

Tamworth Borough Council's Annual Survey

Welcome to Tamworth Borough Council's annual residents' survey. In this survey we ask questions about what Tamworth is like as a place to live, your thoughts on Tamworth Borough Council services and how you think we should spend money collected from council tax and business rates.

The survey will take around 10 - 12 minutes to complete. You don't need any specialist knowledge or experience of contacting us to take part, just a willingness to share your views.

At the end of the survey, you'll be able to share your contact details if you want to be entered into a prize draw to win one of win one of three £30 gift voucher prizes to spend at a Tamworth store.

This survey is specifically for people who live within the borough of Tamworth, or for those running a business or voluntary group in Tamworth.

Please return your completed survey to our team at the Assembly Rooms by 5pm on Friday 13 October 2023.

A bit about Tamworth Borough Council

If you live in Tamworth, you receive services from two councils, Tamworth Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council. This survey is purely asking about services provided by Tamworth Borough Council.

Tamworth Borough Council services are paid for by a small part of the council tax you pay, a small part of local business rates and government funding. Where we have special projects happening like the redevelopment of the town centre, we bid competitively against other councils for any extra government funding. Tenants also pay for council social housing services through their rent.

We collect council tax and business rates, and we keep only 10pence in every pound collected (10 percent). So, for a Band C home, just £175 each year funds borough council services. The rest goes to:

Where does your Council Tax go?



The money we have pays for services such as:

- Waste collection and recycling
- Parks and green spaces, including grassed areas across the borough
- Street cleansing and emptying litter bins
- Support for the homeless
- Environmental health, including taxi licensing and food premises inspections
- Economic growth and regeneration, including business development support for local businesses
- Leisure and tourism services, including sports pitches, outdoor events,
- Tamworth Assembly Rooms and Tamworth Castle
- Work with police, fire and community voluntary sector to support the most vulnerable and help Tamworth become a safer place to live

- Planning and building control
- Collection of council tax and business rates
- Elections (local when you elect your local councillor, your county councillor and national when you elect your MP)

This isn't a full list, but hopefully gives you an idea of our services.

As a borough council, we also provide housing services to tenants. This is paid for by tenant rents and government grants, not by council tax.

Other services like education, roads and potholes, social services for older people and children and libraries are provided by Staffordshire County Council.

Tamworth as a place to live

Throughout this survey we ask you to think about 'your local area'.

When answering, please consider your local area to be the area within 15 - 20 minutes walking distance from your home.

1. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?
 Very satisfied Fairly satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Fairly dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Don't know
2. Your local area receives services from two councils, Tamworth Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council.
This survey asks about Tamworth Borough Council which is responsible for services such as refuse collection, street cleaning and planning.
Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way Tamworth Borough Council runs things?
 Very satisfied Fairly satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Fairly dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Don't know
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3. Value for money

Please think about the range of services Tamworth Borough Council provides to the community as a whole, as well as the services your household uses.

We keep 10pence in every £1 of council tax collected, in total every year that means you pay the following to fund Tamworth Borough Council services:

Band A property, you pay £131 a year for Tamworth Borough Council services. Band B property, you pay £153 a year for Tamworth Borough Council services.

Band C property, you pay £175 a year for Tamworth Borough Council services.

Band D property, you pay £197 a year for Tamworth Borough Council services.

Band E property, you pay £241 a year for Tamworth Borough Council services.

Band F property, you pay £284 a year for Tamworth Borough Council services.

Band G property, you pay £328 a year for Tamworth Borough Council services.

Band H property, you pay £394 a year for Tamworth Borough Council services.

Figures use 2023 payments.

The rest of the council tax you pay funds services from Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue.

