

Our priorities for 2017/18

The Council has set four priorities it wants to achieve for our residents and businesses. These are:

Priorities

What this means for residents and businesses

Driving economic growth

- Employment and productivity rates are high throughout the county.
- Businesses are able to thrive in East Sussex and can access the skills and infrastructure they need.
- Thriving East Sussex economic growth sectors.
- All children progress well from early years to school leaver and into education, training or employment.

Keeping vulnerable people safe

- All vulnerable people in East Sussex are known to relevant local agencies and services are delivered together to meet their needs.
- People feel safe at home.
- People feel safe with support services.

Helping people help themselves

- Commissioners and providers from all sectors put people first when providing services and information to help them meet their needs.
- The most vulnerable adults get the support they need to maintain their independence and this is provided at or close to home.
- Individuals and communities are supported and encouraged to be responsible, help others and make the most of community capacity and assets.

Making best use of resources

- Applying strategic commissioning to ensure that resources are directed to meet local need.
- Working as One Council both through the processes we use, and how we work.
- Working in partnership to ensure that all publicly available resources are used to deliver maximum benefits to local people.
- Ensuring we achieve value for money in the services we commission and provide.
- Maximising the funding available through bidding for funding and through lobbying for the best deal for East Sussex.

Our approach for the year ahead

In a difficult financial climate and a continued reduction in government grant, East Sussex County Council has to make savings of around £17m in the new financial year from April; based on current projections, savings of around £50m will be required for 2017/18 to 2019/20. The budget for 2017/18 includes raising council tax by 4.99%, which is £1.20 a week for a Band D property. The increase includes 1.99% to help maintain all the services we provide and 3% to help meet the social care needs of our ageing population (for 2017/18 and 2018/19, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is allowing councils with adult social care responsibilities to increase council tax by 3% a year for these services subject to a maximum of 6% across the three year period 2017/18 to 2019/20¹). In 2017/18 this extra 3% will raise £7.4m to help provide adult social care services in East Sussex.

Total spending in 2017/18 will be £783m, with over two-thirds going to Children's Services and Adult Social Care – which support the county's most vulnerable residents who need particular care and support. This includes children and families, older people, and people with mental health issues or learning disabilities. The budget also provides services everyone may use, such as roads, libraries, community and environmental services.

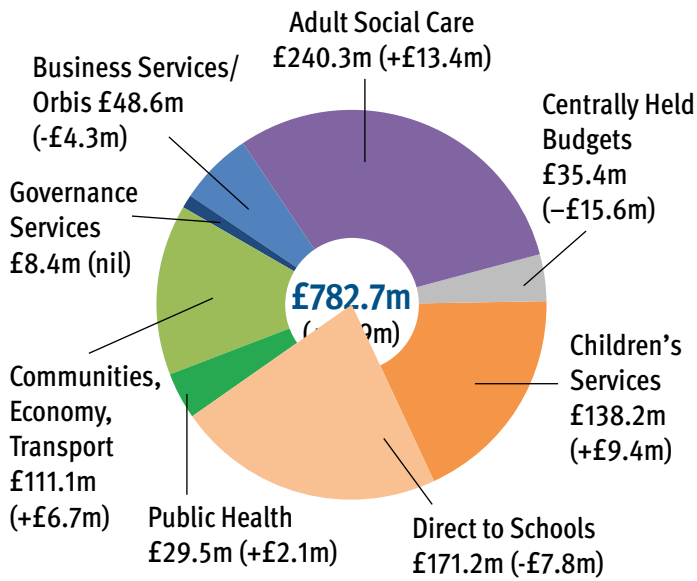
We are also using our capital programme of £514m for 2016-2023 to provide essential services and provide long-term improvements that will deliver our priorities to support the needs of residents.

