

# Securing your future



**Public  
Budget  
Consultation  
2015/16**

**Closing date  
for comments  
20 January  
2015**

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We have identified £130 million of savings already

We have a further £83 million to find

Let's talk about the savings we need to make

Let's talk about how we will work together

# 1. The scale of the challenge we face in Cumbria and what we must do to secure your future

**Between 2011 and 2014 we have had to identify savings of £130 million.**

**By 2018 we will need to make a further £83 million of savings.**

**By 2018 our overall spend will have been cut by £213 million or roughly a quarter.**

**At one point the council employed over 10,000 people (excluding schools). Today we employ 7,000 people and by 2018 this will drop to 5,200.**

**That means that in three years, 1,800 people who are employed today with us will have left the council.**

**By 2018, we will have virtually halved the size of the county council.**

## Why?

**We have had no choice.**

Government grants, which used to make up a significant proportion of our income, have been cut.

**No council is immune.**

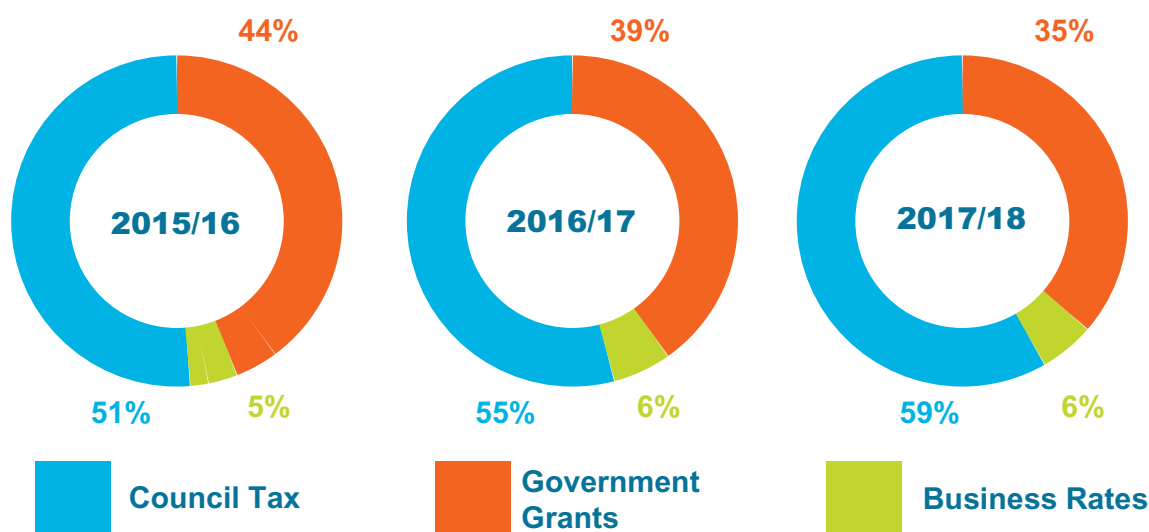
But the scale of cuts we face here in Cumbria is unprecedented.

The simple fact is that as government makes cuts in our funding so we must make savings.

We would not have chosen to make any cuts on this scale. Cumbria is a diverse county. We have few big industries. We have challenges in delivering services in a large rural county. It is a place of many contrasts – some parts of the county are wealthy whilst others are experiencing poverty. There are similar differences in life expectancy.

But since a large portion of the money that we use to run our services is provided directly by the government and since that is being cut, we have been forced, in turn, to make savings.

**The charts below show where our main funding will come from over the next three years**



## Cumbria County Council's vision

To be an effective and efficient organisation that delivers the best possible services for the people of Cumbria within its available resources, protects the vulnerable, and works with others in the community to shape services and help find solutions for the future.



## Here are some examples of what the council does

- **Supports over 300 schools.**
- **Arranges and delivers home care for more than 5,600 people.**
- **Provides access to almost 730,000 library books.**
- **Looks after more than 600 children.**
- **Funds 28 Children's Centres.**
- **Carries out more than 16,200 fire and safety checks.**
- **Maintains approximately 5,000 miles of road, 4,000 miles of public rights of way and 44,368 streetlights.**
- **Registers almost 4,700 births.**
- **Recycles 50 per cent of the 23,000 tonnes of household waste generated in Cumbria.**



We have tried at all times to limit the impact of cuts on those services that are valued the most by local people.

