

Somerset County Council

This year's budget demonstrates our ambition and commitment to meet the needs of our residents, especially our children and young people.

Like all local authorities, our finances are under pressure - our main grant from Central Government is falling by another £10m this year alone. But we are still able to fund our priorities - which are in line with those of our residents – investing in the right things at the right time.

We have committed £316m to spend on services, supported by a 2.99 per cent increase in the County Council's element of Council Tax and a three per cent precept to support vital Adult Social Care services for vulnerable older people.

We have also pledged £218m of capital investment over the next

four years to pay for new school buildings in what is the biggest investment of its kind in generations. It will also contribute to funding for the Yeovil Western Corridor, the replacement of gritters and the Colley Lane Southern Access Road in Bridgwater.

Setting a budget and setting Council Tax is always difficult and it is getting harder. It is never easy to make savings but this is a budget that allows us to carry on providing quality services and protect our care budgets as much as possible.

The next few pages give you more information about how the County Council's part of your Council Tax is spent.



For more information

Visit our website at www.somerset.gov.uk for information on our services, to get involved in consultations, apply for services, make online payments and report problems.

Read our *Your Somerset* newspaper that is delivered to your door three times a year for the latest news, events and community projects that the County Council and its partners are involved in.

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



What we do...

Somerset County Council will spend over **£316m** on services in 2018/19. This money is spent on these services:

Adult
Services
42%



Children's
Services
(excluding
Schools)
21%



Community
Services
18%



Support
Services
12%



Debt
financing
6%



Somerset
Rivers
Authority
0.7%



Public
Health
0.3%



Where the
money goes.



Somerset County Council gets funding from three main sources; **£16m** from the Government's Revenue Support Grant, **£65m** from business rates and **£235m** from Council Tax. That raises a total of **£316m** for our services.

On top of that, we will need to raise a further **£124m** through other sources of income in 2018/19, for example fees and charges, to cover our costs fully.

Where the money
comes from.



In addition, the Council receives a Dedicated Schools Grant of **£216m**, which is passed directly to schools.

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Our funding explained

Our net budget in 2018/19 is **£316m** compared to **£311.7m** in 2017/18.

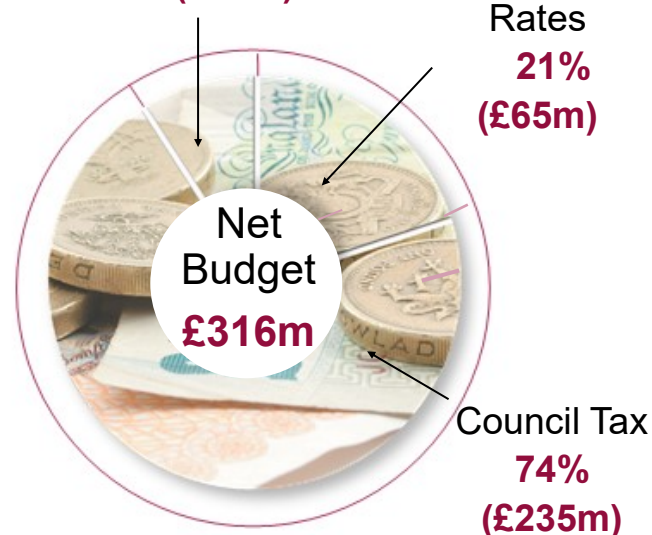
The **£18m** raised through Council Tax and additional Business Rates is significantly outweighed by reductions in grants and added costs. As a result we need to make savings to balance the budget.

£16m raised from
Council Tax increase

£2m received in
additional Business Rates

Government grants
5% (£16m)

Business
Rates
**21%
(£65m)**



£10m reduction in our main
grant from Government.

£11m of added costs
and bills*

*This takes into account things like the additional costs relating to the increase in the National Living Wage (£6.6m), inflation and the increase in Landfill Tax. It also factors in the increased demand on services as more elderly and vulnerable people need our help.

For more information on our accounts:

Read: information on our budget at www.somerset.gov.uk/accounts

Phone: 0300 123 2224

Email: generalenquiries@somerset.gov.uk

Write: Somerset County Council,
County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY

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