

Cumbria, our area our future.

Easy read
version

**Consultation
on draft budget
proposals**

**This consultation
runs from:**

**17 October 2013 to
20 January 2014.**



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1. Introduction

What is this booklet about?

- We are going to have less money to spend in the future.
- This is because the Government is giving us less money to spend.
- We would like you to look at our ideas to save money in the future.
- We would then like you to tell us what is important to you and what you think about our ideas to save money.
- This booklet is an easy read version of our booklet 'Our Area, Our Future – Budget Consultation'.
- We have tried to include all the important information in this easy read version, but there may be more detail in the other booklet. You can always ask someone you know to help you read these booklets and help explain what they mean.



Why does the council need to save money?

- The government is giving us less money to spend.
- During the years 2011 to 2014 have already saved £88 million.
- During 2014 to 2017 we need to save another £80 million.

What we've already saved		
2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
£44 million	£20.2 million	£24.5 million

What we need to save		
2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
£24.4 million	£31.2 million	£24.3 million

- We will try to save some money by doing things in better ways and save some money on staff costs if we can.
- We will not change services that you use the most if we do not have to.
- We need to think carefully about how we spend our money now that we have less.

- In this booklet, we will tell you about our ideas to save £24.415 million from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.
- We will also tell you our ideas to save money during 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- We want you to tell us what you think about our ideas to save money.



2. What is a consultation?

A consultation means we share our ideas and plans with you and ask you what you think about them. If you tell us what you think, we can use your ideas to help us make decisions.

Who are we consulting with?

We are consulting with everyone in Cumbria. This includes people who use our services and their friends and family.

We are also consulting with organisations we work with, like the NHS.

We would like to hear the views of as many people as possible.

Here are some difficult words and their meanings.

Difficult words and what they mean	
Difficult word	Means this
Cabinet	A group of councillors who meet to decide what we do in the future.
Directorate	The Council is divided into teams that work to provide certain services. Teams that provide similar services are grouped together and we call them directorates.
Grants	Money we get from the Government to spend on certain things. We can't spend them on anything we like.
Statutory	Things the council has to do by law.
Non-statutory	Things the council does not have to do.

Information about our Draft Council Plan – Our Area

The Council Plan explains what Cumbria County Council thinks is important and what we will prioritise over the next three years.

The council will work closely with other organisations and groups and our partners to deliver the Council Plan.

The council's priorities:

- To keep children safe
- To keep you safe and keep services local – where we can
- To help people to be healthy and happy, and help people who are in poverty
- To protect Cumbria's World Class Environment – our lakes and mountains
- To provide safe roads and better transport
- To help businesses grow and create jobs
- To support older people, and people who need help, to live where they want and to be healthy
- To be a modern and efficient council

You can comment on the Draft Council Plan.

Visit: www.cumbria.gov.uk/ourarea for more information.

What we could do with Council tax – 2014/15

Council tax is decided by councillors at a meeting of the Full Council.

Which of the following two options would you prefer (please tick option A or option B).

☐

Option A) Take the government's council tax freeze grant, do not increase the county council's share of the council tax and make the full £24.4 million in savings in 2014/15.

☐

Option B) Do not accept the grant, increase council tax in 2014/15 by 2 per cent (below inflation) and reduce the level of savings we need to make to £22.6 million.

The table below shows what a 2 per cent increase would be for all council tax bands.

Council Tax Band	Current annual 2013/14	2 percent rise		Forecast annual 2014/15 £
		Annual Increase £	Weekly Increase £	
Band A	£774.33	£15.49	29p	£789.82
Band B	£903.39	£18.07	34p	£921.46
Band C	£1,032.44	£20.65	39p	£1,053.09
Band D	£1,161.50	£23.23	44p	£1,184.73
Band E	£1,419.61	£28.39	54p	£1,448.00
Band F	£1,677.72	£33.56	64p	£1,711.28
Band G	£1,935.83	£38.72	74p	£1,974.55
Band H	£2,323.00	£46.46	89p	£2,369.46

◀ What
we've
saved
so far

2014/15
£24.4million

◀ What
we need
to save
over
the next
three
years

2015/16
£31.2million

2016/17
£24.3million

**Don't forget to
have your say at
the end of this
document**



Budget Consultation

Theme 1 - Protecting and modernising front-line services for those who rely upon them most

Proposition 1 – Savings money from our management costs.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£2.000M	£3.000M	£4.000M

Proposition 2 – Bringing different teams that buy goods and services together into one tea.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£1.000m	£1.000m	1.000m

Proposition 3 – Making improvements to our contracts systems.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.900m	£0.900m	£0.900m

Proposition 4 – Re-shaping internal council business services (human resources, communications, legal and democratic services, finance, property, policy, performance).

