

Budget and Council Tax  
**2019/20**

The District Council provides a wide range of services to you, our residents. This includes enabling a strong local economy with sustainable growth, working with our communities and ensuring we are a customer focused and service led council.

In total we will spend over £70m on services in 2019/20 less than 12% of which is funded directly from the Council Tax. The Government gives us 46% and 10% comes from retained business rates. The remaining 32% comes from fees and charges from service users, contributions from other bodies or our reserves. In addition we have a capital programme which totals £8m; which is mainly spent on disabled adaptation grants, improving our leisure centres, maintaining our existing assets e.g. car parks and commercial properties and investing in new assets that will generate future income.

Like all of the public sector, this council has to balance the best level of services with the available money, which means that we get the best value from every £1 we spend. There are pressures on our services from increased life expectancy, population growth, the impact of the national economy but also reduced Central Government funding. The main pressures impacting this council are:-

- Increased demand for homelessness support.
- Reduced income from fees and charges because households have less disposable income and competition, from private sector suppliers, is increasing.
- Reduced Government funding, our non-service specific grants have reduced by 21% in 2019/20 and are likely to reduce by a further 53% in 2020/21 as the Government phases out New Homes Bonus grant and introduces a fair funding regime.

We have been very successful in becoming a more efficient and effective council over the last few years, with the ongoing programme of service restructuring and a shared service programme with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council. We will continue to review all our services to see if we can find ever more innovative ways to deliver them more efficiently so that we can protect front line services.

We have decided that we will increase the District Council element of the Council Tax for the 2019/20 year. Our Council Tax will be £142.16 for a Band D property (£2.73 per week) and even less for the 65% of residents who live in smaller properties and have a lower tax. It is important to remember that even though our Council Tax will rise, this is only about 7.7% of the bill that we send out; it also includes precepts for the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority and your Parish or Town Council. Your bill will also have risen because some of these bodies have increased their element and this will be clearly shown on the bill. Please contact them via the details shown in the leaflet that accompanied your Council Tax bill if your query is about their services or Council Tax level. You can also find their contact details, and those for town or parish councils, on our website at [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/counciltax)

### **More Information**

More information about Huntingdonshire's budget can be found on the Council website at [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or email [paul.loveday@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.loveday@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

### Huntingdonshire District Council 2019/20 Budget Summary

	2018/19	2019/20			
	Budget	Budget	Council Tax (Band D)	Change on last year	Share of Council Tax
	£000	£000	£	%	%
Gross Expenditure	73,688	70,024		-4.97	
Income	(56,406)	(52,868)		-6.27	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>17,282</b>	<b>17,156</b>		<b>-0.73</b>	
Less Retained Business Rates	(5,841)	(6,907)		18.25	
Less Government Funding	(6,017)	(4,756)		-20.96	
(Deficit) from/Surplus to reserves	3,026	3,285			
<b>Huntingdonshire Council Tax</b>	<b>8,450</b>	<b>8,778</b>	<b>142.16</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>7.66</b>
Town and Parishes Tax (average)			107.71	10.45	5.81
County Council Tax			1,312.11	4.98	70.72
Police & Crime Commissioner Tax			222.66	12.05	12.00
Fire Authority Tax			70.74	2.88	3.81
<b>Total Council Tax</b>			<b>1,855.38</b>		<b>100.00</b>

The reasons for the increase are shown below

	£000	£000
<b>Raised from Council Tax in 2018/19</b>		<b>8,450</b>
Inflation and other adjustments	346	
Efficiency and other savings	(1,933)	
New initiatives	1,461	
Reduction in government support	195	
Use of reserves	259	
<b>Raised from Council Tax in 2019/20</b>		<b>8,778</b>

Revenue reserves are estimated to be £2.6m at the start of the year and £2.6m at the end of the year.

## Huntingdonshire District Council provides services to every household in the District

It costs £0.59 a week per household to collect your waste and recycling

### Operations & Refuse Collection £3.74m

- Collecting rubbish from over 78,000 every week
- Recycling 58% of our rubbish
- Managing town car parks with 3,834 spaces

### Planning and Development Services £1.01m

- Dealing with 2,600 planning applications
- Enabling 746 new homes, including 142 affordable homes, to be completed in the District
- Enabling over 80,000 square metres of additional employment space to be provided in the District

The District manages 6 parks and nature reserves and other green spaces costing £0.25 per household per week

### Leisure & Health (£0.02m)

- Providing Leisure & Health services and facilities across the district which attract 2.3 million visits from the public and schools

### Customer Services £2.68m

- Enabling people to live in their own homes by providing 250 grants
- Re-housing 620 households
- Awarding Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support to over 8,300 people

We spend £0.18 per household per week to keep streets and public places clean

### Community £1.74m

- Providing over 2,665 licences for taxis and licensed premises
- Monitoring 111 CCTV cameras

### Technical and Support Services £8.01m

- Managing elections (e.g. European, Parliamentary, District and Parish) and various referendums
- Provision of IT, Legal, Procurement, Financial, Audit, HR and Corporate support services to over 630 staff
- Delivery of Treasury, Insurance and other Corporate Financial Management
- Supporting the Democratic process and the 52 Council Members