

YOUR COUNCIL TAX 2021/22



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Introduction

Paul Marshall

Leader of West Sussex County Council



We have agreed a financially sound budget that will deliver council services across the county for the year ahead.

Since I wrote to you about last year's budget, the world has seen unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic. At the same time, pressure on council resources has increased due to growing demand, especially for key services such as adult and children's social care.

We will continue to provide support during the pandemic as we look towards a brighter future. We have looked carefully at our spending to see where we can both modernise while supporting the most vulnerable in our society.

Included in this year's budget is additional day-to-day funding for adults and children's social care, extra investment in highways, and funds to address the challenges of climate change.

To guide us on our future path, the County Council has agreed a new four-year framework Reset Plan. The plan provides clear direction of where we need to focus our resources and sets out our key priority outcomes.

We have now set the council's element of the annual Council Tax, which is how we all contribute towards our vital services.

This year the rise in council tax will be 1.99% – plus an additional 3% for adult social care – making a total increase of 4.99%.

This puts the County Council element of an average band D council tax bill at £1,510.56. This is an increase of £1.38 per week compared to last year's bill.

We are committed to making sure the right services are in place for the good of our county and support is available for residents in need.

Thank you.

Our budget

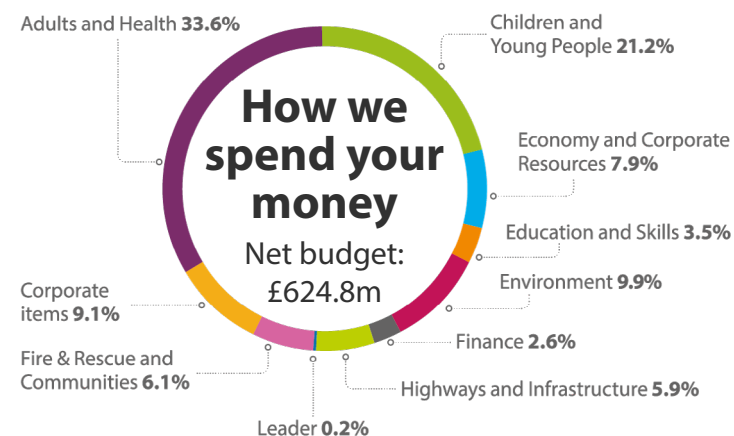
| SERVICES | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Total £m | Total £m |
| Adults and Health | 209.4 | 210.0 |
| Children and Young People | 129.6 | 132.6 |
| Economy and Corporate Resources | 52.8 | 49.3 |
| Education and Skills | 20.8 | 21.8 |
| Environment | 60.4 | 62.1 |
| Finance* | 13.9 | 15.8 |
| Fire & Rescue and Communities | 35.7 | 38.0 |
| Highways and Infrastructure | 35.4 | 36.6 |
| Leader | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Spending on services | 559.5 | 567.7 |

* This includes levies for Flood Defence (£0.335m), Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (£0.323m), Chichester Harbour Conservancy (£0.202m) and Littlehampton Harbour Board (£0.161m).

| CORPORATE ITEMS | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Total £m | Total £m |
| Capital financing | 31.6 | 31.4 |
| Contingency | 6.8 | 8.6 |
| Interest receipts | -3.0 | -3.0 |
| Contribution to reserves and balances | -1.0 | 20.1 |
| Budget requirement | 593.9 | 624.8 |

| THE MONEY COMES FROM: | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Total £m | Total £m |
| Business Rates Retention Scheme | -85.1 | -79.3 |
| Collection Fund Surplus (-)/Deficit | -2.0 | 6.7 |
| New Homes Bonus Grant | -3.7 | -2.3 |
| Social Care Support Grant | -17.4 | -18.2 |
| COVID-19 Expenditure Pressures Grant | - | -15.6 |
| Local Council Tax Support Grant | - | -6.6 |
| Council tax requirement | 485.7 | 509.5 |

| COUNCIL TAX ILLUSTRATION | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Tax base (Band D equivalent) | 337,581 | 337,276 |
| Band D Council tax | £1,438.74 | £1,510.56 |



How spending has changed

In total we expect to spend a gross amount of £1,628.5m on all services compared with £1,544.1m in 2020/21. Towards this we expect to receive £185.2m in income and charges for services and £818.5m in government grants, of which £693m relates to the Dedicated Schools Grant which is ring-fenced for schools. Allowing for this, the net budget is £624.8m (5.2% more when compared to last year).

| HOW SPENDING HAS CHANGED | Total £m |
|--|--------------|
| 2020/21 budget total | 593.9 |
| Inflation – non-schools services | 3.5 |
| Other commitments/service improvements | 24.8 |
| Movement in reserves | 21.1 |
| Efficiency and other savings | -18.5 |
| 2021/22 budget total | 624.8 |

An increase for 2021/22 of 4.99%

The County Council's element of your council tax will increase by 4.99% in 2021/22, which for an average Band D household is equivalent to an additional £1.38 per week.

The increase is made up of a rise of 1.99% for the county's core element of the council tax, plus 3.0% 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 4.99% 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 2021/22

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 2021/22 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 2021/22 |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A | Up to £40,000 | £1,007.04 |
| B | £40,000 to £52,000 | £1,174.88 |
| C | £52,000 to £68,000 | £1,342.72 |
| D | £68,000 to £88,000 | £1,510.56 |
| E | £88,000 to £120,000 | £1,846.24 |
| F | £120,000 to £160,000 | £2,181.92 |
| G | £160,000 to £320,000 | £2,517.60 |
| H | Over £320,000 | £3,021.12 |

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 2021/22 budget are available at:
www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budgets