

What would you choose to give Leominster in 2018/19?

Working in Partnership	Leominster's Environment	Communications & Events	Leominster's Civic Life	Leominster Town Council
<p>In 2017/18 Leominster Town Council has provided grant support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leominster Museum • Leominster Festival • Community Centre • Grange Court • Priory Holiday Club • Citizens Advice Bureau • Echo • Destination Leominster <p>...and several other local organisations</p> <p>It has also supported several local businesses by providing grants to help improve shopfronts.</p>	<p>In 2017/18 Leominster Town Council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly cleaned the streets in the town centre • Cut the grass at Grange, Sydonia, Pinsley Mead, the Priory and Ginhall Green • Emptied the litter bins in the open spaces • Provided public conveniences • Provided allotments • Supported Leominster in Bloom • Developed refurbishment plans for Sydonia 	<p>In 2017/18 Leominster Town Council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invested in a new Tourist Information Centre to improve Leominster's visitor welcome • Run the Friday market • Supported special events such as the Leominster Food Fair • Supported Leominster via social media • Supported the Christmas Lights and Small Business Saturday 	<p>In 2017/18 Leominster Town Council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invested in new hub for Leominster including offices, a garden and an exhibition space • Supported numerous civic events including The May Fair, Mayor Making and Remembrance Sunday • Supported the continuation of the discontinued 427 bus service on a Friday, working with Community Wheels 	<p>Leominster Town Council has consolidated its base and provision of services during 2017/18.</p> <p>On average it cost local households £2.28 per week for all these services.</p> <p>Additional services being considered for 2018/19 will include the bus station toilets, verge cutting, signage improvements and some minor public realm improvements.</p>
<p>Which service area would you most like Leominster Town Council to spend additional funding on?</p>				
<p>Choose the relevant option in the Poll to support your choice for an additional spend of around £10,000 in 2018/19 (this would cost the average Leominster household an extra 5p/week)</p>				

<p>More support for Leominster's voluntary organisations to benefit the town.</p> <p>Additional grant funding allocated</p> <p>Additional youth project support</p> <p>Additional support for Grange Court</p>	<p>Investment in the town environment through initiatives like:</p> <p>New litter bins in the town centre</p> <p>Additional street cleaning</p> <p>Verge cutting instead of Herefordshire Council??</p> <p>Improving open spaces</p> <p>Upgrading play areas</p>	<p>Promotion of the town through initiatives like:</p> <p>New banners</p> <p>New signs</p> <p>New leaflets</p> <p>New market stalls</p> <p>New notice boards</p> <p>New town trails</p> <p>Interpretation panels</p>	<p>Additional Civic Events for 2018/19 could include:</p> <p>Armed Forces Day to be hosted in Leominster</p> <p>Fundraising events in the Corn Square Garden</p> <p>Entertainment in the Corn Square Garden</p>	<p>Don't spend any more!</p> <p>In 2018/19 additional services are being transferred to the Town Council from Herefordshire Council due to reducing budgets at County level.</p> <p>Initial projections suggest that this will cost households in Leominster around an extra 20 pence per week.</p>
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Leominster Town Council budget consultation 2018/19

We welcome your comments in this consultation which will run from the 16th October to 17th November 2017. The Town Council will consider and vote on its final budget on Monday 29th January 2018.

What area of our town's life is most important for you? You can vote in the Town Council's **Participatory Budget** choice box in our offices at 11 Corn Square. Just pick up your token from the TIC counter.

We'll also be at the Friday market and some other locations over the next month.

Alternatively you can vote in the online poll on the website by visiting www.leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk

The total cost of all the services provided by Leominster Town Council is £2.28 per week for the average Leominster household in 2017/18. Many households pay less than this¹.