The money we have pays for services such as:

Waste collection and recycling

Parks and green spaces, including grassed areas across the borough

Street cleansing and emptying litter bins

Support for the homeless

Environmental health, including taxi licensing and food premises inspections

Economic growth and regeneration, including business development support for local businesses

Leisure and tourism services, including sports pitches, outdoor events, Tamworth Assembly Rooms and Tamworth Castle

Work with police, fire and community voluntary sector to support the most vulnerable and help Tamworth become a safer place to live

Planning and building control

Collection of council tax and business rates

Elections (local when you elect your local councillor, your county councillor and national when you elect your MP)

This isn't a full list, but hopefully gives you an idea of our services.

As a borough council, we also provide housing services to tenants. This is paid for by tenant rents and government grants, not by council tax.

what extent do you agree or disagree that Tamworth Borough Council provides value for ney?
Strongly agree
Tend to agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Tend to disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know
o what extent do you think Tamworth Borough Council acts on the concerns of local dents?
A great deal
A fair amount
Not very much
Not at all
Don't know
overall, how well informed do you think Tamworth Borough Council keeps residents ut the services and benefits it provides?
Very well informed
Fairly well informed
Not very well informed
Not well informed at all
Don't know
on balance, which of the following statements comes closest to how you feel about nworth Borough Council?
I speak positively of the council without being asked
I speak positively of the council if I am asked about it
I have no views one way or another
I speak negatively about the council if I am asked about it
I speak negatively about the council without being asked
Don't know

7. How much do you t	rust Tamw	orth Borou	igh Council?			
A great deal A fair amount Not very much Not at all Don't know						
8. Satisfaction with se Please tell us how sat		ssatisfied	you are with	each of the	following s	services:
	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Waste collection						
Street cleaning						
Sport and leisure services (castle, assembly rooms, castle ground events etc)						
Parks and green spaces						
9. When did you last of problem or make a color in the last month. More than a month. More than six mon. Over a year ago. Never	emplaint?	the last six	months	il to reques	t a service,	report a

10. If you had to contact Tamworth problem or make a complaint what	_		to request	t a servic	e, report	a
Go to the council website and foll	ow the link	S				
Use the webchat on the council w	vebsite					
Use the My Housing app						
Use the My Tamworth app						
Email the council						
Phone the council						
☐ Visit the customer services team	in Tamwort	h Assen	nbly Room	S		
Contact my local councillor						
Contact the council via social med	dia					
11. Community Safety						
	Very safe	Fairly safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Fairly unsafe	Very unsafe	Don'i
How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area after dark ?						
How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area during the day?						

12. Thinking about this local area, how much of a problem do you think each of the following are....

		A very big	A fairly big	Not a very	Not a	Don't
		problem	problem	big problem	problem at all	know/No opinion
Nois	y neighbours or loud parties					
Rubb	pish or litter lying around					
	dalism, graffiti and other					
vehic	erate damage to property or cles					
Peop	ole using or dealing drugs					
	ole being drunk or rowdy in					
•	c places ps hanging around the streets					
0,00	pe hanging around the offocie					
12 L	low do you ourrently find out	shout Tomu	rorth Porous	ıh Council on	d the comice	o it
	low do you currently find out ides at the Assembly Rooms		_			5 11
Grou	inds? Please tick all that appl	у. *				
	Council website					
	Arts and Events website					
	Castle Website	21 ()				
	Printed information from the co	ouncil posted	to your nouse	9		
	Council texts					
	Council emails and e-newslette	ers				
	Arts and events emails					
	Castle emails					
	Direct contact (e.g. contact wit		•	Ü	its)	
	Council's social media (e.g. Fa		_	,		
	Arts and Events social media (•			ok)	
	Castle social media (e.g. Face		r, Instagram,	lıklok)		
	Social media pages not run by					
	Advertising on billboards/buses	s etc.				
	From your local councillor					
	Local media (e.g. newspapers	,				
	Word of mouth (e.g. friends, no		mily)			
	Do not find out any information	l				
	Other (please specify):					

