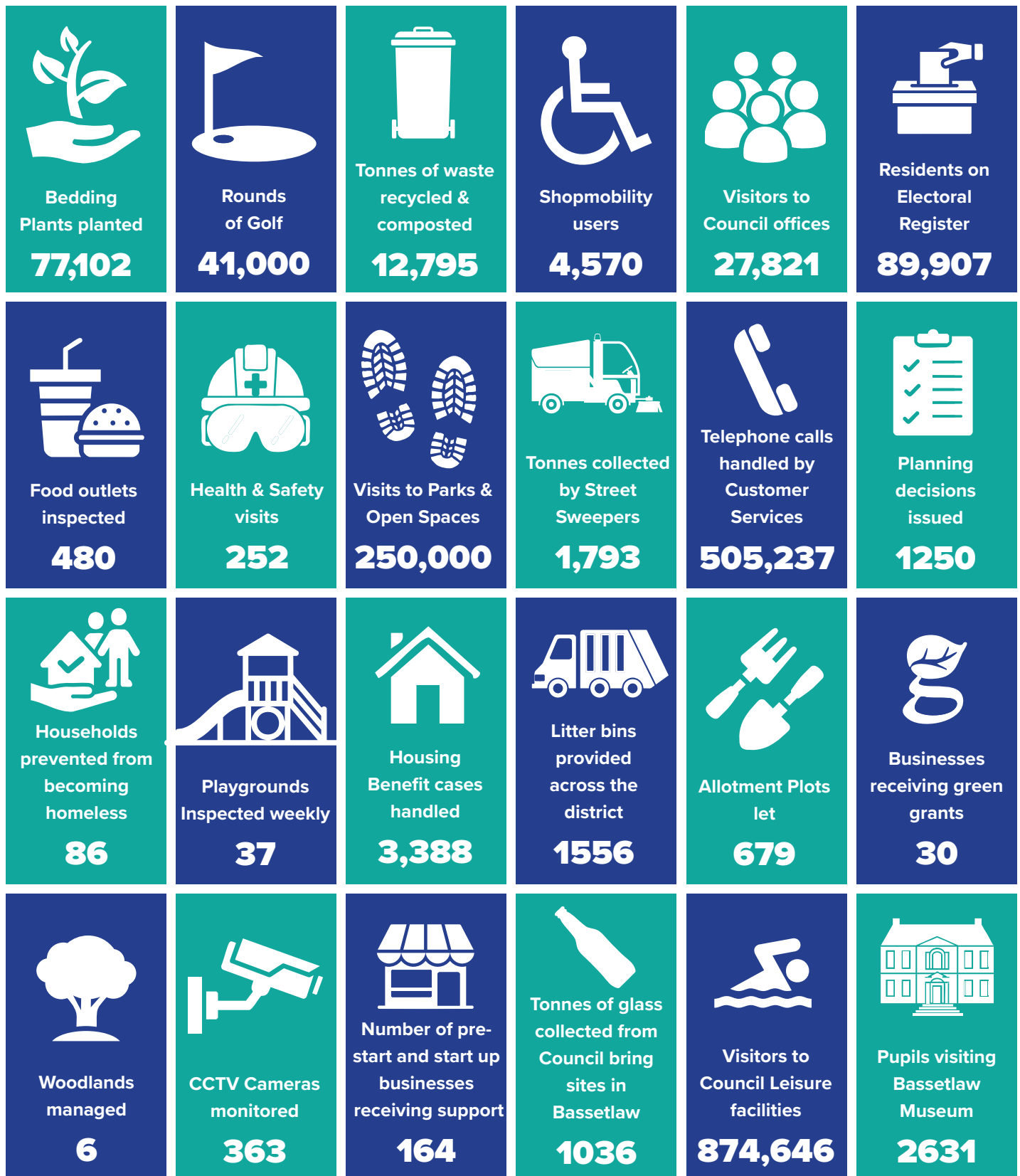
Address:

Contact email or telephone:

By ticking the box above and providing your name, address and contact email or telephone number, you consent to Bassetlaw District Council collecting and using your personal data for the described purpose. If you require more information about how Bassetlaw District Council processes your personal data, please refer to the Privacy Notice on page 15 or the Data Protection Information at www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/about-us/

OUR SERVICES

Below are just some of the ways we used your money in the year 2023/24 to maintain and enhance the district for our 118,000 residents.



WHAT BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL DOES

Nottinghamshire has a two-tier system of local government. This means in Bassetlaw, services are provided between two Councils. These are Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council. Many rural areas are also represented by Parish Councils as well.

Bassetlaw, as a District Council, provides the following services:



Business & Skills

Support to local businesses, Retford Enterprise Centre, Middleton's Yard, The Bridge Skills Hub, Markets.



Leisure & Cultural Services

Parks and Open Spaces, Allotments, Splash Pools, Museum, Leisure Centres.