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£1.440m	£2.050m	£2.050m

Proposition 5 - Re-shaping economic development.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.125m	£0.250m	£0.250m

Proposition 6 – Pooling of business rates with district councils.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.700m	£0.700m	£0.700m

Proposition 7 – Getting extra money from Cumbria Holdings Ltd (a county council cleaning and catering company) each year.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£1.000m	£1.500m	£2.000m

Proposition 8 – Creating one system for debt collection.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.050m	£0.150m	£0.000m

Proposition 9 – Buying equipment for gully waste (from drains at the side of the road) so it does not need to be sent away for treatment.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.100m

Proposition 10 – Selling buildings we do not need and improving buildings we do need.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.450m	£0.450m	£0.450m

Proposition 11 – Having less Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.040m	£0.040m	£0.040m

Proposition 12 – Giving councillors less money for training.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.040m	£0.040m	£0.040m

Proposition 13 – Helping staff to save money when travelling to do council work by using shared cars (pool cars).

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.500m	£0.500m	£0.500m

Proposition 14 – Street lighting improvements.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.140m	£0.290m	£0.430m

Using some money to upgrade streetlights would reduce maintenance costs and make the lighting cheaper to run.

Proposition 15 –Bringing verge maintenance in-house.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.100m

Proposition 16 – Bringing together low income support services in to one place.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.150m	£0.150m	£0.150m

Proposition 17 – Efficiency savings in children’s services.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.670m	£0.750m	£0.750m

Proposition 18 –Improving our ICT (information and communication technology).

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.290m	£0.000m	£0.000m



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Theme 2

Stopping doing some things and doing other things differently

Proposition 19 – Stop giving money to help people aged 16-19 with some transport costs.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.350m	£1.000m	£1.000m

Proposition 20 – Reduce Local Committee grants by 20%.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.260m	£0.260m	£0.260m

Proposition 21 – Re-focusing of young people's services.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.100m

Proposition 22 – Charge a small fee for residents' parking permits.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.250m	£0.250m	£0.250m

Proposition 23 –Reducing non-statutory functions in Trading Standards.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.120m	£0.190m	£0.190m

Proposition 24 – Stop giving money to help some bus services and instead work with communities to find community transport solutions.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£1.900m	£1.900m	£1.900m



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Theme 3

Theme – Prevention before cure (helping to keep you healthy)

Proposition 25 – Social care to work closer with health and manage demand for important services.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£5.000m	£10.000M	£15.000M

Proposition 26 – Using the public health budget to help our services to support people to stay healthy.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£2.300m	£2.500m	£2.500m

Proposition 27 – Making small changes to save money in our 28 Children's Centres.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.300m	£0.300m	£0.300m

Proposition 28 – Risk-based reform of Fire and Rescue?

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.540m	£0.540m	£0.540m



Theme 4

Thinking local first

Proposition 29 – Introducing on-street parking charges in:

- Carlisle
- Penrith
- Kendal
- Barrow
- Workington
- Whitehaven
- Maryport
- Keswick
- Cockermouth
- Windermere and Bowness
- Ambleside

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.350m	£0.700m	£0.700m

Proposition 30 – Helping communities do more winter maintenance on their roads and paths.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.750m	£0.750m	£0.750m

Proposition 31 – Investing in roads.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£2.500m	£0.000m	£0.000m

Using some money on structural work on our road network for one year would mean the roads would be cheaper to maintain in the future.

2014/15 budget summary

	2014/15
Total Estimated Savings	£24.415m
Savings Required	£24.415m



Future savings - 2015/16 and 2016/17

Proposition 32 – Merging with another authority to create a Joint Fire Authority.

	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.400m	£0.400m

Proposition 33 – Reduce the amount of Grants we give out.

	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.400m	£0.400m

Proposal 34 – Investing in safe routes to school.

	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£0.100m	£0.100m

Proposition 35 – Reshaping neighbourhood services.

	2015/16	2016/17
We could save	£2.000m	£2.000m

How to tell us what you think

How to tell us what you think

Let us know your views **before 20 January** by:

- Completing online form at www.cumbria.gov.uk/ourfuture
- Writing in the attached 'Your comments' form at the back of this booklet and sending the form to:
Our Area, Our Future
Cumbria County Council
The Courts
Carlisle
CA3 8NA
- Writing to us at the above address (please mark it 'BUDGET CONSULTATION')
- Tel: **01228 606060** and ask to comment on the budget consultation
- Sending an e-mail to **ourfuture@cumbria.gov.uk**

What will happen next?

We have a group of councillors who meet to decide what we do in the future. This is called the Cabinet.

The Cabinet will get a report of all the things people tell us. You will also be able to see this report on our website at Cumbria.gov.uk.

The Cabinet will then decide on a plan and what we will spend next year.

Do you have any comments you would like to make?



About you

By answering the questions below you will help us understand how different groups or people from different areas feel about the budget proposals in this questionnaire.

Are you responding to this consultation (please tick one box only)

As a member of the public ☐

As a member of county council staff ☐

On behalf of an organisation ☐

Other (please specify)

What is your postcode?

Are you?

Male ☐

Female ☐

Do you consider yourself disabled?