## We have changed the way we work first before we've changed the services we provide.

- We are reducing the number of managers we employ and that will save - £4 million
- We have changed the way we commission services and we've shopped around - saving £1.9 million
- We have changed the way we organise our support and 'back office' staff – saving £4 million
- We are bringing together health and social care services, something which is far better for service users – saving £15 million
- We have rationalised our offices and supported our staff to work flexibly - saving £4.4 million so far
- We are reducing the cost of our communications by £0.3 million.

## It's still not enough

Despite making all these savings, we still need to find £83 million over the next three years.

It's a lot of money that pays for services that people value. But we have no choice but to find ways of making savings.

## So we need your help.



## 2. Looking at our budget gap

**To get some idea of the size of this gap we've set out a table below to show you how difficult this challenge is.**

**Imagine you had £1,000 a month to spend** in your household in 2012 and you've been told that you're going to have to manage on 25% less – **so now you only have £750 to spend.**



### What would you cut?

| Spending now                      |                 | What would you spend if you had 25% less? |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Rent / mortgage                   | £500.00         |   |
| Food                              | £240.00         |   |
| Electricity or gas                | £65.00          |   |
| Clothes                           | £40.00          |   |
| Holidays (averaged over the year) | £50.00          |   |
| Petrol                            | £50.00          |   |
| Satellite TV                      | £15.00          |   |
| Phones                            | £40.00          |   |
| <b>Total Spend</b>                | <b>£1000.00</b> | <b>£750.00</b>                            |

This reality has forced us to make proposals that we would never otherwise have considered. These proposals affect services that have been highly valued and prized by both local people and our staff.

But we cannot stand still. We must do all we can to balance our books and live within our means.





### 3. How we're proposing to live within our means

**We have already changed the way we deliver services in the county.**

**Now we have to save even more.**

But rather than simply cutting services, we are:

- Reshaping the council
- Changing the culture of the council
- Changing the way we deliver services
- Changing the way we work with you.

In this booklet, we are consulting with you on our savings proposals for this coming year. The savings proposed this year are one step towards achieving these changes.

Bear in mind that even when we have made these changes, we will have to make further saving proposals next year.

And the year after.

It's important that you understand the thinking behind our proposals, the 'rationale'.

Each proposal has been carefully weighed up and considered.

**Here are the things we have taken into account in making these proposals:**

Will the proposals help us to live within our means?

Could other organisations provide a service if we no longer do?

Are we required by law to provide the service?

Are we having to provide more services because demand is going to increase – this could be because more people are living longer or because their needs are greater?

How can we best talk to service users and communities about how we can reshape services?

Will we be able to help people lead independent lives?

Would any other organisation be prepared and able to take control of a service and run it at a lower cost ?



## 4. Our three-year challenge

### In 2015/16

We will need to find **£30.6 million** of the £83 million total. If we agree to take the Council Tax freeze grant (see page 9) then the total we would need to find would increase by **£1.6 million** in 2015/16. In total that would be **£32.2 million**.

### We are reshaping the council

We have identified a number of ways that will reduce our costs by reshaping the council. We need to keep reviewing and reorganising the way we work. We are proposing to take out more management posts and redesign many of our jobs. We are also proposing to make our administrative processes even more efficient and make savings from the way we commission and procure (i.e. how we buy services).

We will be consulting our own staff on this separately as it is about how the council is organised and structured. These proposed changes do not affect the services you receive, but they will result in job changes and job losses. This will save **£7 million**.

### We are changing how we manage our money

We are reviewing the way we manage our money and government grants. We will also adopt 'a risk based' approach to using our money – rather than spending on everything we will consider whether we need to spend funds depending upon the level of risk. We will not consult on these changes since they do not affect either staff or service users.

This will save **£13.9 million**.

