

Delivering for West Oxfordshire:

Explaining your District Council Tax



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Introduction from Michele Mead, Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council



Dear resident,

Welcome to our Council Tax booklet that will provide you with information on the Council Tax you pay and how we have used that money to benefit West Oxfordshire over the past year.

Our financial position is very challenging, as it is for local government and many other public service providers across the country. We are working hard to carefully manage our budget so we can continue to deliver the services you use, such as free parking and funding local community projects, alongside investing to improve services.

This past year was another challenging year for all of us as the pandemic has continued, but I have seen so many examples of our communities coming together to support each other. We have done all we can to support our community, whether it's been distributing grants,

collecting prescriptions or helping businesses get back on their feet.

Despite the pandemic we have continued to work hard for West Oxfordshire and make progress against our priorities of supporting local communities and the economy, responding to the climate emergency, providing affordable homes as well as delivering great services. I hope you have seen evidence of that where you live.

Please read on to find out more about how we have used your money to deliver for West Oxfordshire and where your Council Tax was spent last year.

Michele Mead - Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council



Our priorities for West Oxfordshire

Our vision is to support West Oxfordshire to be fit for the future through delivery of the following priorities:



Strong Local Communities:

Supporting and building prosperous and inclusive local communities.



Healthy Towns and Villages:

Facilitating healthy lifestyles and better wellbeing for everyone.



A Vibrant District Economy:

Securing future economic success through supporting existing local businesses and attracting new businesses to deliver the economic ambitions of the Local Industrial Strategy.



Climate Action:

Leading the way in protecting and enhancing the environment by taking action locally on climate change and biodiversity.



Meeting the Housing Needs of our Changing Population:

Securing the provision of market and affordable housing of a high quality for a wide range of households making their home in West Oxfordshire.



Modern Council Services and Sustainable Finance:

Delivering excellent modern services whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council.



Our finances explained - where your Council Tax goes

Over the past 10 years our funding has reduced and the cost of delivering services has increased, meaning we need to manage the council finances carefully to continue to deliver high quality services.

As your district council we only receive 7% of the Council Tax you pay with the rest going to the county council, fire service, police and parish councils. You can see the split in your Council Tax bill.

With the money we receive, we deliver over 50 different services including bin collections, planning, homelessness support and parking among many others. We do not deliver other council services such as road maintenance (including potholes), public health, adult social care or education which is done by the county council.

For our 2022/23 budget we have prioritised maintaining the delivery of services we know our residents use like free parking while also making investments in improving air quality and tackling the climate emergency and fly-tipping.

To balance our budget, which is required by law, we will be raising our element of the Council Tax by 4.57% which will cost a band D household an additional 9.6p per week.

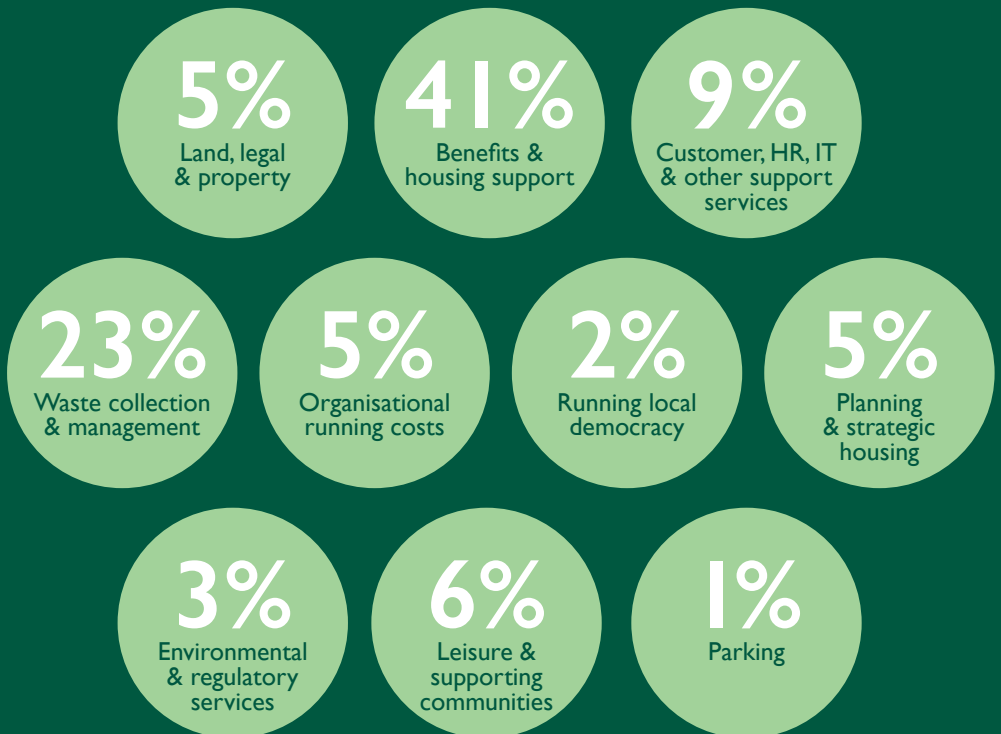
You can find out more about the council's budget by visiting westoxon.gov.uk/ourbudget



Where the Council's money comes from



Where the Council's money will be spent in 2022/23



Some of the services we delivered for West Oxfordshire in 2021/22

We deliver over 50 services across West Oxfordshire and the stats below show the hard work of our teams to help keep our communities running.



110,000 queries answered through our customer services team.



4,294 benefits and financial support claims processed for people in need of support.



1100+ fly tips responded to.



16 free car parks maintained.



9 million+ waste collections with a success rate of 99%.



3 leisure centres and a wide range of health and wellbeing support for communities.



2200+ planning applications processed.



396 community events supported to run.



100 households supported to avoid them becoming homeless.



£48 million in business grants distributed since the pandemic began.



372 abandoned vehicles investigated.



Key projects we delivered in 2021/22

Over the past year we have made great progress against our Council priorities and some of our achievements made on your behalf include:

Getting superfast broadband to West Oxfordshire homes

We took a different approach to getting superfast broadband to our homes and over 99% of homes now have access, years ahead of the national rollout.

Publication of our Net-Zero Carbon Toolkit

This nationally recognised toolkit provides house builders and residents guidance on how to make homes carbon neutral, helping us tackle the climate emergency.

Improving our litter bins

We have installed over 700 new multi-use public bins across the district to help keep our towns and countryside clean.

Truly affordable homes being built across the district

We have made good strides in getting truly affordable homes built for local people in West Oxfordshire with 222 built last year. The award winning scheme in Blenheim is one example where homes can be rented for a 40% discount on the market rate.

Improving our waste collections

We have invested in new technology to help make your collections more efficient and effective. Our collection rate is at 99%, one of the best in the country.

Love West Oxfordshire app supporting local business

Our Love West Oxfordshire LoyalFree app helped local business get back on its feet after the pandemic by helping people find local offers and suppliers.

You can download the LoyalFree app yourself via your app store.





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