

Hertfordshire County Council - council tax and budget information 2019/20

Hertfordshire county councillors agreed the council's budget for 2019/20 on 19 February. This year the council has raised its element of council tax by a total of 2.99%. This increase, essential to meet the challenges the council is facing, works out at an extra £0.76 a week for average Band D households.

There are key aims within the budget

1. Delivering and protecting frontline services, including £30 million of additional funding for vital adult and children's social care services.
2. Investment to help us meet the needs of our growing county, including £66 million for local schools this year, and almost £250 million over the next four years, to provide much needed school places.
3. Extra funding in areas that matter most to our residents, including an additional £8 million for our local road network, which makes a total investment of £37 million over five years.
4. Deliver the savings planned in the 2019/20 Integrated Plan.

County council tax for Band D households



Council tax for each valuation band:

These are the amounts collected by each District Council on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council for each valuation band. The total amount of Council Tax you pay can be found on your bill.

Band	2018/19 Council Tax & Adult Social Care Precept	2.99% Increase	2019/20 Council Tax & Adult Social Care Precept
A	£880.31	£26.32	£906.63
B	£1,027.02	£30.71	£1,057.73
C	£1,173.74	£35.10	£1,208.84
D	£1,320.46	£39.48	£1,359.94
E	£1,613.90	£48.25	£1,662.15
F	£1,907.33	£57.03	£1,964.36
G	£2,200.77	£65.80	£2,266.57
H	£2,640.92	£78.96	£2,719.88

Where we spend your money

Your council tax funds a range of local services, including:

- Caring and supporting children, young people and families
- Caring for the elderly and vulnerable and people with disabilities, mental health, drugs or alcohol problems
- Fire and Rescue Service
- Road maintenance and safety
- Co-ordinating bus services and providing home to school transport for children
- Recycling and waste disposal
- Responding to major planning applications – for example, housing and mineral extraction
- Economic development
- Providing libraries, archives and local studies material
- Protecting consumers against poor quality goods and services and upholding fair trading laws
- Community safety (crime / anti-social behaviour reduction initiatives) and emergency planning.

The budget also includes:

- nearly £30 million of additional funding this year for vital adult and children's social care services, of which more than £11million will provide support for our increasing population of adults living with learning disabilities, with a further £4m to deliver joint projects with local NHS organisations;
- funding of some £4 million to ensure that people working in important social care roles contracted by the council are paid over and above the National Living Wage
- significant investment of £330,000 to tackle domestic abuse, through the creation of a new dedicated team
- around £2 million to help us transform our services to best meet the needs of residents now and in the future
- plans to deliver savings of £18.9 million in 2019/20

Medium term financial position

While the Council has agreed a balanced budget for 2019/20, the medium term outlook is extremely challenging. The Council will need to find further savings rising from £50 million in 2020/21 to £90 million in 2022/23. These savings are in addition to those found already, which now amount to nearly £325 million per year (or nearly £2 billion since 2010).

Our budget:

The table below shows the budgeted spend for each service area and the income used to fund this.

2018/19 £m		2019/20 £m
1,901.3	Gross Budget	1,934.3
	Less:	
(957.6)	Ring-fenced Grants (including Schools)	(977.5)
(119.4)	Sales, Fees & Charges	(117.8)
(19.7)	Partner Contributions	(20.3)
0.0	Use of reserves	0.0
804.6	Net Budget	818.7
(142.6)	Business Rates Retention Scheme	(126.0)
(52.3)	Ring-fenced Funding	(59.2)
(14.8)	Non-ringfenced Grants	(21.9)
(11.9)	Collection Fund	(3.6)
583.0	Council Tax Requirement	608.0

The net budget in the table above is allocated to service areas as follows:

2018/19 £m		2019/20 £m
336.8	Adult Care Services	356.4
194.1	Children's Services	197.4
114.7	Roads and Waste	118.0
47.6	Public Health	46.4
38.7	Fire and Community Protection	41.1
53.4	Financing & support for front line services	38.7
12.9	Libraries and other community services	13.5
6.4	Legal & Statutory Services	7.2
804.6	Revenue Budget	818.7

The budget includes contributions the council has to make to the funding of two organisations - the **Lee Valley Regional Park Authority** (£1.07 million) and the **Environment Agency** for flood defence (£0.9 million for the Thames Region and £0.07 million for the Anglian Region).

For more information on our service areas visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/whatwedo

How our gross budget and council tax requirement has changed

The gross budget is how much we spend in total to deliver services and amounts to £1,934.3 million this year, compared with £1,934.9 million for 2018/19. Of this, £959.1 million is for schools.

This year's general council tax requirement (the part of the budget financed from council tax) has increased by £25 million.

The principal reasons for the increase in our budget are:

Cost increases of £49.0 million

- inflation relating to utility bills, business rates, pay and contracts increasing our costs by £10.7million;
- the impact of more people receiving our services meaning we need to spend an extra £10.5 million;
- implementation of the National Living Wage resulting in an increase in costs of £4.2 million; and
- other unavoidable costs including changes in what we are required to do by law giving further spending of £23.6 million.

Cuts of £22.1 million

- A reduction of £16.6 million in core funding from government and business rates; and
- a reduction in specific grant funding from government of £5.5 million.

Provision set aside for investment in:

- £2.0 million to support future 'invest to save' initiatives that require up front funding to help improve service delivery and/or reduce our costs;
- £1 million to meet the anticipated future cost of organisational change; and
- £1.4 million to promote economic growth within the county;

This is partly offset by:

- expenditure which was included in the 2018/19 budget for one year only, has resulted in a reduction in the 2019/20 budget of £20.3 million; and
- some one-off grant funding of £11.4 million.

The County Council has responded to these changes by:

- increasing council tax by 2.99%; and
- finding council savings of £18.9 million, mainly by finding ways to be more efficient, with only £4.0 million of savings being taken from policy decisions affecting frontline services.

Department for Communities and Local Government statement:

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.

Enquiries

Enquiries about payments, rebates or benefits should be made to your **district or borough council**:

District / Borough	Telephone	Email
Broxbourne Borough Council	01992 785577	counciltax@broxbourne.gov.uk
Dacorum Borough Council	01442 228000	council.tax@dacorum.gov.uk
East Hertfordshire District Council	01279 655261	revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk
Hertsmere Borough Council	0208 207 2277 / 020 8207 7407	revenues@hertsmere.gov.uk
North Hertfordshire District Council	01462 474000	service@north-herts.gov.uk
St Albans District Council	01727 819204 / 01727 819205	counciltax@stalbans.gov.uk
Stevenage Borough Council	01438 242875	revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk
Three Rivers District Council	01923 776611	enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk
Watford Borough Council	01923 278466	counciltax@watford.gov.uk
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	01707 357000	c.tax@welhat.gov.uk

If you have an enquiry about **Hertfordshire County Council's** budget or if you would like the information in this leaflet in large print, on tape or in another language, please either:

Visit our website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax

Email: budget@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Call: 0300 123 4040