14. Did you know			
•	Yes	No	Not sure
That the assembly rooms and all the performances are run and managed by Tamworth Borough Council?			
That Tamworth Castle is run and managed by Tamworth Borough Council?			
That many of the events in the Castle Grounds (Summer Castle Fest, annual Fireworks display, St George's event etc) are run and manged by Tamworth Borough Council?			
15. How satisfied are you with leisure, entertainment that are available in and around Tamworth?Very satisfied	nt, shopping fa	acilities and ar	nenities
Fairly satisfied			
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied			
Fairly dissatisfied			
Very dissatisfied			
Don't know			

16. Priorities for the council

Our Tamworth Borough Council vision is 'Tamworth – celebrating our heritage, creating a better future'. This vision describes what we're aiming to achieve in the long term.

To help us achieve this, we have five priorities:

The Environment

- Reducing litter and fly tipping
- Working to reduce the impact of climate change
- Supporting people to recycle and reduce waste
- Working to protect, maintain and improve our green spaces

The Economy

- Support businesses to promote business growth and new businesses in Tamworth
- Support businesses to generate local employment opportunities
- Make sure Tamworth has good quality and affordable housing
- Encourage people to come and visit Tamworth and enjoy the attractions of our town

Infrastructure

- Update local plans to improve transport links within Tamworth
- Improve existing walkways and cycle routes
- Make sure people can access our services digitally

Living in Tamworth

- Make sure there is adequate supply of affordable housing
- · Invest in neighbourhoods and local areas
- Support job creation and seek to protect the local economy
- Improve and promote Tamworth's events and historic and cultural heritage
- Help everyone feel safe in their neighbourhood and with others reduce the fear of crime

Town Centre

- Develop the street markets and events
- Create a scheme for 'created in Tamworth'
- Work to improve the night-time economy, including improving night-time transport options
- Encourage local people to be proud of Tamworth and it's rich history
- Develop a new Tamworth Enterprise Centre as part of plans to improve and transform the town centre
- Make the town more accessible
- Encourage the growth of the food and leisure choices in the town

How important do yo	u think are ea	ich of these pr	iorities are, o	n a scale of 1-	5 where 1 is
Very Important and 5	is Not at all i	mportant			
	1	2	3	4	5

	1	2	3	4	5
The Environment					
The Economy					
Infrastructure					
Living in Tamworth					
Town Centre					

17. Along with the long-term priorities you've just thought about in the previous question, we also have six immediate areas of focus, where were looking to make significant visible changes to how we tackle issues in these areas:

Town Centre

Continuing to deliver our £21million investment in the redevelopment and regeneration of Tamworth town centre, and share updates and progress with local people and businesses.

Making sure the town centre is a more attractive destination for local visitors and those from further afield, including a design code to see a uniform appearance throughout the town.

Developing a town centre strategy with more options for events and transitions away from a pure retail centre.

Pride in our area

Improving the general upkeep of Tamworth, particularly in key and well-travelled areas.

Review quality and processes around borough maintenance.

Update signs so they are not out of date.

Roads and potholes

While this is a county council responsibility, elected members are working to encourage Staffordshire County Council to take action to improve roads throughout the borough.

Communications

More open and transparent communications with local people, both as a council and through locally elected councillors.

Increasing frequency of communications with local people.

Publicly announce priorities and decisions and track against them.

Use all means possible, including local newspaper, council website news page, social media radio etc.

Marmion House

Continue plans to sell Marmion House as a prime location for redevelopment. *Note, the existing building needs millions of pounds of investment to maintain. It is also a very energy inefficient building.*

Have clear options for a new modern council office fit for the future.

Improving signposting to customer needing to access council services online, over the phone of via the front desk at the Assembly Rooms.

New ideas

Political openness to thinking differently for better and more cost-effective delivery of services.

Exploring ways to make income, including private company investment.

Exploring ideas for new sports and leisure facilities.

Create a five-year events plan to allow new events to grow and reach their potential.