### Savings from implementation of existing decisions and policies

The council will make further savings through the continued implementation of existing council policies, for example in our approach to asset management, procurement and income generation. In addition, savings will be achieved as a result of decisions taken by the council's Cabinet since April this year (2014/15), which will have an impact next year (2015/16). For example, the introduction of variable street lighting levels in some areas and changes to how Early Help services are commissioned. Taken together these changes will save the council **£5.5 million**.

### In this document we are making a series of new proposals on savings.

These savings require consultation because they will affect service users and in some cases, other organisations in Cumbria. We would like you to consider and comment on these so that we can take account of your views. This will save **£5.8 million**.

### In 2016/17

To meet the target of £83 million we will need to make a series of new proposals on how we make a further **£13 million** of savings. We do not intend to wait for a year but will begin discussions early, where we can, to look at how we may be able to work differently. We will work with service users and with communities, and other organisations, to cut our costs – and, where possible, maintain or even improve services.

### In 2017/18

We will make another series of proposals on how we will make a further **£17 million** in savings of the £83 million.

### Total savings by 2018

The cumulative total of the savings we will need to make over the next three years will be £83 million. At the moment, we have only identified savings of £53 million. That still leaves another **£30 million** to find to meet the target of £83 million and balance the budget in 2017/18.

## 5. Moving Cumbria forward

We will do all we can to lessen the impact of the cuts in our budget, to protect the services you value.

**So we would like your views on four key areas. These will help us to tackle the financial challenge facing all of us.**



1

**Next year's Council Tax: should we increase the council tax by 2 per cent or should we take a grant from government that would freeze the Council Tax at its current level?**

If we take the grant, we will have to find additional savings of £1.6 million. To achieve this we may need to deliver all the savings set out in this document.

2

**Our savings proposals - what is your view on the specific savings proposals on pages 11-17?**

We have explained each proposal in turn, what the impact would be on you and your community, and how much money will be saved in each of the three years.

3

**Finding new ways of working - what is your view on three questions about how we could work in the future?**

We ask questions about whether we could reduce the quality of the services we provide, whether there are different ways of providing services or whether we should stop providing some services altogether. These are on page 25

4

**Do we need fewer councils: do you think that merging the six district councils and the County Council to create either one or two 'unitary' councils is a good idea and worth pursuing with the government?**

We have set out our ideas on page 19.





## 1

# Next year's Council Tax

**We would like to know your views on whether we should increase the council's share of your Council Tax by 2 per cent next year. The council could take a grant to cover a proportion of this from government, allowing it to freeze Council Tax for another year at its current level. This would mean having to find another £1.6 million of savings. We have not increased our share of the Council Tax for four consecutive years.**

We have set out what the impact of a 2 per cent increase would be on households in each band across the county.

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

| Council Tax Band | Current annual 2014/15 | 2 per cent rise   |                   | Forecast annual 2015/16 £ |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
|                  |                        | 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            | 84p               | £2,369.46                 |

**Please give us your views on the following question:**

**Should we increase next year's Council Tax by 2 per cent or should we take a grant from government that would freeze the Council Tax at its current level?**

If we were to take the grant we would have to make a further £1.6 million in savings. This may mean agreeing all of the savings included in this document.

## 2

## Our savings proposals

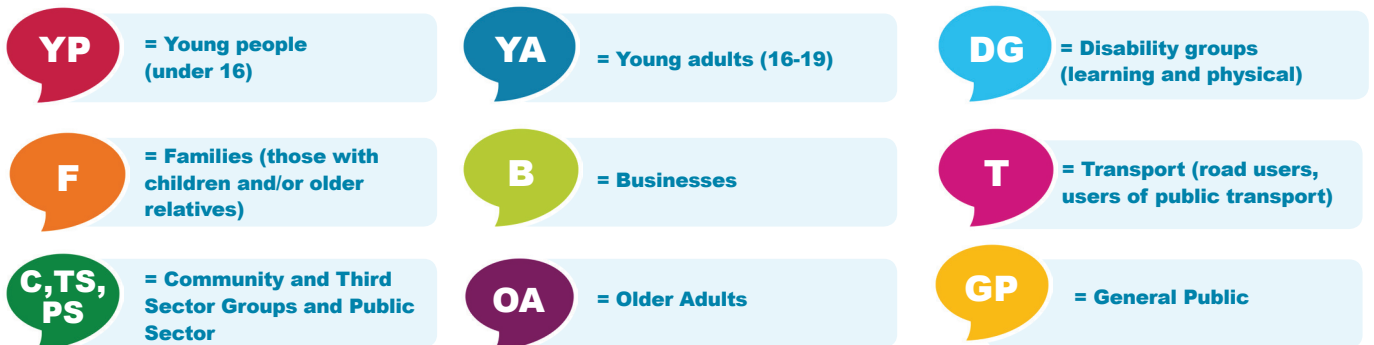
### This section sets out savings proposals.

