

Budget consultation Nov/Dec 2025

Project: West Oxfordshire District Council budget consultation

Period: 10 November 2025 - 19 December 2025

1. How well do you think we currently deliver housing advice and homelessness prevention?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 5.3% (8 choices)



Quite well 16.7% (25 choices)



Not that well 7.3% (11 choices)



Not very well at all 2.7% (4 choices)



Not used this service 68% (102 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in housing advice and homelessness prevention?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 50.7% (76 choices)



Somewhat important 36.7% (55 choices)



Not very important 9.3% (14 choices)



Not at all important 3.3% (5 choices)



How well do you think we currently run council tax and business rates collection?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 25.3% (38 choices)



Quite well 49.3% (74 choices)



Not that well 7.3% (11 choices)



Not very well at all 5.3% (8 choices)



Not used this service 12.7% (19 choices)



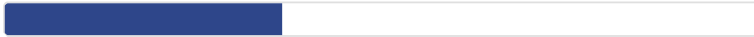
How important do you think it is the council invests in council tax and business rate collection?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 48% (72 choices)



Somewhat important 36.7% (55 choices)



Not very important 14% (21 choices)



Not at all important 1.3% (2 choices)



How well do you think we currently deliver waste and recycling collections?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 40% (60 choices)



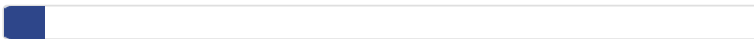
Quite well 49.3% (74 choices)



Not that well 5.3% (8 choices)



Not very well at all 5.3% (8 choices)



Not used this service 0% (0 choice)



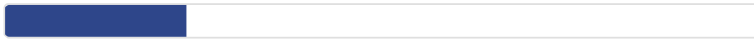
How important do you think it is the council invests in waste and recycling collections?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 72% (108 choices)



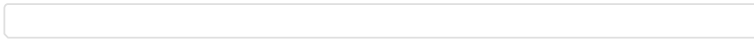
Somewhat important 24% (36 choices)



Not very important 4% (6 choices)



Not at all important 0% (0 choices)



How well do you think we currently deliver building control services?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 3.3% (5 choices)



Quite well 16.7% (25 choices)



Not that well 14.7% (22 choices)



Not very well at all 7.3% (11 choices)



Not used this service 58% (87 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in building control services?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 45.3% (68 choices)



Somewhat important 47.3% (71 choices)



Not very important 6.7% (10 choices)



Not at all important 0.7% (1 choices)



How well do you think we currently deliver licensing of taxis, gambling premises, alcohol and entertainment licencing, temporary events, animal activities, skin piercing and scrap metal dealers?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 2.7% (4 choices)



Quite well 17.3% (26 choices)



Not that well 6.7% (10 choices)



Not very well at all 1.3% (2 choices)



Not used this service 72% (108 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in licensing of taxis, gambling premises, alcohol and entertainment licencing, temporary events, animal activities, skin piercing and scrap metal dealers?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 32% (48 choices)



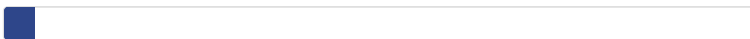
Somewhat important 50% (75 choices)



Not very important 14% (21 choices)



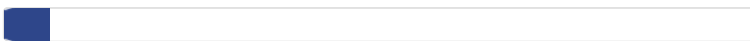
Not at all important 4% (6 choices)



How well do you think we currently deliver local plans and managing planning applications?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 6% (9 choices)



Quite well 22% (33 choices)



Not that well 26.7% (40 choices)



Not very well at all 21.3% (32 choices)



Not used this service 24% (36 choices)



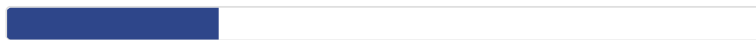
How important do you think it is the council invests in creating local plans and managing planning applications?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 66.7% (100 choices)



Somewhat important 28% (42 choices)



Not at all important 4% (6 choices)



