

Our priorities for 2020/21

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 sustainable economic growth

- Employment and productivity rates are high throughout the county.
- Individuals, communities and business thrive in East Sussex with the environment and infrastructure to meet their needs.
- The workforce has and maintains the skills needed for good quality employment.
- All children progress well from early years to school leaver and into education, training and 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

- Working as One Council, both through the processes we use and how we work across services.
- Working in partnership across the public, voluntary community, and private sectors to ensure that all 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 lobbying for the best deal for East Sussex.
- To help tackle Climate Change East Sussex County Council activities are carbon neutral as soon as possible and in any event by 2050.
- Applying strategic commissioning to ensure that resources are directed to meet local need.

Our approach for the year ahead

Gross spending in 2020/21 will be £831.2 million, with over two-thirds of the total budget going towards Schools, Children's Services and Adult Social Care. This expenditure supports the county's most vulnerable residents who need particular care and support – including older people, people with mental health issues and learning disabilities and children and families, together with schools. The budget for 2020/21 includes raising council tax by 3.99%, which is £1.10 a week for a Band D property. £0.55 goes towards maintaining all of our services, including Children's Services and Adult Social Care, along

with services everyone may use, such as roads, libraries, community and environmental services. In addition there is a £0.55 increase as an Adult Social Care Precept to assist with the Council meeting its expenditure on Adult Social Care (see 'What is the Adult Social Care Precept?' section).

Although this year's budget includes £3.5 million of savings to add to the £134 million of savings we have already made since 2010, careful management has allowed an opportunity for extra spending worth £6.5 million to be made in priority areas, that will help reduce costs in future as well as doing more for residents. [Continued overleaf →](#)

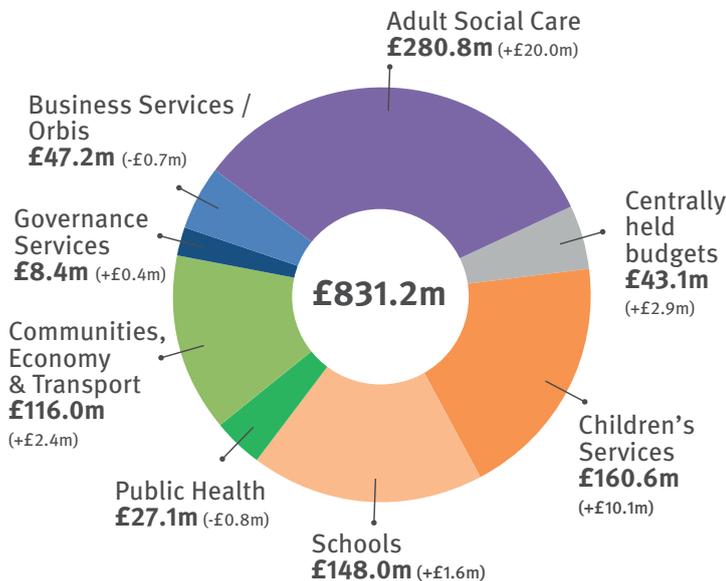
These include:

- an innovative model for helping young people with difficult lives get help which is led by a single keyworker drawing on a range of support services all working together;
- expanding the family-led process of making decisions for children at risk to help them thrive without the need for care or protection proceedings;
- trialling a service to better direct long-term support to people who need housing because they are vulnerable and at risk of homelessness;
- an extra £1 million to be spent on highways – patching surfaces, painting lines and creating dropped kerbs to help personal mobility;
- improving residential homes for children with disabilities.

