

Councillors met on 24 February 2021 and agreed the budget for the coming year and the indicative Medium Term Financial plan for the following three years up until 2025.

The budget was set through our carefully planned and managed approach in the context of significant budget pressures including a national crisis in funding for adult social care, rising costs of social care for vulnerable adults and children and a one year financial settlement from the Government which brings significant uncertainty.

Given the financial pressures facing the Council over the medium term we have reluctantly agreed to increase Council Tax by 3.9 per cent which includes phasing in the Government's Adult's Social Care Levy at 2 per cent, to protect social care services as best we can.

We are also carrying over into the 2021/22 financial year some of the one-off COVID-specific funding we have received from the Government to pay for COVID related costs to ensure the pandemic doesn't have a direct impact on Council Tax.

We have a strong track record of sound financial management and adopting a managed approach to plan ahead, even during these challenging periods of such uncertainty. This means we can protect front-line services wherever possible and target services to the areas and people most in need while continuing to invest in the long term future of our Borough in our schools, roads, housing and town centres.

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

2020/21	2020/21	2020/21		2021/22	2021/22	2021/22
Gross Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000		Gross Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
96,884	-21,952	74,932	<b>Adults &amp; Health</b>	98,823	-22,141	76,682
122,465	-87,528	34,937	<b>Children's Services &amp; Schools Funding</b>	134,838	-95,197	39,641
46,085	-13,198	32,887	<b>Community Services &amp; Transport</b>	57,323	-15,798	41,525
12,872	-3,183	9,689	<b>Environment, Culture, Leisure &amp; Events</b>	13,707	-3,335	10,372
15,601	-6,167	9,434	<b>Economic Growth &amp; Development</b>	0	0	0
0	0	0	<b>Town Centre Investment</b>	2,972	-4,606	-1,634
64,011	-53,113	10,898	<b>Finance, Development &amp; Business Services and Housing Benefits</b>	61,783	-49,443	12,340
5,554	-413	5,141	<b>HR, Legal &amp; Communications</b>	5,680	-520	5,160
14,972	-6,298	8,674	<b>Admin, Democratic Services &amp; Xentrall</b>	16,035	-6,297	9,738
14,759	-6,919	7,840	<b>Corporate Areas</b>	9,690	-3,064	6,626
0	0	0	<b>Council Tax Support</b>	1,800	0	1,800
<b>393,203</b>	<b>-198,771</b>	<b>194,432</b>	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>402,651</b>	<b>-200,401</b>	<b>202,250</b>
22		22	<b>Port Health Levy</b>	22		22
181		181	<b>Environment Agency Levy</b>	190		190
<b>393,406</b>	<b>-198,771</b>	<b>194,635</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>402,863</b>	<b>-200,401</b>	<b>202,462</b>
		-51,456	<b>Government Funding</b>			-56,103
		-45,797	<b>Business Rates 50% Retained Share</b>			-46,697
		-3,171	<b>Use Of/Transfer To Council Balances</b>			-1,495
		<b>94,211</b>	<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>			<b>98,167</b>

## 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](http://www.stockton.gov.uk))