Services provided

2017/18

How we will spend your money

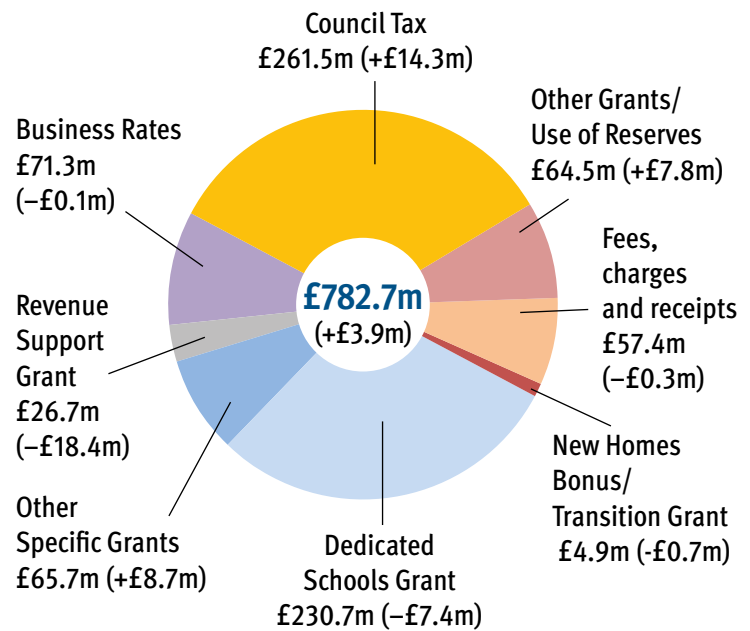
(Difference from 2016/17 shown in brackets)



2017/18

Where the money comes from

(Difference from 2016/17 shown in brackets)



These figures show East Sussex County Council's share of your council tax bill for 2017/18

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Council Tax	£876.24	£1,022.28	£1,168.32	£1,314.36	£1,606.44	£1,898.52	£2,190.60	£2,628.72

Capital Programme 2017/18

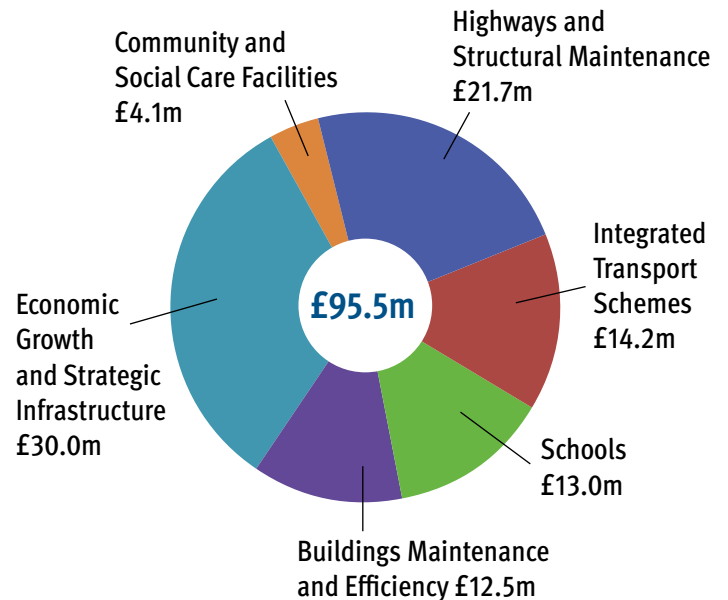
As well as providing services, the Council invests in assets such as roads and buildings. The capital programme sets out the Council's investment plans to support the delivery of the priority outcomes. In 2017/18 gross spend will be £95.5m and includes schemes to support economic growth, provide enough school places, improve roads, social care facilities and libraries; as well as investments to make our buildings more efficient and cheaper to run in the long-term.

You can find out more about the work we will be doing over the next three years in our Council Plan, which will be published on our website by 1 April, along with full details of our budget for the year ahead.

Go to eastsussex.gov.uk/councilplan and eastsussex.gov.uk/finance.

2017/18

Capital expenditure



¹ 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 this "precept" at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.