

Worcestershire County Council Budget

2015 - 2016

Budget 2015-16

How the money is spent – summary of gross expenditure, income and staffing

The planned costs of services are shown below:

2014-15 Net Exp £m	Services	2015-16 Gross Exp £m	2015-16 Income £m	2015-16 Net Exp £m	Council Tax for a band D property £	Staffing
0.0	Schools Budget	231.9	-231.9	0.0	0.00	5,104
71.6	Children's Services excluding Schools	108.7	-30.5	78.2	257.83	820
139.9	Adults & Public Health	221.7	-95.1	126.6	417.25	1,143
9.6	Cultural & Community	20.6	-11.6	9.0	29.49	286
33.4	Highways & public transport	41.7	-8.4	33.3	109.77	312
27.2	Waste disposal	43.0	-15.1	27.9	91.93	7
3.2	Planning & economic development	7.3	-4.7	2.6	8.61	55
30.4	Net cost of council borrowing	29.9	-0.3	29.6	97.68	-
16.8	Other services	33.5	-14.6	18.9	62.33	640
332.1	Total cost of services	738.3	-412.2	326.1	1,074.89	8,367
2.3	Addition to earmarked reserves	1.5	0.0	1.5	4.88	-
334.4	Net budget requirement	739.8	-412.2	327.6	1,079.77	8,367
Funded by:						
1.8	Council Tax Surplus			2.1		
203.9	Amount to be met by Council Tax payer			212.1		
205.7	Council Tax Requirement			214.2		
56.6	Business Rates			59.0		
72.1	Revenue Support Grant			54.4		
334.4	Total			327.6		

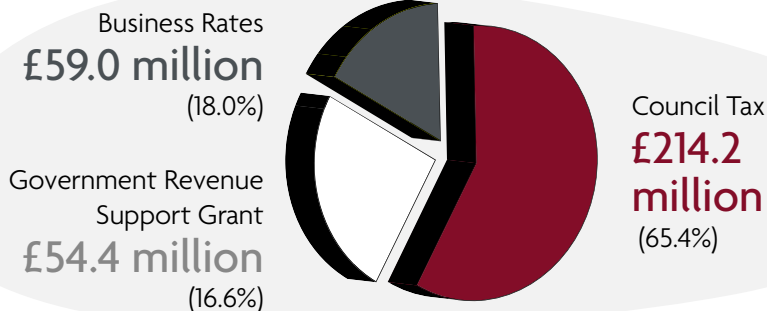
Where the money comes from to pay for the 2015-16 Budget

The County area is allowed to keep up to 50% of the business rate growth collected in Worcestershire since the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme in April 2013. The Council continues to receive a Revenue Support Grant from Central Government and funding through specific grants.

Worcestershire's funding from Government grant and through business rates in 2015-16 is £113.363 million or £198 per person.

We also receive other grants from the Government for specific purposes. The most significant is the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) that provides £214.3 million funding for mainstream schools and statutory functions in 2015-16 and can only be used for this purpose.

The cost of providing our services in 2015-16, net of specific grants, is £326.1 million which, after transferring £1.5 million to earmarked reserves, leaves £327.6 million to be funded from business rates, Revenue Support Grant and local taxation.



Why spending has changed from 2014-15

The Council faces additional cost pressures in respect of inflation and increases in the demand for services such as the extra numbers of people needing social care. Some inflationary costs experienced by local authorities are significantly higher than the general rate of inflation.

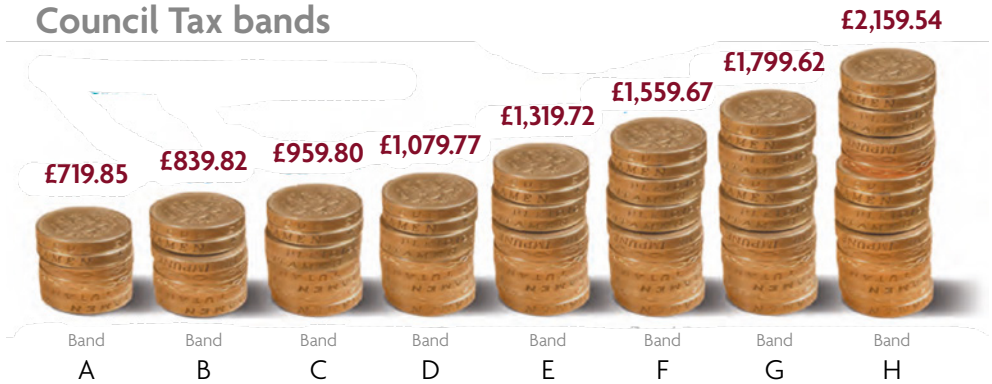
The net budget requirement for 2015-16 has decreased by £4.5 million over last year, as shown in the following table.