Not very important 1.3% (2 choices)



How well do you think we currently run elections?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 40.7% (61 choices)



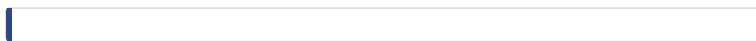
Quite well 50% (75 choices)



Not that well 5.3% (8 choices)



Not very well at all 0.7% (1 choices)



Not used this service 3.3% (5 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in running elections?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 50.7% (76 choices)



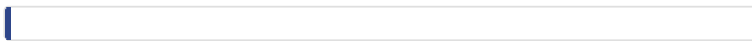
Somewhat important 31.3% (47 choices)



Not very important 17.3% (26 choices)



Not at all important 0.7% (1 choices)



How well do you think we currently deliver council-owned car parks?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 45.3% (68 choices)



Quite well 42% (63 choices)



Not that well 7.3% (11 choices)



Not very well at all 2.7% (4 choices)



Not used this service 2.7% (4 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in council-owned car parks?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 64% (96 choices)



Somewhat important 30% (45 choices)



Not very important 4% (6 choices)



Not at all important 2% (3 choices)



How well do you think we currently promote economic growth and regeneration?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 3.3% (5 choices)



Quite well 33.3% (50 choices)



Not that well 22.7% (34 choices)



Not very well at all 8.7% (13 choices)



Not used this service 32% (48 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in promoting economic growth and regeneration?

265/370 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 57.3% (86 choices)



Somewhat important 33.3% (50 choices)



Not very important 7.3% (11 choices)



Not at all important 2% (3 choices)



How well do you think we currently help tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 4.7% (choices)



Quite well 30.7% (46 choices)



Not that well 31.1% (47 choices)



Not very well at all 10% (15 choices)



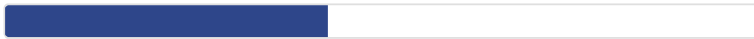
Not used this service 23.3% (35 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in tackling the climate and biodiversity emergencies?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 42.7% (64 choices)



Somewhat important 28% (42 choices)



Not at all important 15.3% (23 choices)



Not very important 14% (21 choices)



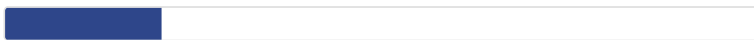
How well do you think we currently provide grants and financial support to local groups?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 5.3% (8 choices)



Quite well 20.7% (31 choices)



Not that well 8.7% (13 choices)



Not very well at all 2% (3 choices)



Not used this service 63.3% (95 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in providing grants and financial support to local groups?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 29.3% (44 choices)



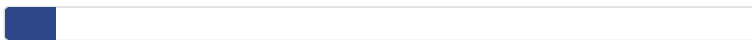
Somewhat important 44% (66 choices)



Not very important 20% (30 choices)



Not at all important 6.7% (10 choices)



How well do you think we currently support local communities through local projects, professional advice and other support around health and wellbeing and community activity?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

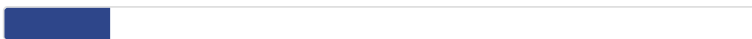
Really well 6% (9 choices)



Quite well 26% (39 choices)



Not that well 14% (21 choices)



Not very well at all 4% (6 choices)



Not used this service 50% (75 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in supporting local communities through local projects, professional advice and other support around health and wellbeing and community activity?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

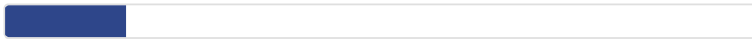
Very important 32.7% (49 choices)



Somewhat important 46% (69 choices)



Not very important 16% (24 choices)



Not at all important 5.3% (8 choices)



How well do you think we currently deliver leisure centres and other leisure facilities?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one

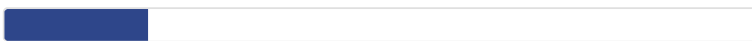
Really well 12% (13 choices)



Quite well 40.7% (61 choices)



Not that well 12.7% (19 choices)



Not very well at all 8.7% (13 choices)



Not used this service 26% (39 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in leisure centres and other leisure facilities?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 48.7% (73 choices)



Somewhat important 44.7% (67 choices)



Not very important 6.7% (10 choices)



Not at all important 0% (0 choices)



How well do you think we currently support creating more affordable homes?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Really well 4% (6 choices)



Quite well 12% (18 choices)



Not that well 26% (39 choices)



Not very well at all 25.3% (38 choices)



Not used this service 32.7% (49 choices)



How important do you think it is the council invests in creating more affordable homes?