Supporting our Communities

Community Safety, CCTV and Anti-Social Behaviour, Environmental Health, Strategic Housing and Homelessness, Licensing, Planning & Building Control, Customer Services, Policy & Communications, Council Tax and Business Rates collection, Benefits.



Waste & Recycling

Bin collections, Street Cleaning, Fly-Tipping.



Property & Estate Management

Office Buildings, Town Halls, Car Parks, Cemeteries, Worksop Creative Village, Industrial Estates and Units, Commercial assets.



Running the Council

Finance, Legal Services, IT, HR, Democratic Services, Elections.

The following services are provided by Nottinghamshire County Council and other public sector organisations, NOT Bassetlaw District Council.

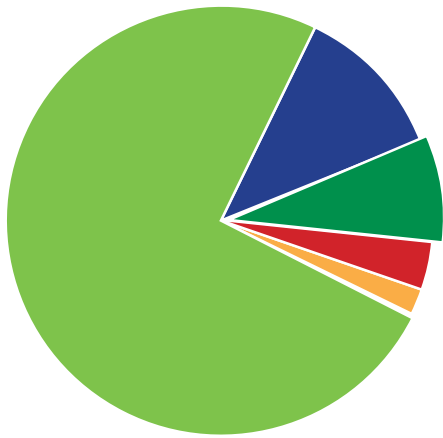
For this Budget conversation, please do not comment on the following:

- ▶ Highways and road repairs
- ▶ Household Waste and Recycling Centres
- ▶ Children's Services, Schools and education provision
- ▶ Community and Public transport
- ▶ Adult Social Care



YOUR COUNCIL TAX AND HOW THE COUNCIL IS FUNDED

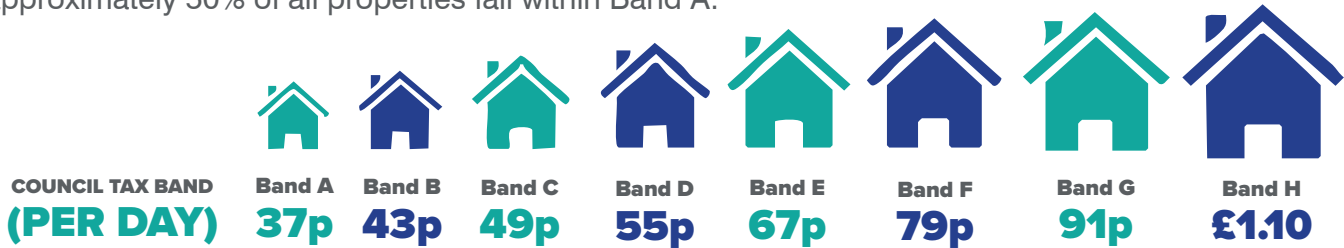
Bassetlaw District Council collects Council Tax on behalf of other authorities and public sector partners. The chart below shows the percentage of Council Tax you pay to each organisation. For every £1 you spend on Council Tax, 8.25p goes to Bassetlaw District Council.



% OF COUNCIL TAX	COST OF SERVICE	% OF SERVICE
Nottinghamshire County Council	£1,807.08	74.56%
Notts Police & Crime Commissioner	£282.15	11.64%
Bassetlaw District Council	£199.92	8.25%
Notts Fire & Rescue Authority	£92.21	3.80%
Parish & Charter Trustee Precepts	£42.39	1.75%
Average Band D Council Tax	£2,423.75	100.00%

What you pay towards Bassetlaw District Council services per day.

Properties across the United Kingdom are separated into valuation bands from A-H, based on a variety of factors such as the size of the property, layout, location, and value. Within Bassetlaw, approximately 50% of all properties fall within Band A.



HOW WE SPEND OUR BUDGET

At Bassetlaw District Council, 80% of our budget is funded through grants and other income such as fees and charges and Business Rates. That means only 20% of our budget is paid for through your Council Tax.



LIVING IN BASSETLAW

The following questions are designed to help the Council understand residents' feelings about living in Bassetlaw and how the Council supports people. When referring to your 'local area', we mean anywhere that is within 15-20 minutes walking distance from your home.

01 Which of the following best describes you?

- I live in Bassetlaw District I work in Bassetlaw but live in another area
- I visit Bassetlaw I represent a business in Bassetlaw
- I represent a community organisation in Bassetlaw

Other, please specify

02 Overall, how satisfied, or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?

- Very satisfied Fairly satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Don't know

03 Overall, how satisfied, or dissatisfied are you with the way Bassetlaw District Council runs things?

- Very satisfied Fairly satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Don't know

04 Overall, how well informed do you think Bassetlaw District Council keeps residents about the services and benefits it provides?

