

Dear Residents,

The current economic climate is affecting everyone, and I know that it has meant significant changes to lifestyle for some residents. In response to the challenges facing many across our communities we are working with our partners to do what we can to support them. There is a lot of useful information available on our website and at the back of this leaflet to help you with planning and advice during the cost of living crisis.

To protect core services for residents and considering the significant cost increases across our business operation, plus the impact of the pandemic and the fact that the increase in local government funding hasn't been in line with inflation, we have had to make significant savings on top of those that we made last year.

The proposed budget for 2023/24 was published in December 2022. We worked hard to keep increases to council tax, and fees and charges as low as we could and certainly significantly below the level of inflation. I appreciate that any cost increases in the current climate might be a worry, but without those unavoidable changes, we will not be able to deliver important projects that we have promised you in our Annual Plan:

- Continuing to refurbish all car parks in Mole Valley including the installation of 90 electric vehicle charging points
- Major developments in Leatherhead including Claire & James House, the Swan Centre and Bull Hill
- Progress the regeneration of the Foundry and Church Street in Dorking
- Secure funding for the future refurbishment of Pippbrook House in Dorking
- Retain the Mole Valley Employment and Skills Hub in Leatherhead, providing invaluable support to residents and businesses that need it the most
- Continue implementing our Climate Change Action Plan to achieve carbon neutrality before 2030
- Supporting our senior residents and their families via Enabling You with Technology Service
- Repairs and improvements to the fabric of Dorking Halls

You can find all projects we will be working on this year on our website: molevalley.gov.uk/annual-plan

Councillor Stephen Cooksey, Leader of Mole Valley District Council



6% Sustainable Economy & Security

covering Parking, Business Advice and Support, Opportunity Dorking, JET and Enforcement

22% Projects

focused on Property and Regeneration, Asset Management and Transform Leatherhead

7% Planning

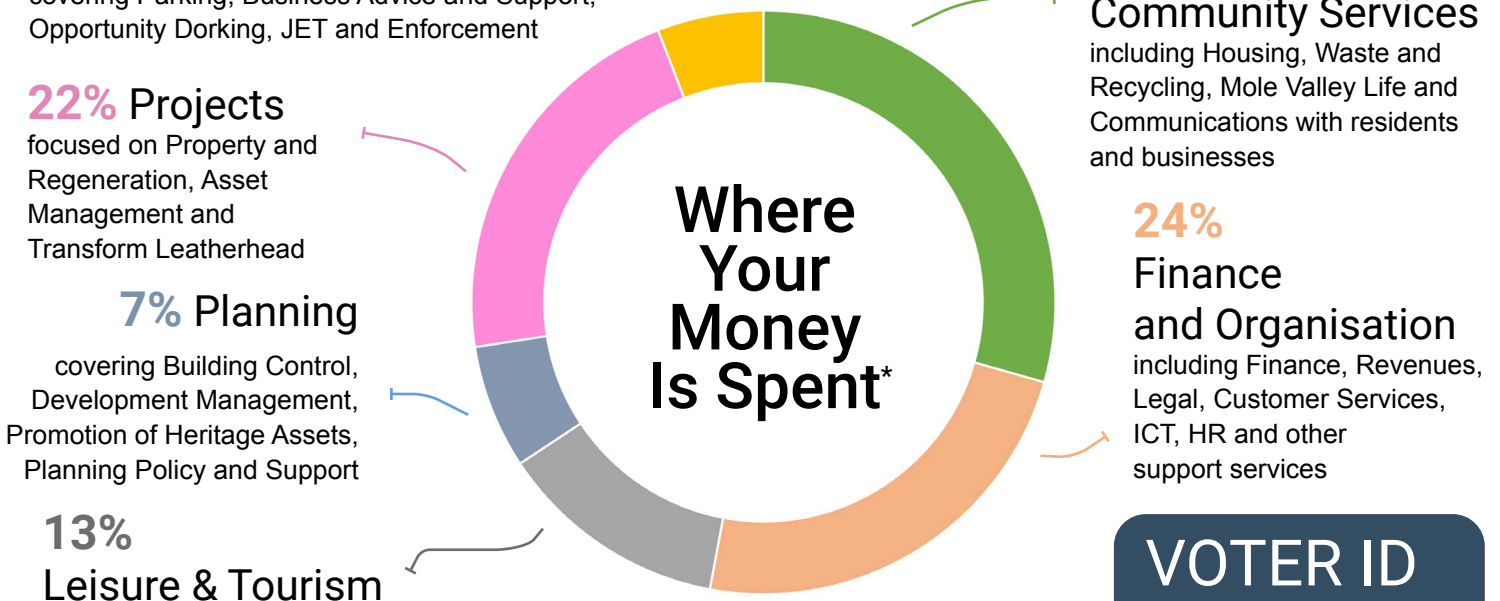
covering Building Control, Development Management, Promotion of Heritage Assets, Planning Policy and Support