To make our proposals easy to understand we have added a key. This will show which groups of people are most affected by the changes.

Bear in mind, that most of the savings we make will be met from re-shaping the council and from changing the way we manage our money.

These proposals may affect you or your communities. Please tell us what you think.

Each proposal is coded in terms of the group or groups of people specifically affected - see below.



Each proposal also contains a savings guide as explained below.

### Finally key points to consider

As you consider our proposals, please take the following points into account.

- We must make savings – overspending is simply not an option
- If we do not make savings in one area, we will have to make cuts in another
- We are responding to cuts in government grants – as the amount of money they provide reduces, so we must make savings.
- Making savings doesn't necessarily mean a service comes to an end. It might just be delivered in a different way.

Who's  
Affected?

OA

F

C,TS,  
PS

## Proposal 1

### What are we proposing to do and why?

We propose to help people to continue to live independently by developing Extra Care Housing.



### Here is more detail

For a number of years, we have been responding to the growing demand and different social care needs of our ageing population who want to continue to live independently by investing in Extra Care Housing. Extra Care Housing offers people access to 24/7 care in their own homes, usually a one or two bedroom flat, similar to sheltered housing. By making further investments, we would be able to help people live independently thus reducing the need for more costly care.

### How much would we save?

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>2015/16</b>                          | <b>£0.250m</b> |
| <b>2016/17</b>                          | <b>£0.250m</b> |
| <b>Total saving compared to 2014/15</b> | <b>£0.500m</b> |

Who's  
Affected?

GP

C,TS,  
PS

## Proposal 2

### What are we proposing to do and why?

We propose to improve the way we commission sexual health services.



### Here is more detail

The national Chlamydia Screening Programme no longer requires us to have a separate screening service. So there is an opportunity to bring this together with other sexual health services and make savings. It will mean that we will be able to offer a more joined up service for local people.

Public health became the council's responsibility just over 12 months ago. We inherited a range of contracts from the NHS which are now coming to an end. This means we can now provide services in a different way and save money.

Through the normal commissioning process, we will be engaging with interested parties (including focus groups and potential providers of the service), to discuss this further.

### How much would we save?

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>2015/16</b>                          | <b>£0.100m</b> |
| <b>2016/17</b>                          | <b>£0.100m</b> |
| <b>Total saving compared to 2014/15</b> | <b>£0.200m</b> |

**Who's Affected?**



### Proposal 3

#### What are we proposing to do and why?

We are proposing to improve the support available to people who misuse drugs and alcohol.



#### Here is more detail

Our current contracts with substance abuse services are coming to an end. So we are looking at ways of providing a better service at a lower cost that reflects the nature of the drug and alcohol problems in the area.

Public health became the council's responsibility just over 12 months ago. We inherited a range of contracts from the NHS which are now coming to an end. This means we can now provide services in a different way and save money.

Through the normal commissioning process, we will be engaging with interested parties (including focus groups and potential providers of the service), to discuss this further.

#### How much would we save?

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>2015/16</b>                          | <b>£1.100m</b> |
| <b>2016/17</b>                          | <b>£0.900m</b> |
| <b>Total saving compared to 2014/15</b> | <b>£2.000m</b> |

**Who's Affected?**



### Proposal 4

#### What are we proposing to do and why?

We are proposing to bring together a number of services and contracts to better support the health and well being of children in Cumbria.



#### Here is more detail

At the moment, children and families have access to a wide range of services that are not well coordinated. By bringing them closer together and recommissioning them where appropriate, we can provide a more joined up service for children and families.