- Very well informed Fairly well informed Not very well informed
- Not well informed at all Don't know



BALANCING THE BUDGET

The District Council is required by law to deliver a balanced budget and so cannot spend more than is available. Funding from central Government has reduced significantly over the last decade and costs have risen significantly due to inflation, including increases in energy, fuel and the cost of materials. The cost of living crisis has put extra pressure on Council services and has had a negative impact on our income collection.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) sets out our expected financial position over the next five years. In February 2024 the Council's MTFP projected a budget shortfall over the five years to March 2029 of £3.7million. This has now risen to £3.8million to March 2030.

In response to this situation, Cabinet Members working with Senior Officers have identified potential areas for savings and service efficiencies that, if deliverable, may contribute towards closing this budget gap significantly by March 2030. Your feedback will help inform the budget for 2025/26 and the proposals for service efficiencies going forwards.

Each year the Council has a number of statutory obligations in relation to its budget and expenditure. The Council must set a balanced budget and it has a statutory duty for annual consultation with representatives of non-domestic rate payers about the authority's proposals for expenditure in the coming year.

As the Council looks to set its budget for 2025/26 we are seeking your views on balancing our budget and prioritising services.

Bassetlaw District Council has a strong track record for managing its finances well, but like all authorities, we will have to carefully manage finances against the economic outlook, cost increases and reduced levels of central government funding.

05

The Council has several ways it can balance its budget. Please rank the following options in order of preference. (1 most preferable, 5 least preferable)

Raising the level of Council Tax

Raising the level of Fees and Charges

Reducing or stopping services

Transforming services - provide services in a different way for example by working with partners, or by increasing efficiency.

Effectively managing our Assets - including reducing the costs of running our buildings, for example by changing how our buildings are used and managed or by selling off some property.

PRIORITISING SERVICES

Which of the following statements do you most agree with?
(Please tick one option per service area)

06

	These services should be mainly funded by raising the level of Council Tax	These services should be mainly funded by raising the levels of Fees and Charges	The Council should reduce or stop some of these services to save money	The Council should transform these services to make savings	The Council should reduce the costs of running its buildings and/or sell off some of its property to fund these services	Don't know
Business Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure & Cultural Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste & Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Property & Estate Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Running the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HOW OFTEN YOU USE COUNCIL SERVICES

Please tell us how often you use the following council services:
(Please tick one option only per service area)

07

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Very Often	Don't know
Business & Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure & Cultural Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste & Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Property & Estate Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are there any other ways we can use to balance the budget?

A large rectangular area with a light blue background and horizontal teal lines, intended for writing answers to the question above.



The following questions are about you and will help us understand the views of different demographic groups and of people living in different areas of the district.

09 Are you?

Male Female Prefer not to say

Other

A disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day.

10 Do you consider yourself disabled?

Yes No Prefer not to say

11 What is your ethnic group?

White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British

Other White background

Mixed or Multiple ethnic

Asian or Asian British

Black, Black British Caribbean or African

Other If 'Other', please specify:

Prefer not to say

12 How old are you?

Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54

55-64 65 and over Prefer not to say

13 What is your home postcode?

Prefer not to say

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Sign-up to our free email newsletter

We have four options to sign-up to:

- ✉ Bassetlaw District Council newsletter
- ✉ Council Housing Tenant newsletter
- ✉ Business newsletter
- ✉ Bassetlaw Museum newsletter

To sign-up, visit: [Bit.ly/BassetlawNews](https://bit.ly/BassetlawNews)



PRIVACY NOTICE

This privacy notice is published in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. Bassetlaw District Council is the Data Controller for the personal data you provide to the council.

The information you have provided to the Council will be used by us to comply with our legal requirements, including enforcement action if required.

We are legally able to handle your personal data:

- ▶ when you have freely and explicitly provided your consent to this processing or
- ▶ when we have a legal requirement to collect and process this information to provide the requested service or provide a service we are legally required to deliver
- ▶ when your personal data forms part of a contract between you and the council

There are a number of rights that you may exercise:

- ▶ to request a copy of the personal information the council holds about you
- ▶ to have any inaccuracies corrected
- ▶ to have your personal data erased
- ▶ to place a restriction on the council's processing of your data
- ▶ to object to processing and
- ▶ to request your data to be ported (data portability)

Where the processing of your personal data is based on your consent, in most circumstances you have the right to withdraw that consent at any time. The contact details for you to exercise any of your data protection rights or to raise any concerns you may have regarding your personal data are:

Information Assurance Manager, Bassetlaw District Council, Queen's Building, Potter Street, Worksop, S80 2AH Email: dataprotectionofficer@bassetlaw.gov.uk Tel: 01909 533 533

If you require more information about how Bassetlaw District Council processes your personal data, please refer to the Data Protection Information at www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/about-us/data-protection/

Contact us



01909 533 533



www.bassetlaw.gov.uk



customer.services@bassetlaw.gov.uk



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Visit us at:

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Chancery Lane, Retford DN22 6DG

Worksop One Stop Shop
Queens Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop S80 2AH

All offices are open: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm

If you need any help communicating with us or understanding any of our documents, please contact us on **01909 533 533**.



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