

2019/2020

Council tax and spending explained

A message from Cllr Izzi Seccombe,

Leader, Warwickshire County Council

Dear resident

Welcome once again to Warwickshire County Council's council tax booklet for 2019/20. In it, we set out details of how the county council spends the money available to us in order to make Warwickshire the best it can be for everyone, including our residents of all ages, our businesses and the many visitors who come to the county each year.



We have a very clear idea of what we want to do and how we will do it. Our priorities continue to be to protect our most vulnerable residents while maintaining a strong and vibrant economy where there are many opportunities for employment in a wide range of industries.

As you know, we are facing a very serious financial challenge with reduced funding, a growing population and also an ageing population with people living longer but often in ill health in their later years. This has necessitated a change in our thinking about our business. We are seeking strong partnerships to help us to provide the very best and most resilient support, sharing information and resources where possible but reducing duplication to make what we all have go that bit further.

You will see that the county council's share of council tax has risen by 5%. This comprises a basic 3% rise as well as an additional 2% increase that the government allows us to levy in order to help us to fund social care. Like many councils, we have taken the government's option. The annual Council Tax bill is now £1,431.81 for a Band D property in 2019/20, an increase of £1.31 per week on last year's bill.

It is always very difficult when we have to decide between reducing services or increasing council tax. We do not like to increase the amount that our residents have to pay but it is necessary if we are to continue not only to care for the people living in Warwickshire but also to make sure that the county continues to move forward and be a great place to live and to do business.

Communities are key to how effectively we can respond to the challenges facing us so we are also looking at how we can enable them to be stronger and as independent as possible. With that in mind, I am going to take this opportunity to set you all a challenge which I very much hope you will accept.

2019 is the Year of Wellbeing in Coventry and Warwickshire. This is an opportunity for everyone to do something extra that will make you feel better and be more active.

Please join us on our journey towards health and wellbeing this year. Doing small things to improve your own day, or that of others in your community, can make a huge difference, not only in your own lives but that of the people in your communities.

Here is just a very small sample of some of the pledges that have been made; it doesn't need to be an enormous change. Our vision is to inspire everyone to recognise, celebrate and improve wellbeing. Some of our residents are doing that by "Doing the daily mile", "Reading more and sleeping more", Taking time to make healthy lunches" and "Encouraging others to be healthier."

I hope that you find it can make a really positive difference to your, or that of someone in your community's, wellbeing. By taking small steps together, we can really make a difference. Please go to www.bettercarecovworks.org.uk/year-of-wellbeing-2019 and see how you can be inspired. Or inspire. Whatever you may do, I wish you all the best for the coming year.

Where the money comes from

In 2019/20, our total day-to-day spending on services (before we receive any income) is £619.3 million. We are spending £40.1 million more than last year, when we budgeted to spend £579.2 million.

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

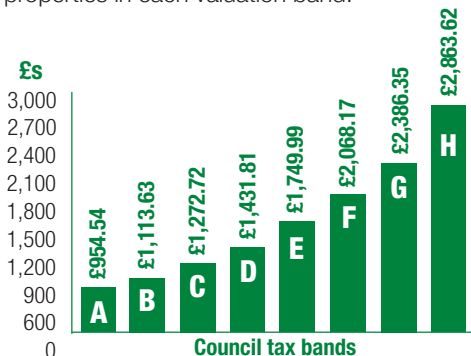
	2019/20 £ millions	Change £ millions	2018/19 £ millions
Central government			
Revenue Support Grant	0.0	-9.7	9.7
Specific government grants	153.7	15.6	138.1
Business rates	67.8	2.5	65.3
Local income			
Council tax	296.9	21.6	275.3
Extra council tax collected from previous years	1.5	-0.6	2.1
Other Contributions, fees and charges	92.7	18.0	74.7
Use of reserves	6.7	-7.3	14.0
Total service costs	619.3	40.1	579.2

How our spending has changed

	Gross Expenditure £ millions	Gross Income £ millions	Net Expenditure £ millions
Planned Spending last year 2018/19	579.2	-212.8	366.4
Inflation	14.6	-1.6	13.0
Adult Social Care Change	9.1	-8.0	1.1
Childrens Social Care Change	8.0	-6.9	1.1
Education Change	7.3	-6.0	1.3
Other Changes	1.1	-11.1	-10.0
Planned Spending for 2019/20	619.3	-246.4	372.9
Change	40.1	-33.6	6.5

Council tax

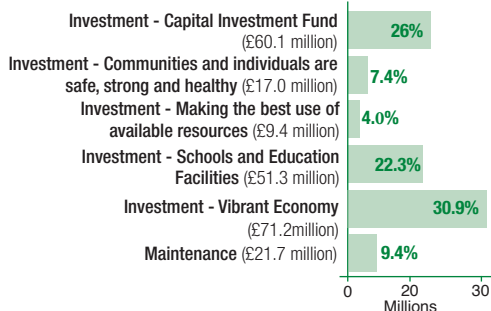
The chart below shows our council tax for properties in each valuation band.



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 £230.6 million in 2019/20.



How the money is spent

	2018/19	2019/20		2019/20	
	Spending after income £ millions	Spending before income £ millions	Income £ millions	Spending after income £ millions	Cost for each person £
Communities Directorate					
Education Services	22.8	113.9	-89.2	24.7	43.8
Environment Services	44.4	55.8	-11.9	43.9	77.7
Fire & Rescue	19.1	20.5	-0.2	20.3	35.9
Strategic Commissioner for Communities Directorate	5.4	17.9	-11.9	6.0	10.6
People Directorate					
Adult Social Care	117.5	185.7	-62.1	123.5	218.6
Children & Families	60.5	76.6	-13.6	63.0	111.4
Strategic Commissioner for People Directorate	12.8	43.7	-33.2	10.5	18.6
Resources Directorate					
Business & Customer Services	8.6	10.9	-2.3	8.6	15.3
Commissioning Support Unit	4.3	4.0	-0.6	3.4	6.0
Enabling Services	20.4	25.7	-4.7	21.0	37.1
Finance & ICT	4.2	6.1	-1.9	4.2	7.4
Governance & Policy	3.4	4.5	-2.5	2.1	3.6
Other Services	43.2	54.0	-12.4	41.6	73.6
Service costs	366.4	619.3	-246.4	372.9	659.8
Money taken from (-) or put into our savings	-14.0	-6.7		-6.7	-11.8
Our budget	352.4	612.6	-246.4	366.2	647.9
Less money from the Government					
Revenue support grant	-9.7			0.0	0.0
Business rates	-65.3			-67.8	-120.0
Extra council tax collection from previous years	-2.1			-1.5	-2.6
Amount we will raise from the council tax (£ million)	275.3			296.9	525.3
Tax base	201,880.4			207,376.6	
Band - D council tax (£)	£1,363.68			£1,431.81	

Notes:

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

The council passes on funds received from the Department for Education to schools as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant. These figures have been excluded as they do not affect the council's resources.

2018/19 comparator figures have been adjusted to reflect organisational structure changes

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

We estimate that in 2019/20 565,200 people will be living in Warwickshire.

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.

The Council has decided to levy the 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 in 2019/20 including the amount raised by the 2% levy in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, will raise £21.165 million in 2019/20.

These funds will be used to help the Service with much needed flexibility to manage its resources in the most effective way. The service will focus on the transformation of adult social care pathways, the way we deploy social workers and the enhancement of information and advice to enable people to shape their own solutions.

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 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**

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 Support.

Warwickshire County Contact: **Assistant Director - Finance & ICT**

Phone: **01926 412441**

This leaflet contains important information.

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