

Budget Statement 2019/20

Councillors met on 27th February 2019 and agreed the Budget for the coming year and the indicative Medium Term Financial Plan for the following three years up to 2023. The budget was set as we continue with our carefully planned and managed approach to dealing with ongoing reductions in the funding we receive from Government. These reductions will reach £73million a year by 2019/20 when compared with 2010/11. It is extremely difficult and challenging to plan given the considerable uncertainty surrounding future Local Government funding levels. We continue to operate in extremely challenging circumstances with increasing demand especially for social care services. It is therefore with reluctance that we have agreed to increase Council Tax by 2.9 per cent to protect services as best as we can.

Even though these are extremely challenging times, we remain very ambitious for the Borough. We are continuing to invest in the long-term future of the Borough and our residents with a focus on supporting businesses, stimulating economic growth and creating jobs, facilities

and opportunities for future generations. We are continuing to put major investment into schools, housing regeneration, road improvements, the Globe and the new library, leisure and customer service centre in Ingleby Barwick. We are also investing in the new Hampton by Hilton hotel and a new crematorium which will not only pay for themselves but also deliver a return to re-invest in our services.

What we can be sure of is that we are in as strong a position as we can be. We have a strong track record of sound financial management and we have been dealing with these issues successfully for many years. We have had to make some really difficult decisions in the last year and identifying and delivering savings becomes ever more challenging. We will continue to review our services in consultation with residents and businesses, while understanding that every one of our services is important we will target services to the areas and people in most need.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Spending Plans Compared With Last Year

2018/19 Gross Expenditure £'000	2018/19 Income £'000	2018/19 Net Expenditure £'000		2019/20 Gross Expenditure £'000	2019/20 Income £'000	2019/20 Net Expenditure £'000
91,977	-20,269	71,708	Adults & Health	95,503	-21,102	74,401
130,702	-93,714	36,988	Children's Services & Schools Funding	125,987	-89,120	36,867
39,963	-12,145	27,818	Community Services	43,782	-13,308	30,474
11,184	-3,158	8,026	Culture, Leisure & Events	12,851	-3,260	9,591
16,443	-7,013	9,430	Economic Growth & Development	14,800	-5,926	8,874
83,154	-72,667	10,487	Finance & Business Services and Housing Benefits	76,596	-66,160	10,436
5,175	-411	4,764	HR, Legal & Communications	6,109	-604	5,505
9,838	-2,783	7,055	Admin, Democratic Services & Xentrall	10,252	-2,284	7,968
2,548	0	2,548	Corporate Areas	4,509	-3,913	596
390,984	-212,160	178,824	Total	390,389	-205,677	184,712
		-46,759	Government Funding			-44,863
		-48,019	Business Rates 50% Retained Share			-45,011
		1,246	Use Of/Transfer To Council Balances			-5,695
		85,292	Council Tax Requirement			89,143

Adult Social Care Levy 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.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's funds are spent on providing services for residents and visitors to the Borough in accordance with the Council Plan (available on the Council website www.stockton.gov.uk)