150/150 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Very important 52% (78 choices)



Somewhat important 30% (45 choices)



Not very important 13.3% (20 choices)



Not at all important 4.7% (7 choices)



Would you like to make any general comments about the West Oxfordshire Budget?

This is a AI generated summary of the 55 comments made to this question.

Many respondents emphasised the importance of maintaining free parking, particularly in Witney, and opposed spending on schemes perceived as “anti-car” or on implementing 20mph zones

There was also repeated opposition to allocating budget towards asylum seekers or “illegal immigrants”

Several responses called for a focus on supporting economic growth, local businesses, and high streets, with suggestions to improve planning services and invest in youth and community groups

Housing provision, especially for local people, was also highlighted as a priority

There was criticism of spending on climate change initiatives, with some arguing that local action is ineffective without global cooperation, and that resources should be redirected to more immediate local issues

Others, however, supported continued investment in climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and public services

A few respondents commented on the need for better council accessibility and customer service, including improved phone and reception services

Calls for prudent spending and more efficient use of resources were also present

Overall, the most common themes were strong support for free parking, opposition to spending on asylum seekers and certain climate initiatives, and a desire for more focus on economic growth, housing, and local services.

**Would you like to make any general comments about the West Oxfordshire budget?
The following are all comments made to the above question. 55/150 responses**

"The questions in this survey are impossible to answer in any meaningful way.

The Council should renegotiate staff pensions to bring them in line with the private sector

The Council should reconsider the amount it spends on climate change policies until the big polluters in the world, China, India and the USA, reduce their output of greenhouse gases. Virtual signalling achieves nothing."

"Keep free parking. Do NOT spend any budget on 20mph. Don't close Witney High st - manage the parking better 30 mins max to pop into shops etc.

Make local homes for local people only.

Do NOT allocate any monies to asylum seekers. "

Please spend the budget on supporting economic growth, speeding up the process for building new houses, and increasing investment in the youth. These are areas where local authorities can have a real impact, as opposed to global problems such as climate change.

Please concentrate on key issues such as providing key public services, helping address inequality, climate change mitigation/adaptation, promoting biodiversity gain, supporting local community groups, supporting our High Streets and small businesses.

Please focus on housing provision, support for high streets (including free car parks) and support for the health of the local population (eg leisure centres) .

Do not cancel free car parking in Witney - it is the making of the town

"Almost impossible to contact any one by phone at WODC.

NO reception staff, surely a rota could be organised, the old reception site had staff working in an office who then came to help you at reception. Could staff still do their jobs at reception?"

stop wasting money on anti car schemes

"Stop wasting money on giving away "free trees" to villages and putting up signs saying no mow May. Find brownfield sites for housing and do not build on the car park in Marriott's Way. Homes do not need to

Be in town centre and cause massive congestion at Marriott's way car park which is not equipped to deal with large entry's/exits of vehicles. Not interested in carbon footprint until USA/China are onboard. Spending too much on the illegal immigrants in the hotel in witney and did not consult the resident if we wanted to object under planing laws."

Stimulate growth through business investment, not by simply turning W/Oxon in to another Oxford dorm town and relying on council tax to get you through.

"Please avoid allocating Money & other resources to house Illegal immigrants eg at 4 Pillars Hotel at Witney. Hopefully the number if those has already reduced...."

spend wisely

"You should charge more to get much better professional services that have more impact - planning is one!!!! to radically improve support for economic development and making our market towns look and feel smart and welcomingand nag the County to do much more as well!!!!"

