

2017/2018

# Council tax and spending explained

# A message from Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Leader, Warwickshire County Council



## **It is my pleasure to introduce the council tax leaflet for 2017/18.**

It contains details of how we spend the money available to us in order to improve the quality of life for residents and to provide the services that enable everybody, from toddlers to older people, to safely go about their daily lives.

This doesn't seem to get any easier from one year to the next as we continue to face decreasing resources. Last year, I spoke about the fact that we were in the third year of the One Organisational Plan for 2014-18 which would see us have to make savings of £92million in that period.

The new One Organisational Plan which takes us up to 2020, underpins how the county council will continue to transform to meet the changing needs of our communities. We are doing so while having to make an additional £67million in savings by 2020.

Clearly, we have many challenges. Alongside the reduction in government grants, our population is living longer and that puts increased pressure on our budget for adult social care with more people than ever needing packages of care.

You will see that the county council's share of council tax has risen by 3.99%. This comprises a basic 1.99% rise as well as an additional 2% increase that the government has allowed us to introduce but which must be ring-fenced to fund social care. Like many councils, we have taken this option and so for a Band D property, the annual Council Tax bill is now £1,298.88, an increase of £0.96 per week on 2016/2017's bill.

We need that extra money to help us cope with the ongoing pressures but we are also looking at ways that we can make that money go further. We will continue to support our most vulnerable residents and, by working with our partners in Health and in the community, we will look at ways that people can be supported to help themselves and remain independent for longer. Of course, this would help us to reduce our spending on social care but this approach can also bring very real benefits for the quality of life of our customers.

So we face challenges. But we are also looking at many opportunities. The county council will remain committed to encouraging economic growth and we will continue to build a transport infrastructure to enable that. We will strive to create superfast broadband across the county so that all areas, even those in some of our more rural areas, can enjoy the benefits of being connected to the online world.

And we will continue to build for the future with our programme of schools development to ensure that our children have the best possible start in life.

So where does all that leave us? Over the following pages you will see a comprehensive breakdown of where we will be spending your money and how we will maintain our commitment to work to keep residents safe, independent and healthy while supporting an economy that has effective transport networks, jobs and opportunities to learn new skills.

Like all regions in the country, we are having to look at ways of doing things differently and more efficiently but I remain confident that we are rising to the challenge and that Warwickshire will remain a great place to live, learn and do business.

## Where the money comes from

In 2017/2018, our total day-to-day spending on services (before we receive any income) is £731.8 million. We are spending £4.1 million more than last year, when we spent £727.7 million.

The money we spend comes from central government and local income. The table below shows our current funding.

Central government	2017/2018 £ millions	Change £ millions
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Revenue Support Grant	20.4	-17.1
Specific Government grants	304.0	12.1
Business rates	62.3	3.2

### Local income

Council tax	256.2	15.0
Extra council tax collected from previous years	2.0	-0.6
Fees and charges	76.3	2.4
Use of reserves	10.6	-10.9
<b>Total service costs</b>	<b>731.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>

## How our spending has changed

### Planned Spending last year 2016/2017

£ millions

**340.4**

#### Add:

Inflation	7.2
Spending Pressures	12.3
Other one off changes	3.3

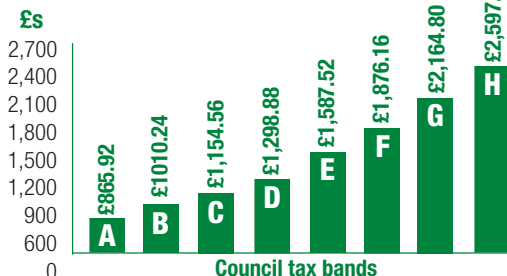
#### Less:

Savings	-33.3
Change in the use of reserves	10.9

**Planned Spending for 2017/2018 340.8**

## Council tax

The chart below shows our council tax for properties in each valuation band.