13%

Leisure & Tourism

including Community Safety and Wellbeing, Parks and Landscapes and Dorking Halls

*Percentages presented on the chart have been rounded up to the nearest 1%



30%

Community Services

including Housing, Waste and Recycling, Mole Valley Life and Communications with residents and businesses

24%

Finance and Organisation

including Finance, Revenues, Legal, Customer Services, ICT, HR and other support services

VOTER ID

If you're voting at the elections on 4 May 2023, you'll need photo ID to vote at a polling station.

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID (as long as you're registered to vote)

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

Our key investment projects until March 2024 include spending...

£576K on affordable housing



£420K on improving our car parks



£782K on grants to fund disability adaptations and modifications to assist accessibility *



£1,021K on waste vehicles



£60K on community grants

* For vulnerable, elderly and under 18's

Annual Plan Projects

Key areas of work that help demonstrate how we have delivered the commitments in our Council Strategy.

Mole Valley Employment and Skills Hub

Our free independent service available to all residents of Mole Valley, is now in its second year and thriving. The Hub can help with job searches, applications, CV writing and skills training. Partner organisations regularly visit the Hub (at the Swan Centre in Leatherhead) to offer advice on the rising cost of living, energy grants, household budgeting, mental health and wellbeing.

molevalleytogether.co.uk/mvhub



278 Refurbished Parking Spaces

Four car parks in Dorking were refurbished last year: Southside, West Street, South Street and Junction Road. The car parks have been re-surfaced, re-lined and spaces made wider where possible. Other car parks in Mole Valley will follow this year. When paying for your parking, consider using the RingGo App - it's quick, easy, free and green!

molevalley.gov.uk/RingGo



Mole Valley Life

Working in partnership with Surrey County Council, Mole Valley Life launched a new pilot Community Wellbeing & Responder service in March 2022, as part of the award-winning 'Enabling You with Technology' pilot. To date, the service has attended 640 lifeline alarm call outs, with an average response time of 24 minutes, resulting in 79% of call outs being resolved at the scene without the need for an ambulance.

molevalleylife.co.uk



Mole Valley Community Lottery

The lottery celebrated turning one in the summer of 2022 and has raised over £40,000 for the local community. There are over 55 local good causes to support, and 50p from each £1 ticket goes directly to the cause you choose to support and 10p to our Environment Fund. You could win weekly cash prizes of up to £25,000!

molevalleylottery.co.uk

Revamped Fetcham Playground

The refurbished Cock Lane playground in Fetcham opened in October last year. This work was made possible thanks to £90,000 through our Neighbourhood Fund (formerly known as the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy). The playground boasts a range of inclusive - both traditional and sensory - equipment for children ranging in age and physical ability to enjoy.



Mole Valley For Business

The new Mole Valley for Business resource brings together a package of offers to support local businesses. Expert business advisers are currently offering free, impartial business advice at one-to-one sessions. Networking lunches take place on a monthly basis, covering topics such as public speaking and how to cut business energy costs. The fortnightly Spotlight e-newsletter keeps businesses up to date with the latest news, events and opportunities.

molevalleyforbusiness.co.uk



Transform Leatherhead

Several of the key projects for Transform Leatherhead have progressed over the past year. Kier Property were selected as the chosen partner to take forward the joint venture development of the Swan Centre and Bull Hill, whilst award-winning architect Allen Scott are currently working on first stage landscape designs for the new Riverside Park.

transformleatherhead.com

Helping the environment

We're doing a lot of work to becoming carbon neutral by 2030; you can find more on our website: molevalley.gov.uk/climatechange. There are some actions you could take to help protect our planet:

1. Use less energy by switching to LED light bulbs, washing your laundry with colder water and hanging things to dry.

2. Walk, cycle or take public transport

- not only will it help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it's good for your health and fitness!