It would be criminal to increase the cost YET again

Money is tight. But if you are going to provide a service do it well. Eg swimming pools at pleasure centres should be clean, bins should be collected etc

Need good facilities for swimming pool at Witney which is currently unpleasant and cycle lanes in and around Witney to encourage health and well being.

You have involvement in 'Promoting economic growth and regeneration - Our team supports local businesses, local markets, local towns and other partners to grow our economy, providing jobs and growing business. ' Yet you worked with OCC to close the Witney High Street against the wishes of the majority of traders and residents.

HMOs damage neighbourly/community relationships; mostly benefitting Landlords financially. The council should build council managed small blocks of flats with income fed back into the community and not landlords pockets.

I am sceptical that surveys such as this have any impact at all on council spending considerations. I suspect the council will just do/spend what it was going to do anyway.

Money is wasted on stupid rulings/ events that not many support but you never listen to the majority (hence Witney high street not open but done nothing about stopping those who still drive through it)

Considering the amount of money that is required for Councilors' Pension contributions, I believe top priority should be given making existing infrastructure work properly. Thus, roads should be maintained in a "fit-for-purpose" condition to enable workers to move freely between home and workplace. Housing costs will never be genuinely "affordable" for a large number of people in West Oxfordshire so we should not delude ourselves with the terminology. Equally, estates of smaller and therefore cheaper houses should not adversely affect existing areas of housing. Plans must provide for all the services required to live in any area, including utilities and in West Oxfordshire this is a critical stumbling block: until Thames Water is somehow forced to upgrade the sewage facilities and surface water runoff is adequately provided for by them of the appropriate Council, no further houses should be built.

Not sure if you spend any money on fly-tipping. A reported a case some years ago and got a good response. Second time I reported zilch so I don't bother with you now.

Like any successful business , continuously improve efficiency cut out waste and invest cost savings in areas such as road upkeep.

I should like the council to consider buying back ex-council houses that come on to the housing market. Also compulsorily purchase long term empty houses/properties to increase social housing stock. If budgets allow!

"Keep car parking free. A lifeline for the town and businesses "

I would like to see more investment into making this country particularly Witney more cycle friendly and safer for vulnerable road users, there needs to be a shift in people's attitudes and behaviour as currently there are a lot of bullies who use their vehicles to abuse .so put things in place to discourage the use of vehicles and to enforce more road safety measures as I have seen a dramatic increase on road traffic incidents in the last few years.

Many of the problems faced by local councils and national government eg housing, roads, climate change, pollution, lack of biodiversity, is because we have too many humans to provide for. More budget should be allocated to fund family planning support, so that in 20 years time and further into the future we are not still facing even greater problems re the same issues with the population still escalating. Prevention is better than the crisis management we are tackling now. More houses, roads and facilities being built just lets the problem spiral. Our concrete jungles are growing ever bigger at the expense of natural habitats and biodiversity. Our green spaces are disappearing under more and more housing for more and more people. I would like to see the real problem being addressed ie. population growth, so that all life on Earth has a chance to survive. Invest in managing the problem rather than in encouraging the problem to get bigger.

Please don't ruin these beautiful historic areas with careless building of 'affordable' housing.

Stop increasing council tax - it's high enough already!

Employ waste people who do not throw bins across the road If you show you don't care about the kitchen waste why would people continue to put out their kitchen bins. People see bins strewn all over roads and pavements and then prefer to put their food waste into the other bin Terrible for the planet I have watched one waste employee carefully replace every bin so it can be done.

Affordable houses are still not affordable for so many. Bring back council houses - should never been allowed to be sold off. Building costs are far too high so houses will never be affordable. Wake and smell the roses.

Council tax is too high

Please do not bring in carpark charges - it would be another nail in the coffin for the high street. Also you need to be more pro-active in forcing landlords to find occupiers for vacant properties - the empty buildings in Chipping Norton are a disgrace.