It's amazing what can be done when we work together! With this income in 2017/18 we provided:-

- **Allotments** at Ginhall Lane
- **Public toilets** at Central car park and Grange Park. The bus station public conveniences are expected to be transferred by the end of 2017
- **Open Spaces** at the Grange, Pinsley Mead, Millennium Green/Community Orchard, the Priory cemetery, Sydonia, Ginhall Green, and the Booth Memorial Garden
- **Play areas** at the Grange, Sydonia and Ginhall Green (x2)
- **Markets:** Weekly Friday markets, monthly Farmers market plus specialist and charity stalls
- **Tourist Information Centre** at Corn Square
- **Christmas lights** for the town
- **CCTV** in partnership with Herefordshire Council and West Mercia Constabulary
- **Street cleaning** in the town centre
- Providing **free advice** for residents through the **Citizens Advice Bureaux**
- **Supporting Civic life:** Mayor, Town Crier and special events
- Commenting on **planning applications** and representing the town by responding to consultations

¹ *This rate is for a Band D dwelling. 78% of Leominster's dwellings are rated Band A to C and so pay less than this.

- Running the 427 **bus service** from Stoke Prior, in partnership with neighbouring local parishes
- **Leominster in Bloom**: watering and maintaining parts of the annual display, investment in open spaces,
- **Lengthsman scheme** for minor road repairs: Manage and contribute to this highway maintenance scheme
- **The P3 Footpath Maintenance Scheme**: Strimming footpaths, repairing and replacing stiles and general maintenance

2017/18 Highlights

- Consolidating our staff and services at 11 Corn Square. This purchase enabled us to sell the former West Street offices and end the lease on the old Tourist Information Centre, saving considerably on overheads
- Gold for Leominster in Bloom! This splendid joint effort was supported by Leominster Town Council and many businesses across the town
- CAB services, funded by Leominster Town Council, helped local people claim over 43K of benefits they were entitled to in the first 6 months of this year. Free telephone and advice and appointments are available.
- 6 month bus figures
- Food Fair- record visitor numbers for the TIC! Over 1,600 visitors in just one day.
- A major upgrade for Sydonia play area is scheduled for the first quarter of 2018
- Providing accommodation for two local voluntary organisations at Corn Square

Plans for 2018/19 include:

- Upgrading the play equipment and developing a Master Plan for the Grange (subject to funding applications), including a full consultation with residents and visitors
- Youth service development and provision with partners including Vennture and West Mercia Constabulary
- Interpretation and signage throughout the centre of Leominster
- Development of new and existing Town Trails
- Hosting the Herefordshire Armed Forces Day in Leominster
- The 100th anniversary commemorations of the end of the First World War

The Town Council gets funding in three ways:-

- Precept (council tax) levied on all households
- Income generated by services such as allotments, market pitches, office rents and events
- Applications for funding from grants and external funding sources
- Donations

The Town Council is committed to managing public funds prudently so that it can:-

- Continue to provide good quality services valued by the town
- Keep appropriate reserves in a period of volatility
- Keep equipment in good order
- Keep public areas well maintained and in good order
- Invest in and support local organisations
- Support and encourage economic growth
- Improve the quality of life for residents, visitors and workers

But there are many **financial pressures** to deal with, including:-

- Inflation
- Withdrawal of the lengthsman grant previously paid by Herefordshire Council to help with minor road repairs
- Transfer of additional services valued by Leominster residents to the Town Council from Herefordshire Council
- Ongoing reductions in overall provision of services by the county due to reductions to their budgets

Initial work on the budget suggests that, as a result of these pressures, the precept for Leominster households will rise by approximately 20 pence per week to a total of around £2.50 per week for a Band D dwelling.

Keeping in touch

You will find more information on our budgets, business plan and services we provide on our website.

All Town Council meetings are open to members of the public, who are entitled to ask questions at the start of the meeting.

Please send your input on our budget consultation to townclerk@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk by **Friday 17th November 2017**

What you can do to help Leominster thrive

Volunteer with local organisations, shop in local shops, support local events, invite your family and friends to visit.