3. Eat more vegetables - plant-based foods require less energy, land and water.

4. Throw away less food - buy what you need, compost any leftovers and plan your meals.

5. Reduce, reuse, repair and recycle -

buy fewer things, shop second-hand, repair what you can, and recycle.



6. Change your home's source of energy

- see if you can switch to renewable sources or consider installing solar panels on your roof.

7. Switch to an electric vehicle -

electric cars help reduce air pollution and cause significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions.



8. Buy locally -

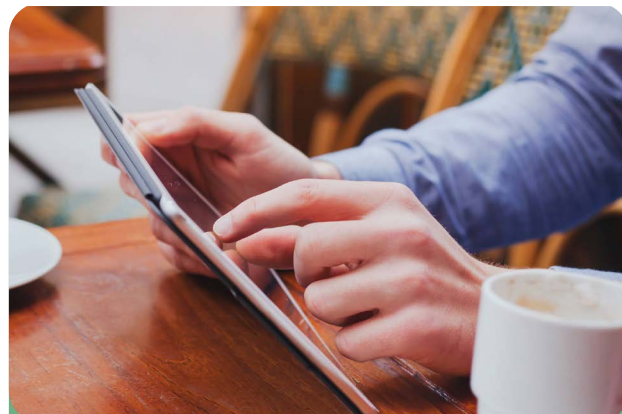
not only does it support the local economy, but it will reduce transport emissions.

9. Encourage wildflowers to grow in your garden -

this can make a significant contribution to biodiversity.



10. Talk to people - tell neighbours, friends and family about the changes you're making.



Swap to Council tax e-billing - save paper and time!

Help us reduce paper use by logging on to molevalley.gov.uk/counciltax and applying for e-billing, enabling you to receive your Council Tax bills via email.

You'll get less post through your door, less clutter in your home and less paper that you need to recycle. So it's great for you and the environment!

Actio₂n Surrey
SURREY'S LOW CARBON COMMUNITY



Make your home more energy efficient!

Action Surrey offer free impartial energy advice on how to reduce costs and your carbon footprint.

Visit their website for tips on free and low-cost ways to improve your home: actionsurrey.org

See how else you can reduce your carbon impact at molevalley.gov.uk/goinggreen

Help with the cost of living

We all know that the cost of energy, food and fuel is rising due to the cost of living crisis. A range of help, support and advice is available.

If you need advice or assistance

You can check which benefits you're entitled to through an online benefits calculator: entitledto.co.uk

Visit our website molevalley.gov.uk/cost-of-living to find out where to get help with household costs and benefit-related support.

Surrey County Council has a directory of support on their website: surreycc.gov.uk/welfare

You can also call their Community Helpline on **0300 200 1008**, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm.

See what financial support is available on GOV.UK at helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk



Save on your energy consumption

Switch off standby

You can save around £65 a year just by remembering to turn your appliances off standby mode.



Draught-proof window & doors

Unless your home is very new, you will lose some heat through draughts around doors and windows, gaps around the floor, or through the chimney. Draught-proofing can save around £125 a year.



Lights

Turning off lights when you're not using them will save £25 a year. Replacing all lights in your home with LED bulbs could help you save even more.

Be wise with your washing

You could save £34 a year by using your washing machine more carefully; use your washing machine on a 30-degree cycle and reduce its use by one a week.



Water

Spend less time in the shower - a four-minute shower could save £95 a year. Swapping one bath a week with a 4-minute shower could save you £20 a year.

Be savvy in the kitchen

Avoid overfilling your kettle and you could save £13 a year. Only run your dishwasher when it's full - reducing the run once a week for a year could save £17.



Warm Hubs

There are warm and safe places in Mole Valley, where you can drop in, get warm and meet people for free.

Find out more at molevalley.gov.uk/warmhubs



Mid Surrey Community Fridges

This volunteer-led service aims to stop food wastage and to redistribute the excess food from supermarkets and restaurants to residents in need.

There are collection points throughout the week, all over Mole Valley.

Find out more at midsurreycommunityfridges.co.uk

For more quick energy saving tips visit: energysavingtrust.org.uk