How important do you think are each of these priorities are, on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is Very Important and 5 is Not at all important

	1	2	3	4	5
Town Centre					
Pride in our area					
Roads and potholes					
Communications					
Marmion House					
New ideas					

18. Council Spending

Financial stability is and has been the key requirement for local authorities. Following the national response to the pandemic, it is likely that Government funding to local councils will reduce in the future.

At the same time, the current cost pressures we're all facing will increase our running costs and reduce income, so we must make plans to reduce costs and make financial savings.

We would like your view on how or where you think the council could make efficiencies and reduce costs.

For the following services, do you think we should spend more, the same or less? The planned spend for the current financial year for each service appears in brackets.

	More	Same	Less	No opinion
Sports & Leisure including sports pitches and free children's holiday activities(£480,000)				
Heritage/Castle (£832,000)				
Assembly Rooms & Events (£1,971,000)				
Refuse collection & recycling (£3,325,000)				
Maintaining parks, open spaces, nature reserves & street cleaning (£3,101,000)				
Tackling anti-social behaviour (£528,000)				
Improving the economic, physical, social and environmental condition of Tamworth (£299,000)				
Grants for voluntary organisations and charities to support vulnerable people in Tamworth (£158,000)				
Commissioning (buying) services from voluntary organisations and charities to				

	More	Same	Less	No opinion
support vulnerable people in Tamworth				•
(£368,000) Housing advice, regulating private landlords,				
tackling homelessness and providing emergency accommodation - exc. council				
housing (£703,000) Support to local businesses including grants,				
free business development support and				
Tamworth Enterprise Centre (£552,000) Delivering customer services (£970,000)				
Tackling climate change (£54,000)				
Taciming community (accordance)				
19. From the services listed below, if we had to	o make savi	ings or redu	ce costs,	, which
services do you think we should look at?				
Please choose up to three. Sports & Leisure inc sports pitches and free	children's ho	liday activitie	es (£480,0	00)
Heritage/Castle (£832,000)				
Assembly Room & Events (£1,971,000)				
Refuse collection & recycling (£3,325,000)				
Maintaining parks, open spaces, nature rese	rves and stre	eet cleaning (£3,101,00	00)
Tackling anti-social behaviour (£528,000)				
Improving the economic, physical, social and	environmer	ntal condition	of Tamwo	orth (£299,000
Grants for voluntary organisations & charities (£158,000)	s to support	vulnerable pe	eople in Ta	amworth
Commissioning (buying) services from volun	tary organisa	ations and ch	arities to	support
vulnerable people in Tamworth (£368,000) Housing advice, regulating private landlords,	tackling hor	nelessness a	nd provid	ina emeraenc
accommodation excluding council housing (£	(519,000)		•	
Support to local businesses inc grants, free to Enterprise Centre. (£552,000)	ousiness dev	relopment su	pport and	Tamworth
Delivering customer services (£970,000)				
Tackling climate change (£54,000)				
20. Along with making savings, we could look things like parking, commercial property renta		_	h we cha	rge for
If we were to increase the amount we charge r should we consider?	esidents an	nd business,	which tv	vo areas
The expected income in for the current financial y	ear appears	in brackets		
Car parking (£857,000)				

Public charges for leisure and other activity (£1,193,000) Waste management (£1,590,000) Public spaces (£723,000) Commercial property (£1,760,000)
21. Costs are going up for all of us.
We do not believe our residents want to see any council services cut, but we also understand that tax increases are a burden to us all. This is why we are asking you to tell us your broad priorities for council services.
The government have suggested small councils like Tamworth, can increase their council tax by 3%, or £5 per year or more. This is based on a Band D council tax property.
Our three-year budget plan included a £5 increase in 2023/24 with a further £5 per year every year.
However, given the rising costs, a bigger increase needs to be considered.
What would you consider to be an acceptable Council Tax increase (based on a band D council tax property)?
£1.00 (0.51% increase) £5.00 (2.54% increase) £5.89 (2.99% increase) £10.00 (5.08% increase) £14.00 (7.11% increase)
22. If you have any further comments about how Tamworth Borough Council could reduce spending, please let us know for each of the services. Use a separate sheet if you need
Sports & Leisure inc sports pitches and free children's holiday activities
Heritage/Castle
Assembly Room & Events
Refuse collection & recycling