Yes ☐

No ☐

What age are you?

Under 16 ☐

16-24 ☐

25-34 ☐

35-44 ☐

45-54 ☐

55-64 ☐

65-74 ☐

75+ ☐

How would you describe your current employment status?

Full-time employed ☐

Part-time employed ☐

Self-employed ☐

Retired ☐

Student ☐

Homemaker ☐

Currently not working ☐

Which of these ethnic groups do you consider you belong to?**White**

British ☐ Irish ☐ Other ☐

Black or Black British

CaribbeanAfrican ☐ Other ☐

Asian or Asian British

Indian ☐ Pakistani ☐

Bangladeshi ☐ Other ☐

Chinese, Mixed Race or Other

Chinese ☐ Mixed Race ☐ Other ☐

Which of the following statements best describes your sexuality?

Heterosexual/straight ☐ Bisexual ☐

Lesbian/Gay ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

Which of the following best describe your faith/religion/belief?

No religion ☐

Christian (all dominations) ☐ Hindu ☐

Muslim ☐ Jewish ☐

Buddhist ☐ Other faith ☐

Sikh ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet and taking part in our consultation.

Feedback Form

Council tax – 2014/15

The level of council tax which Cumbria County Council sets each year is decided by councillors at a meeting of the Full Council.

Which of the following two options would you prefer (please tick option A or option B).

- ☐ **Option A)** Take the government's council tax freeze grant, do not increase the county council's share of the council tax (for the fourth year in a row) and make the full £24.4million in savings in 2014/15.
- ☐ **Option B)** Do not accept the grant, increase council tax in 2014/15 by 2 per cent (which is below inflation) and reduce the level of savings required to £22.6million.

Do you have any comments regarding Council Tax?

Theme 1 - Protecting and modernising front-line services for those who rely upon them most

To what extent do you agree or disagree with:

Proposition 1 - Reducing and streamlining management? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Proposition 2 - Commissioning and procurement? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Proposition 3 - Commissioning and procurement (contracts) - supplies and services? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Proposition 4 - Re-shaping internal council business services? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Proposition 5 - Re-shaping economic development? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Proposition 6 - Pooling of business rates? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Proposition 7 - Additional dividend from Cumbria Holdings Ltd? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Proposition 8 - Centralised debt collection? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Proposition 9 - Gully waste disposal? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Proposition 10 - Accelerating the council's Asset Management Strategy? ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree

Theme 1 - Protecting and modernising front-line services for those who rely upon them most

To what extent do you agree or disagree with:	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Proposition 11 - Overview and scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposition 12 - Member development?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposition 13 - Travel review and use of pool cars?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposition 14 - Street lighting improvements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposition 15 - Verge maintenance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposition 16 - Bringing together low income support services in one place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposition 17 - Efficiency savings in Children's Services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposition 18 - Investing in ICT?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Do you have any comments regarding Theme 1?
(please specify which proposition you are commenting on)**

Theme 2 - Stopping doing some things and doing other things differently

To what extent do you agree or disagree with:

Agree Neutral Disagree

Proposition 19 - Review of transport policies (post-16 transport)?

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 20 - Reduction in local committee grants (non-highways)?

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 21 - Re-focusing of young people's services?

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 22 - Residents' parking permits?

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 23 - Trading Standards - reducing non-statutory functions?

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 24 - Cease to subsidise bus services and instead

☐
☐
☐

work with communities to find community transport solutions?

☐
☐
☐

**Do you have any comments regarding Theme 2?
(please specify which proposition you are commenting on)**

Theme 3 - Prevention before cure

To what extent do you agree or disagree with:

Agree Neutral Disagree

Proposition 25 - Integrating health and social care and managing demand in key services?

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 26 - Putting public health at the heart of communities?

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 27 - Efficiency savings in early years' provision?

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 28 - Risk-based reform of Fire and Rescue?

☐
☐
☐

Theme 4: Thinking local first

To what extent do you agree or disagree with:

Agree Neutral Disagree

Proposition 29 – Introducing on-street parking charges in:

☐
☐
☐

• Carlisle

• Workington

• Cockermouth

• Penrith

• Whitehaven

• Windermere

• Kendal

• Maryport

• Ambleside

• Barrow

• Keswick

Proposition 30 – Helping communities do more winter maintenance on their roads and paths.

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 31 – Investing in roads.

☐
☐
☐

Future savings - 2015/16 and 2016/17

Proposition 32 – Merging with another authority to create a Joint Fire Authority.

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 33 – Reduce the amount of Grants we give out.

☐
☐
☐

Proposal 34 – Investing in safe routes to school.

☐
☐
☐

Proposition 35 – Reshaping neighbourhood services.

☐
☐
☐

Translation Services

If you require this document in another format (eg CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone **01228 226601**.

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如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，
请致电 01228 226601

Jeigu norėtumėte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba,
skambinkite telefonu 01228 226601

W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę
zatelefonować pod numer 01228 226601

Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua,
telefone para o 01228 226601

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