

Increase for 2019/20

Last year the Local Government Finance settlement introduced a new flexibility permitting an extra 1% core council tax rise before a referendum is required. This flexibility has been renewed for 2019/20 and allows an increase of up to 2.99%, and recognises the demand pressures faced by local government.

A further increase of 2% has also been permitted following the offer from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government outlined below, to charge an additional precept to cover spending on adult social care. The funding generated cannot be used for any other area of the County Council's spending.

As a result of both the 2.99% core increase and the 2.0% levy for adult social care, the overall increase in the 2019/20 council tax is 4.99%.

Offer from Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

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 2019, the Adult Social Care Precept is shown separately on the council tax bill and combines the amounts charged in 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20. Details of the calculation are available at www.westsussex.gov.uk

Charges per Council Tax Band

The 2019/20 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 2019/20
A	Up to £40,000	£922.38
B	£40,000 to £52,000	£1,076.11
C	£52,000 to £68,000	£1,229.84
D	£68,000 to £88,000	£1,383.57
E	£88,000 to £120,000	£1,691.03
F	£120,000 to £160,000	£1,998.49
G	£160,000 to £320,000	£2,305.95
H	Over £320,000	£2,767.14

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.

If 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 2019/20 budget are available at:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/budget

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YOUR COUNCIL TAX 2019/20

Your money and how we spend it





As your County Council we are there to provide vital services to support you, your family and loved ones in every stage of your life.

We are there to make sure your children have access to a good

education. We are there to make sure when you get older we help you stay independent for longer and support you when you need it. We provide a fire service to protect you in an emergency and work hard to prevent emergencies from happening. We are there to lead the way in providing renewable energy, to help you recycle more so that we do everything we can to protect the environment. You expect, rightly, that we will support your businesses and your local economy. Our West Sussex Plan has been developed to support an improved quality of life for all of our residents. In order to meet these commitments we need the right financial support.

Local government faces a significant financial challenge. We have lost £145m of central government funding since 2010 but at the same time demand for our key services is increasing. We have saved more than £200m over the last nine years and have identified £23.4m savings for 2019/20 alone.

Despite making good progress in identifying these savings, we have taken the extremely difficult decision to raise council tax by 4.99 per cent. It is equivalent to an additional £1.27 per week for the average Band D household. Two per cent of the increase will be invested in our adult social care services. It will support the growing needs of our older population, making sure they receive the care and support they need. The remaining income will fund our other services so that we can continue to make West Sussex a place where you are proud to live and work.

We will continue to use every penny carefully to give you the services you deserve. Thanks for your support.

Louise Goldsmith
Leader, West Sussex County Council

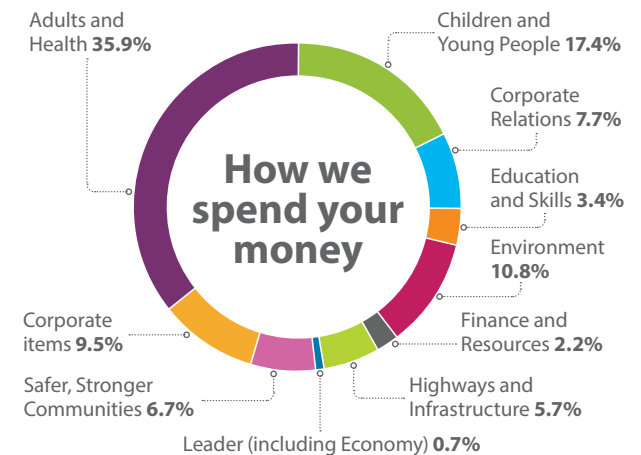
Planned spending in 2019/20

Our budget

	2018/19 Total £m	2019/20 Total £m
SERVICES		
Adults and Health	194.8	206.4
Children and Young People	95.8	100.2
Corporate Relations	44.4	44.5
Education and Skills (excluding schools)	13.7	19.8
Environment (including Waste)	63.4	62.0
Finance and Resources*	15.6	12.8
Highways and Infrastructure	34.9	32.9
Leader (including Economy)	3.9	4.0
Safer, Stronger Communities (including Fire and Rescue Service)	37.3	38.4
Spending on services	503.8	521.0
CORPORATE ITEMS		
Capital financing	29.7	29.7
Contingency	3.6	3.4
Interest receipts	-1.9	-2.5
Contribution to reserves and balances	-1.3	23.9
Budget requirement	533.9	575.5
The money comes from:		
Business Rates Retention Scheme – County Council	-82.1	-85.2
Business Rates – gains from 75% Pilot†	0.0	-19.1
Revenue Support Grant	-12.1	0.0
Collection Fund surplus	-3.6	-2.0
New Homes Bonus Grant	-4.1	-4.0
Social Care Support Grant	0.0	-5.3
Council tax requirement	432.0	459.9
Tax base (Band D equivalent)	327,810	332,431
Band D Council tax	£1,317⁷⁸	£1,383⁵⁷

* This includes levies for Flood Defence (£0.319m), Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (£0.312m), Chichester Harbour Conservancy (£0.198m) and Littlehampton Harbour Board (£0.147m).

† For 2019/20 West Sussex County Council and the Districts and Boroughs have been accepted as a pilot area for 75% business rate retention. The anticipated net gain of £19m will be invested jointly on project work with economic benefit. It is reflected in the County's budget as lead authority.



How spending has changed

In total we expect to spend a gross amount of £1,454.4m on all services compared with £1,381.6m in 2018/19. Towards this we expect to receive £725.7m in specific grants from Government and £153.2m from income and charges for services. Allowing for this, the net budget is £575.5m (7.8% more when compared to last year.). The Council tax requirement has changed from £432.0m to £459.9m as a result of a 4.99% rise, the increasing number of households, unavoidable spending pressures and reduced Government funding.

	Total £m
2018/19 budget total	533.9
Additional costs resulting from change in central government funding arrangements	0.9
Inflation – non-schools services	7.9
Adult social care increased need	15.6
Other commitments/service improvements	15.4
Movement in reserves	25.2
Efficiency and other savings	-23.4
2019/20 budget total	575.5