Public health became the council's responsibility just over 12 months ago. We inherited a range of contracts from the NHS which are now coming to an end. This means we can now provide services in a different way and save money.

Through the normal commissioning process, we will be engaging with interested parties (including focus groups and potential providers of the service), to discuss this further.

#### How much would we save?

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>2015/16</b>                          | <b>£0.120m</b> |
| <b>2016/17</b>                          | <b>£0.156m</b> |
| <b>2017/18</b>                          | <b>£0.744m</b> |
| <b>Total saving compared to 2014/15</b> | <b>£1.020m</b> |

Who's  
Affected?

## Proposal 5

### What are we proposing to do and why?

We are proposing to establish a new lifestyle and well being service for Cumbria.



### Here is more detail

This will bring together NHS Health Checks, Weight Management and Stop Smoking support alongside a range of other services. This more joined up approach will give people who have multiple needs a more tailored approach that reflects their particular needs.

Public health became the council's responsibility just over 12 months ago. We inherited a range of contracts from the NHS which are now coming to an end. This means we can now provide services in a different way and save money.

Through the normal commissioning process, we will be engaging with interested parties (including focus groups and potential providers of the service), to discuss this further.

### How much would we save?

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>2016/17</b> | <b>£0.380m</b> |
|----------------|----------------|

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Total saving compared to 2014/15</b> | <b>£0.380m</b> |
|---|----------------|

Who's  
Affected?

## Proposal 6

### What are we proposing to do and why?

We are proposing to work with health to improve the way that we offer services that support people's independence and well being.



### Here is more detail

This would involve better co-ordination of services such as rehabilitation (following an illness, a crisis or an accident), reablement (which supports people to improve their confidence to live independently), and the Neighbourhood Care Independence Programme (which focuses on how people are supported in their community). This would help to reduce the time that people spend in hospital or help them avoid the need to go at all.

### How much would we save?

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>2015/16</b> | <b>£0.375m</b> |
|----------------|----------------|

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>2016/17</b> | <b>£0.625m</b> |
|----------------|----------------|

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>2017/18</b> | <b>£0.500m</b> |
|----------------|----------------|

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Total saving compared to 2014/15</b> | <b>£1.500m</b> |
|---|----------------|



Who's  
Affected?

T

### Proposal 7

#### What are we proposing to do and why?

We are proposing to focus on some of our key roads so that we can reduce the amount of money we spend on repairs and routine maintenance.



#### Here is more detail

This follows on from the successful approach we put in place in 2014. It is an 'invest to save' approach that means we improve road infrastructure in a targeted way, which reduces the need for reactive repair work.

#### How much would we save?

2015/16

£2.500m

Total saving  
compared to  
2014/15

£2.500m

Who's  
Affected?

T

### Proposal 8

#### What are we proposing to do and why?

We propose to reduce the highways revenue budget by 15 per cent.



#### Here is more detail

This is a 15 per cent reduction on the council's highways revenue budgets. Urgent road repairs would still receive a 24 hour response, but non-urgent matters will take longer to attend.

#### How much would we save?

2015/16

£0.950m

Total saving  
compared to  
2014/15

£0.950m

Who's  
Affected?

GP

C,TS,  
PS

## Proposal 9

### What are we proposing to do and why?

We are proposing to reduce the grant to the Lake District National Park Authority.



### Here is more detail

We currently provide an annual grant to the Lake District National Park Authority of £92,000. This saving will come from a 50% reduction in this grant.

### How much would we save?

2015/16

£0.046m

**Total saving  
compared to  
2014/15**

**£0.046m**

Who's  
Affected?

OA

F

C,TS,  
PS

DG

## Proposal 10

### What are we proposing to do and why?

We are proposing to reshape the commissioning of advocacy services to allow us to refocus the money where we have the greatest demand in the future.



### Here is more detail

We currently spend £0.863m each year on these statutory (required by law) and discretionary services. By reshaping the way we commission these services we will make an annual saving. We are also helping people develop advocacy skills which will enable them to better represent themselves.

Through the normal commissioning process, we will be engaging with interested parties (including focus groups and potential providers of the service), to discuss this further.

