

Council Tax rise of 4.95%

In recognition of the demand pressures faced by local government, authorities have been given increased flexibility in 2018/19 to raise the core element of the council tax by a further 1% before a referendum is required. The County's budget for 2018/19 has used this flexibility in addition to a general rise of 1.95%.

In addition the County Council has taken up the offer from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (outlined below) to charge an additional precept to meet the expenditure on adult social care. For 2018/19, this has been set at 2% and will be solely used to fund the pressures faced within this area.

As a result of both the 2.95% core increase and the 2.0% levy for adult social care the overall increase in the 2018/19 council tax is 4.95%.

Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government offer:

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax for the financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this "precept" at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019/20.

In accordance with the Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018, the accumulated Adult Social Care Precept is shown separately on the council tax bill. Details of the calculation are available at www.westsussex.gov.uk

Should you have any questions about the County Council budget please write to:

**Director of Finance, Performance and Procurement
West Sussex County Council
County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RG.
Email: counciltax@westsussex.gov.uk
or phone 01243 777100.**

Further details on the West Sussex Plan and the County's 2018/19 budget are available at www.westsussex.gov.uk

Charges per Council Tax Band

The 2018/19 County Council charges per band are shown below.

There will also be charges from your district or borough council, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and your town or parish council (if you have one). Please see your bill for your final council tax figures.

Band	Property value (as of April 1991)	County Council charge 2018/19
A	Up to £40,000	£878.52
B	£40,000 to £52,000	£1,024.94
C	£52,000 to £68,000	£1,171.36
D	£68,000 to £88,000	£1,317.78
E	£88,000 to £120,000	£1,610.62
F	£120,000 to £160,000	£1,903.46
G	£160,000 to £320,000	£2,196.30
H	Over £320,000	£2,635.56

The council tax you pay is based on the value of your house in 1991. If you have any questions about your banding please contact the Valuation Office Agency at 1 Ruskin Square, Dingwall Road, Croydon, CR0 2WF or phone 03000 501501.

YOUR COUNCIL TAX 2018/19

Your money and how we spend it



As your County Council you trust us to look after you. We are there to keep your families and children safe and educated, to look after you in your later years, to help you stay independent for longer. We provide a fire and rescue

service that is there for you in an emergency and work hard to prevent emergencies happening. You expect, rightly, that we will support your businesses and your local economy and continue to develop and grow West Sussex to help it stay a county that you are proud to live and work in. We have published our West Sussex Plan which sets out our priorities for the next five years. In order to ensure we honour those commitments, we need our services to have the right financial support.

In everything we do we make sure we deliver best value for money. We have made nearly £17m savings this year and almost £200m since 2010.

We are making strong representations to central government about our funding challenge and the need for reform.

Despite these savings it is with a heavy heart we have taken the extremely difficult decision to raise council tax by 4.95 per cent. This includes making use of central government's option allowing local authorities to raise council tax by an extra 1 per cent. The 4.95 per cent rise is the equivalent of an additional £1.20p per week for the average Band D council tax payer. Two per cent of that rise will be ring-fenced for adult social care. This is a decision based on the growing need for our older population and a rise in the cost of making sure those people receive the care, support and protection they need.

I am sorry we have had to make this decision but I promise you we will continue to use every penny carefully to give you the services you deserve.

Thanks again for your support.

Louise Goldsmith
Leader, West Sussex County Council

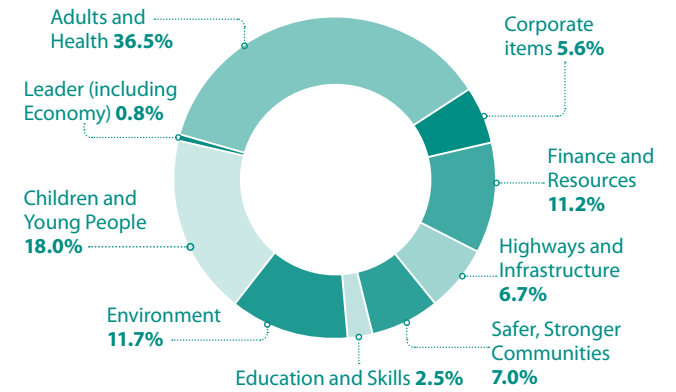
Planned spending in 2018/19

Our budget

	2017/18 Total £m	2018/19 Total £m
SERVICES		
• Adults and Health	188.1	194.8
• Children and Young People	93.5	95.8
• Education and Skills	14.7	13.7
• Environment	59.4	62.7
• Finance and Resources*	62.0	59.7
• Highways and Infrastructure	37.9	35.6
• Leader (including Economy)	4.3	4.2
• Safer, Stronger Communities (including Fire and Rescue Service)	37.3	37.3
Spending on services	497.2	503.8
CORPORATE ITEMS		
• Capital financing	30.8	29.7
• Contingency	3.2	3.6
• Interest receipts	-1.6	-1.9
• Contribution to reserves and balances	0.2	-1.3
• HM Revenue and Customs	0.5	0.0
Budget requirement	530.3	533.9
The money comes from:		
• Business Rates	-75.9	-78.3
• Revenue Support Grant	-27.7	-12.1
• Business Rate Cap Grant	-2.3	-3.8
• School Improvement Monitoring Grant	-0.4	0.0
• Collection Fund surplus	-2.3	-3.6
• Education Services Grant	-2.2	0.0
• New Homes Bonus Grant	-5.0	-4.1
• Transitional Grant	-6.3	0.0
• Adult Social Care Grant	-3.3	0.0
Council Tax requirement	404.9	432.0
• Tax base (Band D equivalent)	322,446	327,810
Band D Council Tax	£1,255⁵⁹	£1,317⁷⁸

* This includes levies for Flood Defence (£0.317m), Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (£0.344m), Chichester Harbour Conservancy (£0.194m) and Littlehampton Harbour Board (£0.105m).

How we spend your money



How spending has changed

In total we expect to spend a gross amount of £1,381.6m on all services compared with £1,363.1m in 2017/18. Towards this we expect to receive £700.8m in specific grants from Government and £146.9m from income and charges for services. Allowing for this, the net budget is £533.9m (0.7% more than last year on a like-with-like basis). The Council Tax requirement has changed from £404.9m to £432.0m as a result of a 4.95% rise, the increasing number of households, unavoidable spending pressures and reduced Government funding.

	Total £m
2017/18 budget	530.3
• Change in central government funding arrangements	-3.3
• Inflation – non-schools services	7.5
• Adult social care increased need	14.8
• Capital financing adjustments	-1.1
• Other commitments/service improvements	2.5
• Transfers from reserves	1.9
• Efficiency and other savings	-18.7
2018/19 budget total	533.9