

Budget Statement 2020/21

Councillors met on 26th February 2020 and agreed the Budget for the coming year and the indicative Medium Term Financial Plan for the following three years up to 2024. The budget was set as we continue with our carefully planned and managed approach to dealing with reductions in the funding we receive from Government.

Between 2010/11 and 2019/20 Government funding reduced by £73m. The 2020/21 financial settlement provided some additional funding but it is uncertain whether this will continue. 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 3.9%, which includes the Government Levy of 2% in respect of Social Care, to protect services as best as we can.

We have a strong track record of sound financial management and we have been dealing with these issues successfully for many years. Our approach to financial planning has allowed us to plan ahead, adopting a managed approach to delivering savings but also taking opportunities for invest to save and making innovative changes to service delivery.

Even though these are extremely challenging times we remain very ambitious. We will continue to review our services in consultation with residents and businesses, protecting front-line services wherever possible and targeting services to the areas and people in most need. We are also continuing to invest in the long-term future of the Borough and our residents but we will carefully target investments to stimulate economic growth, provide great assets and deliver financial returns to offset funding reductions.

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

2019/20 Gross Expenditure £'000	2019/20 Income £'000	2019/20 Net Expenditure £'000		2020/21 Gross Expenditure £'000	2020/21 Income £'000	2020/21 Net Expenditure £'000
95,481	-21,102	74,379	Adults & Health	96,884	-21,952	74,932
125,987	-89,120	36,867	Children's Services & Schools Funding	122,465	-87,528	34,937
43,782	-13,308	30,474	Community Services	46,085	-13,198	32,887
12,851	-3,260	9,591	Culture, Leisure & Events	12,872	-3,183	9,689
14,800	-5,926	8,874	Economic Growth & Development	15,601	-6,167	9,434
76,596	-66,160	10,436	Finance & Business Services and Housing Benefits	64,011	-53,113	10,898
6,109	-604	5,505	HR, Legal & Communications	5,554	-413	5,141
10,252	-2,284	7,968	Admin, Democratic Services & Xentrall	14,972	-6,298	8,674
4,328	-3,913	415	Corporate Areas	14,759	-6,919	7,840
390,186	-205,677	184,509	SubTotal	393,203	-198,771	194,432
22		22	Port Health Levy	22		22
181		181	Environment Agency Levy	181		181
390,389	-205,677	184,712	Total	393,406	-198,771	194,635
		-44,863	Government Funding			-51,456
		-45,011	Business Rates 50% Retained Share			-45,797
		-5,695	Use Of/Transfer To Council Balances			-3,171
		89,143	Council Tax Requirement			94,211

Adult Social Care Levy Statement

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.

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)