

From: Freedom of Information Requests

Sent: 02 May 2025 11:18

To:

Subject: FOI Response

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 8 April 2025 for information about financial management of Adult social care services. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Request for Information on Council Tax and Social Care Funding

1. The formula used to calculate the increase that factored in the National Insurance Contributions (NICs).

Response: City of Doncaster Council (the Council) comply with the Employers National Insurance rates and thresholds as listed on the following gov.uk webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rates-and-thresholds-for-employers-2025-to-2026>

2. The percentage of council tax allocated towards social care. Did the council apply the maximum threshold allowed for this allocation? If not, could you please provide the reason for not doing so?

Response: The Council's 2025/26 Revenue Budget assumes Council Tax income of £24.320m raised from the Adult Social Care Precept and £126.793m raised from core Council Tax. The 2025/26 Adult Social Care precept increase was 2.00%.

Note: Council Tax income funds roughly 21% of the total expenditure the Council spends on the delivery of services, and it is one of many income sources, which added together, form the total revenue budget of the Council. Therefore, an element of the core Council Tax income will also contribute to the delivery of Adult Social Care services.

Further information is available in the annual Council Tax billing leaflet, which sets out what Council Tax helps to pay for and can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/Documents/DocumentView/Stream/Media/Default/CouncilTaxBenefits/Documents/Council%20Tax%20-%20Annual%20billing%20leaflet%202025-26.pdf>,

You may also find it helpful to review the Revenue Budget report presented to Full Council each year in February/March, which details the full Council budget and provides details of what the Council has planned to spend. The report can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/the-council-democracy/revenue-and-capital-budget> the Revenue Budget report for the current financial year 2025/26 is displayed at the centre of the page, with links to prior years further down the page.

3. The current reserves held by the council.

Response: This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of information Act. Section 21 exempts information from the right of access if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. In this case the information is available in paragraph 57-60 and Appendix G of the 2025/26 Revenue Budget report linked above.

4. The inflation rates for the following areas of care, and the resulting hourly/weekly/daily rates:

- OP Residential
- OP Nursing
- OP Residential EMI
- OP Nursing EMI
- WAA Residential

- WAA Nursing
- WAA Nursing EMI
- SL Day Support
- SL Night Support
- Out of Area Dom Care
- Home Care
- Extra Care
- Day Services
- Direct Payments

Response: This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of information Act. Section 21 exempts information from the right of access if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. In this case the information is available from the Fees & Charges document and can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/the-council-democracy/fees-and-charges>

Note: For many Health & Social Care services, the amounts listed on the Fees & Charges document are applicable to both payments made to providers and/or charged to clients, depending upon the personal financial circumstances of the individual.

Request for Information on Fee Consultation and Budgeting for Social Care

1. Did the council conduct consultations with providers and individuals receiving services prior to agreeing on the service fees? If so, can you provide evidence of this consultation?

Response: City of Doncaster Council (the Council) conducted consultations with care homes, domiciliary care, extra care and supported living providers. Copies of the consultation papers are attached.

2. Do you have a copy of the impact assessment completed to support the decision for the approved fee increase?

Response: The decision record that documented the increase in fees contained the following Equality Implications:

The Council must consider and have due regard to the three aims of the general equality duty when developing and implementing its budget and changes to care fees.

The Council will ensure it makes fair and informed financial decisions, demonstrating its commitment to improving outcomes for the most vulnerable groups of people living in Doncaster. The Council uses a simple due regard process to ensure due regard is considered and to support a transparent, effective process that is accountable to residents.

The care fee proposals therefore require a due regard assessment prior to implementation. The increases proposed in this report are being applied to all placements and are not inequitable to any protected groups. Client contributions are charged in accordance with the Council's 'Charging and Financial Assessment for Adult Care and Support' policy. The policy ensures that people are only required to pay what they can afford towards their care and support, and people are entitled to financial support based on a means-test

3. In the budget-setting process for 2025-2026, were any funds allocated to increase reserves?

Response: This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of information Act. Section 21 exempts information from the right of access if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. In this case the information is available in paragraph 57-60 and Appendix G of the 2025/26 Revenue Budget report linked above.

4. Did the council increase council tax by 4.99%?

Response: No

I hope that this information is useful to you.

The City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £98 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Dook
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