

YOUR COUNCIL TAX 2020/21

Your money and
how we spend it





As the Leader of West Sussex County Council I do not underestimate how important it is that we carefully consider every penny we spend. I also don't underestimate the impact when we ask you, our residents, to contribute through council tax.

It is an immense privilege to be able to call myself leader of this County Council.

We provide 80 per cent of the council services that support you. We are there when our residents are born right through to supporting you in later life. We are responsible for many of the roads you drive on, for keeping you safe with our fire service and making sure your waste is disposed of.

Local government has never been under more pressure financially and, rightly so, the expectations of us are high.

In order to deliver the services you value this year council tax will rise by 3.99%. Of that increase 2% is ring fenced for investment in our adult social care services, supporting the growing needs of our older population providing the care and support they need. The 1.99% will be used to support the wide range of services we provide to help West Sussex continue to be a place you can be proud to work and live.

The increase is the equivalent to an additional £1.06 per week for the average Band D household.

I promise to continue to act as a guardian of your services and money to make sure we offer you the high quality services you need and deserve.

Thank you for your support.

Paul Marshall

Leader of West Sussex County Council

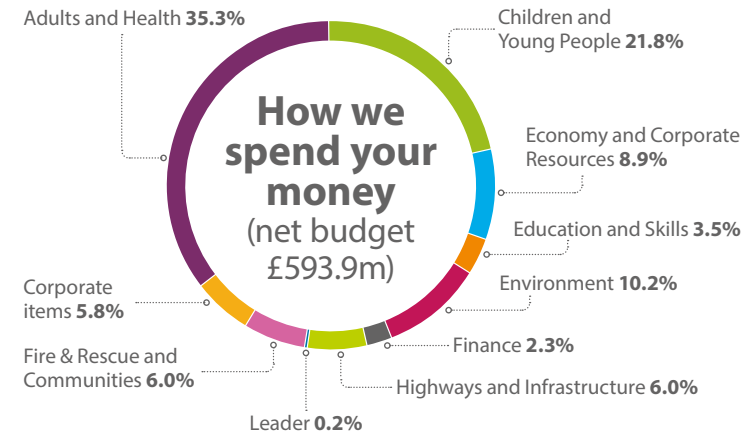
Planned spending in 2020/21

Our budget

	2019/20 Total £m	2020/21 Total £m
SERVICES		
Adults and Health	206.4	209.4
Children and Young People	101.1	129.6
Economy and Corporate Resources	48.7	52.8
Education and Skills	19.8	20.8
Environment	63.1	60.4
Finance*	12.6	13.9
Fire & Rescue and Communities	35.0	35.7
Highways and Infrastructure	32.9	35.4
Leader	1.4	1.5
Spending on services	521.0	559.5
CORPORATE ITEMS		
Capital financing	29.7	31.6
Contingency	3.4	6.8
Interest receipts	-2.5	-3.0
Contribution to reserves and balances	23.9	-1.0
Budget requirement	575.5	593.9
The money comes from:		
Business Rates Retention Scheme – County Council	-85.2	-85.1
Business Rates – gains from 75% Pilot [†]	-19.1	0.0
Collection Fund surplus	-2.0	-2.0
New Homes Bonus Grant	-4.0	-3.7
Social Care Support Grant	-5.3	-17.4
Council tax requirement	459.9	485.7
Tax base (Band D equivalent)	332,431	337,581
Band D Council tax	£1,383⁵⁷	£1,438⁷⁴

* This includes levies for Flood Defence (£0.333m), Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (£0.320m), Chichester Harbour Conservancy (£0.201m) and Littlehampton Harbour Board (£0.150m).

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



How spending has changed

In total we expect to spend a gross amount of £1,544.1m on all services compared with £1,454.4m in 2019/20. Towards this we expect to receive £173.6m in income and charges for services and £776.6m in government grants, of which £635.9m relates to the Dedicated Schools Grant which is ring-fenced for schools. Allowing for this, the net budget is £593.9m (3.2% more when compared to last year).

The Council tax requirement has changed from £459.9m to £485.7m as a result of a 3.99% rise, the increasing number of households and unavoidable spending pressures.

	Total £m
2019/20 budget total	575.5
Inflation – non-schools services	7.5
Adult social care increased need	10.3
Other commitments/service improvements	44.0
Movement in reserves	-25.0
Efficiency and other savings	-18.4
2020/21 budget total	593.9

Council tax increase of 3.99%

The County Council's element of your council tax will increase by 3.99% in 2020/21, which for an average Band D household is equivalent to an additional £1.06 per week.

The increase is made up of a rise of 1.99% for the county's core element of the council tax, plus 2.0% specifically for adult social care as per the offer from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government outlined below.

The total increase of 3.99% is within the maximum permissible before a local referendum is required.

In accordance with the Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, the Adult Social Care Precept is detailed separately on the council tax bill and shows the amount charged since the precept was introduced in 2016/17. Details of the calculation are available at www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budgets

Offer from Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government renewed for 2020/21

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government 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 was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016/17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019/20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

Charges per Council Tax Band

The 2020/21 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 2020/21
A	Up to £40,000	£959.16
B	£40,000 to £52,000	£1,119.02
C	£52,000 to £68,000	£1,278.88
D	£68,000 to £88,000	£1,438.74
E	£88,000 to £120,000	£1,758.46
F	£120,000 to £160,000	£2,078.18
G	£160,000 to £320,000	£2,397.90
H	Over £320,000	£2,877.48

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 www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band or phone 03000 501501.

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

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

Further details on the County's 2020/21 budget are available at:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budgets