### How much would we save?

2015/16

£0.020m

2016/17

£0.089m

2017/18

£0.089m

**Total saving  
compared to  
2014/15**

**£0.198m**

**Who's Affected?**

C,TS,  
PS

B

GP

### Proposal 11

#### What are we proposing to do and why?

We are changing the way we support tourism in the county and removing grant funding to a range of specific organisations.



#### Here is more detail

We will withdraw grant funding from Hadrian's Wall Heritage Trust, Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership and Cumbria Tourism. We will work with each organisation to help them secure alternative sources of funding. The council will remain committed to supporting tourism in other ways, for example, investing in the Tour of Britain to bring millions of pounds of tourism spend into the county.

#### How much would we save?

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>2015/16</b> | <b>£0.039m</b> |
| <b>2016/17</b> | <b>£0.057m</b> |
| <b>2017/18</b> | <b>£0.050m</b> |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Total saving compared to 2014/15</b> | <b>£0.146m</b> |
|---|----------------|

**Who's Affected?**

C,TS,  
PS

### Proposal 12

#### What are we proposing to do and why?

We will replace recycling credit payments to third parties and introduce a community waste prevention fund.



#### Here is more detail

Cumbria County Council currently pays recycling credits to third party organisations (i.e. social enterprises, charities and voluntary organisations) for the recycling of a range of materials e.g. textiles, paper and furniture. The payments these organisations receive from the council are on top of the money they make on the goods they collect and sell.

We will save money by replacing these payments and introducing a community waste prevention fund instead.

#### How much would we save?

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>2015/16</b> | <b>£0.150m</b> |
|----------------|----------------|

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Total saving compared to 2014/15</b> | <b>£0.150m</b> |
|---|----------------|

**Who's  
Affected?**

**C,TS,  
PS**

## Proposal 13

### What are we proposing to do and why?

We will reshape the way waste services are managed throughout the county by working with the district councils.



### Here is more detail

District councils are responsible for collecting household waste and Cumbria County Council is responsible for the disposal of that waste. Savings will be made by working with the district councils to create a new more cost effective way of managing waste.

### How much would we save?

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>2015/16</b>                          | <b>£0.150m</b> |
| <b>2016/17</b>                          | <b>£1.850m</b> |
| <b>Total saving compared to 2014/15</b> | <b>£2.000m</b> |

## 3

## Finding new ways of working

### **As will be clear by now, we are looking at any and all ways to continue to run services in Cumbria.**

But our options are limited. We either run fewer services or we begin to look at the way we provide and the quality of those services. Or we may have to stop doing some things.

We will not be able to provide the range and quality of services that we did in 2010.

Remember we used to employ 10,000 staff. By 2018, we will employ just over half of that number – 5,200.

So that we can develop further proposals for the coming years, please give us your views on the following.

#### **1. Would it be better to change the quality or delivery of our services rather than lose them altogether?**

This would mean that we would continue to provide services but with different 'specifications'. So roads might be gritted less frequently or we might grit different roads, for example. We are interested in your view in principle. If we did this, we would consult service users on specific changes.

#### **2. Would you support the idea of more of our services being provided by voluntary organisations, your community or different providers?**

This happens to a small degree at the moment. We have set up community snow champions to keep paths clear. Volunteers provide some bus services. It could be that communities could take control of local libraries (see case study opposite).

This is an option that would be examined following consultation with interested groups.

#### **3. Given a choice, are there services that you would protect at all costs?**

We are keen to know what your priorities are, which services matter the most to you. This will mean that as we prepare future savings proposals we can take account of your views.

#### **Case Study**



#### **Modernising the Library Service**

Cumbria Libraries are committed to working with communities to help them to shape services locally in response to changing need. One such example is the Dent Library Link which was developed in partnership with Dent Parish Council, Dent Reading Room Committee and a number of other organisations in the surrounding area. It centred on the refurbishment of the Reading Room in the village and the launch of Dent Library Link.

Dent Library Link has brought the community together to regenerate the old Reading Rooms. The Library Link is managed by volunteers from the local community and is now accessible to the community for fifteen hours every week. Previously the only library service was via the mobile library. Cumbria Libraries support the Library Link with the provision of books, a self-issue machine for checking books out and with help from library staff to exchange book stock.

