

Your council tax, 2016/17

Surrey County Council has set its budget for 2016/17, which will raise £627m in council tax to help meet the growing demand for council services.

This will mean a 3.99% increase in council tax for the coming year, or about **an extra one pound a week** for a Band 'D' household.

Councils are permitted to raise council tax by up to 2% annually. This year Surrey's council tax also includes a new 2% charge (or precept) for adult social care services (equivalent to about 50 pence a week for a Band 'D' household).

Surrey is in a particularly difficult position following an unexpected £47m reduction in government grant this year. The Government has, however, agreed to provide around £12m in transitional relief this year to help the council adjust to the steep drop in grant.

The grant reduction has a big impact on Surrey, which has a significantly higher proportion of older people than areas like London. Surrey's number of people aged 65 and over is increasing at more than twice the rate of London's, adding more than £20m a year to the cost of providing adult social care.

The council also has to invest more to provide more than 11,000 extra school places over the next five years.

Council Leader David Hodge has outlined a range of measures to deal with the loss of funding and find the necessary investment to go into care for older people, support for children with special needs and disabilities and rebuilding the county's roads.

These include:

- Stepping up the council's planned programme of efficiency savings this year from £67m to over £80m
- Increasing council tax to raise around £24m – about half the amount of government grant taken away from Surrey
- Reducing the level of council reserves
- Raising around £30m from the sale of assets

Mr Hodge said: **“We are grateful that the Government has provided some transitional relief this year and next to help smooth the effects of the loss of grant. We still have a major task on our hands though, and we will have to increase the pace and scale of our efforts to secure greater efficiencies and value for our residents.”**

Although the council has achieved nearly £350m in savings since 2010 and aims to save another similar amount by 2020, the financial position is set to get more difficult in future.

To be able to reach a sustainable financial position, the council must continue to explore different ways of delivering services. To this end, the county council will establish a significant public value transformation programme early in 2016 to identify service changes that reduce costs.

When funding for schools, different government grants and other income are included, the council's overall revenue budget for the year is nearly £1.7bn.



Where the money comes from

	2015/16	2016/17	
Surrey council tax	£598m	£627m	
Government revenue support grant and business rates top up	£171m	£139m	
Other government grants to support schools and other services	£714m	£697m	
Fees, charges and other income	£137m	£147m	
Local share of business rates	£44m	£46m	
Reserves	£4m	£25m	
Total income to the council	£1,668m	£1,681m	

How the money is spent

	2015/16	2016/17	
Schools and learning	£691m	£692m	
Social care and health	£560m	£571m	
People, communities and culture	£112m	£109m	
Business and consumers	£45m	£50m	
Roads and transport	£75m	£73m	
Your council (debt servicing for services and infrastructure, support services for local democracy)	£118m	£121m	
Environment, housing and planning	£67m	£65m	
Total spending on council services	£1,668m	£1,681m	

The amount of council tax payable for each property band for **county council services** in 2016/17 is shown below. The council tax attributable to Surrey County Council includes a precept to fund adult social care.

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Standard council tax amount	£829.26	£967.47	£1,105.68	£1,243.89	£1,520.31	£1,796.73	£2,073.15	£2,487.78
2% adult social care amount	£16.26	£18.97	£21.68	£24.39	£29.81	£35.23	£40.65	£48.78
Overall council tax amount	£845.52	£986.44	£1,127.36	£1,268.28	£1,550.12	£1,831.96	£2,113.80	£2,536.56

For further information, visit surreycc.gov.uk/counciltax or call 03456 009 009.



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