The roads are a real mess! Someone must be accountable, is this WODC, who knows!

Please give absolute priority to Renewable Energy and TOTAL BAN on fossil fuels !!

I would like to see more investment in staff for safeguarding the local historic environment as Conservation Officers. Archaeologists and Historic Buildings Inspectors

Spacehive is extremely difficult for community groups to navigate. Too great an emphasis on online and not enough on community need.

Whichever entity is responsible for roads needs to take urgent action to fill in potholes and resurface roads. Local roads are some of the worst in the country. It makes driving, especially at night or in the wet, a nightmare.

Please keep investing in Leisure and Communities.

stop spending on EDI nonsense. concentrate on delivering core services efficiently and cut waste.

The Council needs to upgrade its planning enforcement and take into account the legislation governing AONBs where your officers are misquoting your obligations.

I can see huge amounts of waste in the way money is being spent. Also lots of money being spent on services we shouldn't have to be paying for through our taxes. You should be looking to lower spending, reduce the size of the council and cut our tax bills.

The council has a very difficult job to do yet does it well with limited resources. My personal priority is tackling the climate emergency and the state of the environment but I recognise other issues are extremely important.

"I don't currently live in West Oxfordshire. I lived there 1965-2006 2012-2018. I have become mostly housebound since moving to Leicester in 2018. I have applied to move back to Witney as I get carer 45 mins each morning. The rest of the time my husband who has his own medical issues has to do everything for me. I have 4 sons, 3 grandchildren, 1 brother and sister in law, nephews and nieces as well as friends in West Oxfordshire. I have various things, including Hypothyroidism, Bullous Pemphigoid, Spondylolisthesis, Urethral stricture (which needs permanent indwelling catheter), Hearing loss, Eye issues. I have applied to come back via the council but with all the things I have sent, I have not got above bronze. Here in Leicester an OT visited me for assessment in 2021 and I was on top grade and offered choice of 4 properties within 1 week. I am in an assisted bungalow here. But I feel such a burden, I need to be back nearer my family so they can help look after me. And also for me to see them. I hope someone reads this "

Focus on climate care solutions, cleanliness and access, support and invest in areas with potential for thriving, expanding business and community.

Prioritize local people. Do not take easy options and cause issues by building on Woodward road car park. Stop giving away trees. Start road sweeping, litter picking and having zero tolerance for illegal parking in Witney (Greggs, high street etc)

Get a refund for the 20 mph signs they do not work.

Prioritise your budget. Spend less on initiatives that duplicate the work of other agencies, particularly in the fields of climate change.

In planning, ensure that infrastructure and providing facilities is produced before approving more housing in all areas.

"Community backing of the government in general is at an all time low. Public confidence has flatlined, even this survey is so poorly worded, nobody can actually comment on issues which are important to them.

So many exercises are completed as a 'box ticking exercise' to pay lip service to the obligations without actually taking into account any of the community views. This survey is a perfect example. "

Really, I am not fully equipped, knowledgeable enough, au fait enough in financial matters, to give a valid considered opinion

Yes ...stop wasting money and do the essential jobs... well... before throwing money away on pet projects

"Please cut back on climate issues, large amounts of money are spent on this without clearly defined and monitored affects. This could be spent to further help local residents.

If you do continue please add KIPs for the outcomes."

The first duty of a council is to review all expenditure and see how much can be saved. No council is particularly good at getting good value for taxpayers. A good start would be to ban all party politics from council business. Also when spending taxpayers money, ban the word "investment" and substitute "waste". This would help to concentrate minds.

Roads need more attention, instead of poorly patching them up temporarily they need better contractors to fix them properly. I travel all over the UK for work and my last 10 minutes home are the worst by far. So many friends have had damaged alloys. And the 20mph limit is creating more of a hazard in our villages and should be returned to 30mph, it causes road rage and is unreasonable in nearly all circumstances except around schools.