The community has enjoyed

- Increased access to library services in a ruraly-isolated location
- The regeneration of a previously run-down community building into a hub which has enhanced the village



# 4

## Do we need fewer councils in Cumbria?

**At the moment in Cumbria, six district councils alongside the county council provide local government services. We do not believe that this is a good use of resources, particularly when money is as tight as it now is.**

The decision to have only one or two councils providing services for the whole county is the government's.

We have tried unsuccessfully to persuade the government that we should have fewer councils.

Not only is it confusing to local people who are not always clear who provides which services, it is unnecessarily expensive.

It means more managers – and more councillors.



| Total number of councillors at present |    |
|--|----|
| Cumbria County Council                 | 84 |
| Copeland Borough Council               | 51 |
| Allerdale Borough Council              | 56 |
| Eden District Council                  | 38 |
| South Lakeland District Council        | 51 |
| Carlisle City Council                  | 52 |
| Barrow Borough Council                 | 36 |

There are 368 district and county councillors at present. There would be far fewer in a 'unitary' system.

We believe that one or two councils could be created from the seven existing councils by merging them. The merged council (or councils) would then run all local government services across the county.

External experts have undertaken work on the savings that could be made from having one or two unitary councils in Cumbria. This work indicates that one unitary council could achieve between £22 million and £27 million of savings across county council and district council budgets. Having two unitary councils could achieve savings of between £13 million and £16 million. This work is based on 2013/14 data.

Merging councils so that there was either one or two for the whole county would help to protect some services that would otherwise be cut.

**So we would like to know what you think?**

**Please let us know your views on this question on page 26.**

If you feel strongly about this, and bearing in mind that this is a decision that must be made by central government, you should write to:

**Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP**  
**Secretary of State**  
**Department of Communities and Local Government**  
**Whitehall**  
**2 Marsham Street**  
**London**  
**SW1P 4DF**



@ericpickles

**Email :** eric.pickles@communities.gsi.gov.uk

## 6. How to tell us what you think

In this consultation we have set out a number of proposals that will deliver the savings we need to make for 2015/16; many of these will deliver further savings in future years. We are consulting you on what you think of these proposals. We are also asking you about finding new ways of working and your views on creating a 'unitary' council, or 'unitary' councils.

The budget will go before councillors at Cabinet on the 5 February 2015 and then before Full Council on 19 February 2015 for approval.

### How can I share my views on the budget consultation?

We must have received your views no later than **20 January 2015**, anything received after this date will not be included as part of the consultation. All individual responses will be anonymised, however all responses received by an organisation or on behalf of an organisation will have their comments attributed to them in the final report.

#### You can let us know your views by:

- Completing the online form at **www.cumbria.gov.uk/budgetconsultation**
- Sending the feedback form attached to the

address below:

Securing Your Future: Budget Consultation  
Freepost Plus RRZC-LYZB-SKYA  
PO Box 445  
Halifax  
HX1 9GN

- If you prefer to write a letter please use the address below and mark it 'Budget consultation' and please make it clear which proposals you are commenting on.

FREEPOST NWW 6059A  
Budget Consultation  
Communications Team  
Lonsdale Building  
The Courts  
Carlisle  
CA3 8NA

- Sending an email to **budgetconsultation@cumbria.gov.uk** and be clear which proposals you are commenting on.



**Closing date  
for comments  
20 January  
2015**

#### 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**.

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 01228 226601 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

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

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen  
01228 226601 numaralı telefonu arayınız

### What is a consultation?

This consultation is a process where we are inviting the public and stakeholders to give us their views on our proposals so we can gain a better understanding of opinion and possible concerns. This information will be used to help inform councillors to make decisions alongside other sources of evidence.

# Next year's Council Tax

See page 9 for full details.

**Should we increase the county councils share of next year's Council Tax by 2 per cent or should we take a grant\* from government that would cover a portion and freeze the Council Tax at its current level?**

Increase Council Tax  
by 2 per cent

☐

Freeze Council Tax

☐

\*Taking the government grant would mean we would need to find another £1.6 million of savings.