Services provided

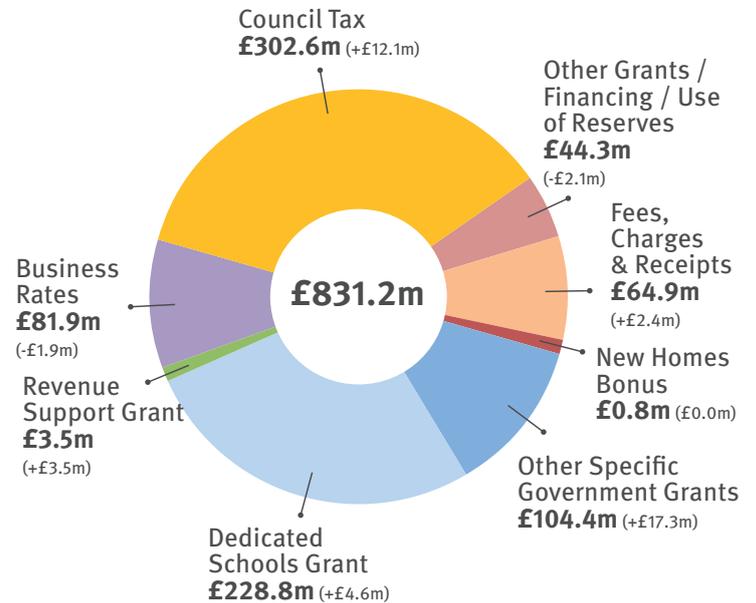
How we will spend your money in 2020/21

(Difference from 2019/20 shown in brackets)



Where the money comes from in 2020/21

(Difference from 2019/20 shown in brackets)

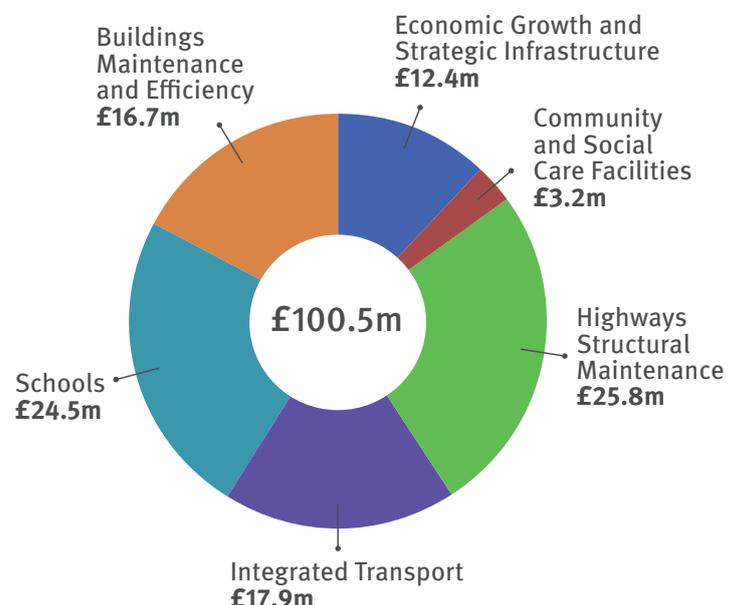


Capital Programme 2020/21

As well as providing services, the Council also uses its capital programme of £317 million for 2019-2023 to provide essential services and provide long-term improvements, including investing in assets such as roads and buildings, that will deliver our priorities to support the needs of residents.

Of the total capital programme, £100.5 million gross is expected to be spent in 2020/21 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.

Capital expenditure in 2020/21



What is the Adult Social Care Precept?

By statute* the Council is required to supply separate information on the Adult Social Care Precept.

The Secretary of State 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.

On 20 December 2019, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government confirmed, subject to the approval of the House of Commons, that Councils would be able to charge a further 2% in 2020/21.

* The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.

Charges per Council Tax Band

Band	Property value (April 1991)	General Expenditure	ASC Precept	Total
A	Up to £40,000	£908.28	£86.40	£994.68
B	£40,001 to £52,000	£1,059.66	£100.80	£1,160.46
C	£52,001 to £68,000	£1,211.04	£115.20	£1,326.24
D	£68,001 to £88,000	£1,362.42	£129.60	£1,492.02
E	£88,001 to £120,000	£1,665.18	£158.40	£1,823.58
F	£120,001 to £160,000	£1,967.94	£187.20	£2,155.14
G	£160,001 to £320,000	£2,270.70	£216.00	£2,486.70
H	Over £320,000	£2,724.84	£259.20	£2,984.04

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 Westmoreland House, Strand Parade, Goring by Sea, BN12 6EA or phone 03000 501501.

Finding out more

Should you have any questions about the budget and our council tax please email finance@eastsussex.gov.uk or phone **0345 60 80 190**.

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.