Maintaining parks, open spaces, nature reserves and street cleaning
Tackling anti-social behaviour
Improving the economic, physical, social and environmental condition of Tamworth Grants for voluntary organisations and charities to support vulnerable people in Tamworth
Commissioning (buying) services from voluntary organisations and charities to support vulnerable people in Tamworth
Housing advice, regulating private landlords, tackling homelessness and providing emergency accommodation
Support to local businesses including grants, free business development support and Tamworth Enterprise Centre
Improved access to information/customer services
8. About you
Giving the following information is optional but it will help us to use the information you have provided and help us shape services for different communities.
Tell us about yourself.
23. Which of the following best describes you? * Male

	Female
	Prefer not to say
	Prefer to self describe (please tell us)
24.	What is your age?
	18-24
	25-34
	35-44
	45-54
	55-64
	65-74
	75+

Prefer not to say

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25. What is your Ethnic group?
I do not wish to disclose my ethnic origin
White
English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
☐ Irish
Gypsy or Irish Traveller
Any other White background (please specify below)
Asian or Asian British
Indian
Pakistani
Bangladeshi
Nepalese
Chinese
Any other Asian background (please specify below)
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
British
African
Caribbean
Any other black background (please specify below)
Mixed or Multiple ethnic
White and Black Caribbean
White and black African
White and Asian
Any other mixed background (please specify below)
Other Ethnic Group
☐ Arab
Any other Ethnic Group (please specify below)
Other (please specify):

26. Please tell us your postcodeNote: We will only use this information to help us understand if there are any different issues in different parts of the borough.

 27. Are you: A local resident Representing a local community or voluntary organisation Responding as a local business Local Councillor Someone who works in the borough but a resident elsewhere Other (please specify):
28. Please tell us where you heard about this survey In the Tamworth Herald
On social media
From a leaflet
Picked up a copy from the Assembly Rooms/Tamworth Library
In a tenants email from the council
In a business email from the council
In a community and voluntary sector email from the council
With a council officer at an event
Other (please tell us):
29. Please tell us your email address if you'd like to join our citizens panel, a group we send regular surveys and consultations to for views.
30. If you would like to be entered into a prize draw for one of three £30 worth of gift vouchers for a local shop of your choice, please tell us your email address or contact number so that we can get hold of you.
Winners will be chosen at random from all valid entries. Limited to one entry per person.
Note, Tamworth Borough Council staff and Elected Members are not eligible to enter the prize draw.

You have now completed the Tamworth Borough Council's Annual Survey.

Tamworth Borough Council is the Data Controller for all personal data collected in this application. We collect your personal information under Consent to allow us to provide administration for your application.

We may share your personal information with third-parties where required to by law. Full details for types of personal information we collect, purpose we collect it, third-parties we share it with, third-party services providers and how we maintain the security of your information can be found in our Communications Fair Processing Notice www.tamworth.gov.uk/privacy-notice - a hard copy is available upon request.

Please ensure you read our fair processing notice before submitting your personal information to us. Information you give us will be kept for no longer than necessary.

Our Retention Schedule can be found at www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/privacy/Retention-Schedule.pdf

If you have a concern about the way that we are collecting or using your personal data, we ask that you contact us in the first instance. Our Data Protection Officer can be contacted via data-protection@tamworth.gov.uk.Alternatively, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

You have certain rights under UK Data Protection law. For information on your rights, please visit the Information Commissioner's Officer Website www.ico.org.uk

Thank you for taking the time to answer this survey.