**Please share your views on the proposed 2 per cent increase in Council Tax, including any comments on which service areas this should be used to protect. (please use box below)**

# Our savings proposals

See page 11-17 for full details.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with:

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

## Proposal 1

We propose to help people to continue to live independently by developing Extra Care Housing.

☐☐☐

## Proposal 2

We propose to improve the way we commission sexual health services.

☐☐☐

## Proposal 3

We are proposing to improve the support available to people who misuse drugs and alcohol.

☐☐☐

## Proposal 4

We are proposing to bring together a number of services and contracts to better support the health and well being of children in Cumbria.

☐☐☐

## Proposal 5

We are proposing to establish a new lifestyle and well being service for Cumbria.

☐☐☐

## Proposal 6

We are proposing to work with health to improve the way that we offer services that support people's independence and well being.

☐☐☐

## Proposal 7

We are proposing to focus on some of our key roads so that we can reduce the amount of money we spend on repairs and routine maintenance.






☐☐☐

## Proposal 8

We propose to reduce the highways revenue budget by 15 per cent.

☐☐☐

See page 11-17 for full details.

| To what extent to you agree or disagree with:  |  | Agree                    | Neutral                  | Disagree                 |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Proposal 9</b><br>We are proposing to reduce the grant to the Lake District National Park Authority.  |    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Proposal 10</b><br>We are proposing to reshape the commissioning of advocacy services to allow us to refocus the money where we have the greatest demand in the future. |    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Proposal 11</b><br>We are changing the way we support tourism in the county and removing grant funding to a range of specific organisations.                            |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Proposal 12</b><br>We will replace recycling credit payments to third parties and introduce a community waste prevention fund.  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Proposal 13</b><br>We will reshape the way waste services are managed throughout the county by working with the district councils.                                      |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



# Our savings proposals - continued

See page 11-17 for full details.

In the box below please share your views on any of our savings proposals: please indicate which proposals you are commenting on (attach extra paper if required).

Are there any other comments you would like to make?

# Finding new ways of working

See page 18 for full details.

**What do you think about changing the quality or delivery of services rather than losing them altogether?**



**Do you support the idea of more of our services being provided by voluntary organisations, your community or different providers? If yes please indicate which services this should be.**



**In the future which services would you most want to protect?**



# Do we need fewer councils in Cumbria?

See page 19 for full details.

|  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you think that merging the six district councils and the county council to create either one or two 'unitary' councils is a good idea and worth pursuing with the government? | Yes                      | No                       |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I intend to contact Eric Pickles MP to call for a 'unitary' solution for Cumbria.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**About you**

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

Are you responding to this consultation (please tick one box only); **organisational responses will be attributed**

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?

Which district do you live in?

|           |                          |                |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Allerdale | <input type="checkbox"/> | Barrow         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Carlisle  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Copeland       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eden      | <input type="checkbox"/> | South Lakeland | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Are you?

Male ☐ Female ☐

Do you consider yourself disabled?

Yes ☐ No ☐

What age are you?

|          |                          |       |                          |       |                          |       |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 45-54    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 55-64 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65-74 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 75+   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

**White**

British ☐ Irish ☐ Other ☐

**Black or Black British**

Caribbean ☐ African ☐ Other ☐

**Asian or Asian British**

Indian ☐ Pakistani ☐

Bangladeshi ☐ Other ☐

**Chinese or Mixed Race**

Chinese ☐ Mixed ☐

Race

Other (please specify)

How would you describe your current employment status?

|                       |                          |                    |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Full-time employed    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Part-time employed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Self-employed         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retired            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student               | <input type="checkbox"/> | Homemaker          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Currently not working | <input type="checkbox"/> |                    |                          |

Which of the following statements best describes your sexuality?

|                       |                          |                   |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Heterosexual/straight | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bisexual          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lesbian/Gay           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

|                             |                          |                   |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| No religion                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hindu             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christian (all dominations) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jewish            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Muslim                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other faith       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buddhist                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sikh                        | <input type="checkbox"/> |                   |                          |

Where did you first hear about the budget consultation?