	£m
Net budget requirement 2014-15	334.4
Less transfer to earmarked reserves in 2014-15	-2.3
Revised starting position 2014-15	332.1
Inflation	5.5
Children's Social Care service pressures	4.0
Adult Social Care service pressures	2.0
Reduction in Education Services Grant	1.7
Welfare Assistance scheme	0.9
Waste Disposal costs	0.6
Investment in road maintenance	0.5
Investment in footways	0.4
Other	2.2
Future Fit Savings	-23.8
Transfer to earmarked reserves in 2015-16	1.5
Net budget requirement 2015-16	327.6

Council Tax

The council tax contribution towards our 2015-16 budget for a Band D property is £1,079.77, a rise of 1.94% or 40p per week from last year. The following list shows how much you will pay for our services for each property band.

Council Tax bands



Staffing

During 2015-16 we expect to employ the equivalent of 8,367 full-time staff, of which 5,104 are employed in schools. This includes a decrease in school-based staff due to the transfer of school academies, and the planned reduction in staff numbers as part of the Council's efficiency measures.

Capital Investment

We plan to invest £147 million during 2015-16 in capital projects such as building and refurbishing schools, improvements to roads and infrastructure, Energy from Waste project, Worcester Technology Park, flood mitigation measures and the provision of Super Fast Broadband.

Borrowing

We borrow money to pay for some of our capital investment. The total borrowing at 31 March 2015 is estimated to be £273 million.

General Balances

We plan to keep a general reserve of around £13 million to pay for emergencies and other unforeseen expenditure.

Environment Agency

Midlands Region

The Environment Agency, as a levying body for its flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) functions, provides the following information.

FCERM money is spent on flood defence schemes, maintenance of the river system, a flood warning system and coastal erosion risk management.

Severn and Wye, and Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

	2014/15 '000s	2015/16 '000s
Gross Expenditure	£47,098	£62,749
Levies Raised	£3,000	£3,000
Total Council Tax Base	2,543	2,593

Changes in the Gross Budgeted expenditure between the years reflects the impact of the Government Spending Review and national prioritisation of projects. For 2015/16 Grant Aided Expenditure is included on all Risk Management Authority Programs. The total Local Levy raised has increased by 0%.

The local flood defence levy included in the County Council's budget for 2015/16 is £0.2m (2014/15 £0.2m).

Supporting...



Children and Families

Ofsted says **86%** of our early years settings and schools are **Good or Outstanding**

Since 2012, we have helped **300 families** return to work, reduce anti-social behaviour and improve school attendance

Promoting...



Health and Well-being

Worcestershire's libraries attracted **3.37million visits last year**. During that time more than **3.3million** books, CDs and DVDs were issued

Last year, we provided support to **1,300 adults** with learning disabilities

Championing...



Open for Business

Since 2011, we have invested more than **£55m** to improve roads and pavements across Worcestershire. If you spot a problem please let us know via worcestershire.gov.uk/reportit

Over £100m is being invested in Worcestershire's economy, supporting businesses to grow and create more jobs

Local businesses have received resource efficiency support, saving them **over £1m** and almost **5,000 tonnes** of CO₂ emissions

We have helped more than **2,800 local businesses** to grow and create more jobs

Protecting...



The Environment

Last year we recycled almost **59,000 tonnes** of waste at our Household Recycling Centres, **saving over £4m** in landfill tax

In the last 10 years, our subsidised compost bins have diverted over **97,430 tonnes** from landfill, **saving £4.3m** in taxes. By composting, you can help us save more

Last winter, our gritting teams covered around **50,000 miles** of roads in Worcestershire. That's the equivalent of **more than twice around the world**

Thinking about Adoption or Fostering?



Adoption:

0800 633 5442

www.isadoption4me.co.uk

Fostering:

0800 028 2158

www.isfostering4me.co.uk

Contacting your county council

You can access a wide range of council services online at www.worcestershire.gov.uk. This includes reporting a pot hole or broken street light; applying for a school place; applying for and renewing a blue badge or bus pass; applying for a library card and renewing a library book; and paying your business rates or homecare invoice.

If you don't have a computer, you can visit your local library and use one for free. If you'd prefer to contact us by phone or need to make an appointment to see one of our advisors, all of our numbers are listed in the phone directory.

Budget 2015-2016

To view your county council's budget and how the money is spent, including a summary of gross expenditure, income and staffing, go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/budget

Find your councillor

To find out who your local County Councillor is and to contact them about local issues, go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/councillors

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