## How many staff we employ

Last year  
2016/2017



**3,912**

This year  
2017/2018



**3,795**

Change in  
number of staff



**-117**

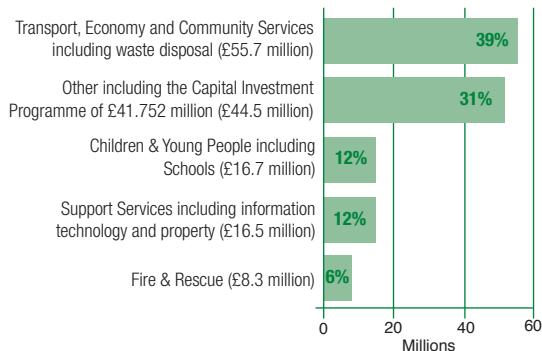
These figures do not include staff in schools. Staff numbers have reduced because we are continuing to change the way we deliver our services to make them more efficient. We will be employing fewer staff to run our services.

These figures are based on the estimated number of full-time equivalent staff (for example, if two people share one job and both work part-time, they are counted as one full-time staff member).

## Capital spending

Apart from our day-to-day costs, we also spend money on land, buildings, new roads, major maintenance work and vehicles.

The chart below shows our planned capital spending of £141.630 million in 2017/2018.



## How the money is spent

	2016/2017	2017/2018		SPENDING	
	Spending after income £ millions	Spending before income £ millions	Income £ millions	Spending after income £ millions	Cost for each person £
Children & Young People including Schools	68.1	339.3	-264.9	74.4	132.4
Adult Social Care	115.9	160.2	-39.0	121.2	215.8
Resources and Support Services	42.4	51.7	-13.1	38.7	68.8
Community Services	26.7	32.6	-6.6	26.0	46.3
Public Health and Commissioning	14.9	38.4	-28.1	10.3	18.4
Transport and Economy	30.5	44.2	-17.1	27.1	48.2
Fire and Rescue	19.1	18.6	-0.2	18.5	32.9
Other Services	44.2	46.6	-11.4	35.3	62.8
<b>Service costs</b>	<b>362.0</b>	<b>731.8</b>	<b>-380.3</b>	<b>351.5</b>	<b>625.7</b>
Money taken from or put into our savings	-21.5	-10.6		-10.6	-18.9
<b>Our budget</b>	<b>340.4</b>	<b>721.2</b>	<b>-380.3</b>	<b>340.8</b>	<b>606.8</b>
<b>Less money from the Government:</b>					
Revenue support grant	-37.5			-20.4	-36.3
Business rates	-59.1			-62.3	-110.9
Extra council tax collection from previous years	-2.6			-2.0	-3.5
<b>Amount we will raise from the council tax (£ million)</b>	<b>241.2</b>			<b>256.2</b>	<b>456.1</b>
<b>Tax base</b>	<b>193,146.3</b>			<b>197,226.9</b>	
<b>Band - D council tax (£)</b>	<b>£1,249.02</b>			<b>£1,298.88</b>	

## Notes:

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

'Other services' includes financing, banking and managing money and insurance.

We estimate that in 2017/2018, 561,700 people will be living in Warwickshire.

The Council has decided to levy an additional 2% Council Tax to contribute to the funding of the additional costs facing adult social care, as allowed by the government.

The additional 2% Adult Social Care levy will raise £9.638 million, including the amount raised by the 2% levy raised in 2016/17.

The funds will be used to help address the following financial pressures within adult social care:

- Meeting the needs of the increasing number of older people within Warwickshire and their increasing need in support.
- Addressing the essential funding needed in Warwickshire's local social care workforce (approx. 7,000 staff), both private and public sector, including recognising the pressures of the National Living Wage on contractors.

### **A statement from the Secretary of State**

The Secretary of State for 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 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 the "precept" at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.

### **Useful telephone numbers and websites**

If you have any complaints, comments or suggestions about our services please contact our **Customer Service Centre** on **01926 410410**.

We now provide a wide range of services on our website. For example, you can renew library books, check bus timetables, apply to be a foster parent and apply for copies of birth, marriage or death certificates.

For more information, go to **[www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk)**

Your local borough or district council collects your council tax. They will be able to help you if you have any questions about your bill or about whether you are entitled to Council Tax Benefit.

Warwickshire County Contact: **John Betts** Phone: **01926 412441**

### **This leaflet contains important information.**

If you would like information in another language or format please call **01926 415000**