

2016/2017

# Council tax and spending explained

# A message from Cllr Izzi Seccombe,

Leader, Warwickshire County Council



**It is my pleasure to introduce the council tax leaflet for 2016/17. In it, the county council details how we will spend the money available to us in order to improve the quality of life for residents and to provide the services that enable everybody to go about their daily lives.**

It is, of course, against a very difficult financial backdrop that we are doing this. Two years ago, we announced a four year savings programme which identified reductions in our spending capacity of £92m. We are now in the third year of that Plan, which will see us deliver another £16m of savings due by the end of March 2017.

All local authorities must play a part in reducing the country's deficit and, as a consequence, we have all seen our grants from central government reduced. Although the general economic picture is somewhat brighter, public spending will continue to be squeezed for the foreseeable future and it may be some time before local authorities see their spending increase.

Our finances, however, do not rely solely on government grants. We also receive County Council tax from you, our residents.

Following the comprehensive spending review, the government allowed authorities to raise a 2% adult social care levy, which the County Council has taken. Added to that, there is a 1.99% rise in council tax for an overall rise of 3.99%. This equates to around £0.92 per week for a Band D dwelling.

We have tried to keep any council tax rises to an absolute minimum, but with a growing population, and more people living longer and requiring more of our resources, it has been necessary to make this increase.

You will see in the following pages how we will continue to provide social care for our most vulnerable residents, and to work with partners to help older people to stay healthy and independent. We will work with schools to ensure that our young people have the very best start in life and that they are safe while they learn, at school, out of school and online. We will continue to create a transport infrastructure that will enable economic growth within the county. We will work to keep our communities safe and reduce accidents on our roads.

Over the following pages, just how we will spend our money is broken down into detail. I hope it clearly illustrates that the county council is still doing a huge amount to make Warwickshire a great place to live, learn and do business.

If you would like to know more about how Warwickshire County Council is responding to the challenges that affect your lives on a daily basis, I would invite you to visit the Warwickshire website: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/businessplan](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/businessplan)

## Where the money comes from

In 2016/2017, our total day-to-day spending on services (before we receive any income) is £727.9 million. We are spending £8.0 million less than last year, when we spent £735.9 million.

The money we spend comes from central government and local income. The table below shows our current funding.

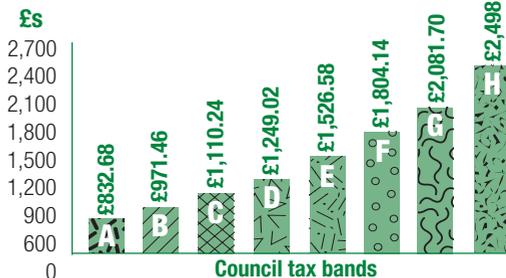
Central government	2016/2017 £ millions	Change £ millions
Revenue support grant	37.5	(18.1)
Specific Government grants	291.9	(30.4)
Business rates	59.1	(0.1)
<b>Local income</b>		
Council tax	241.2	13.8
Extra council tax collected from previous years	2.6	0.6
Fees and charges	73.9	7.9
Use of reserves	21.5	18.1
<b>Total service costs</b>	<b>727.9</b>	<b>-8.0</b>

## How our spending has changed

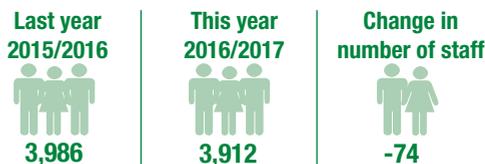
	£ millions
<b>Planned Spending last year 2015/2016</b>	<b>344.1</b>
<b>Add:</b>	
Inflation	9.5
Spending Pressures	9.1
Other one off changes	1.1
<b>Less:</b>	
Savings	(16.1)
Change in the use of reserves	(7.4)
<b>Planned Spending for 2016/2017</b>	<b>340.4</b>

## Council tax

The chart below shows our council tax for properties in each valuation band.



## How many staff we employ



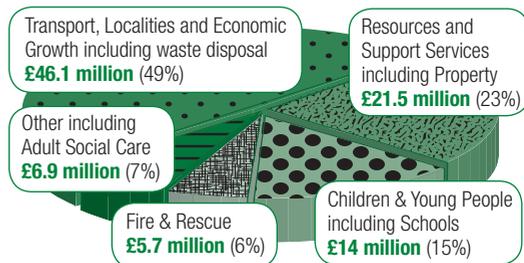
These figures do not include staff in schools. Staff numbers have reduced because we are continuing to change the way we deliver our services to make them more efficient and we will be employing fewer staff to run our services.

These figures are based on the estimated number of full-time equivalent staff (for example, if two people share one job and both work part-time, they are counted as one full-time staff member).

## Capital spending

Apart from our day-to-day costs, we also spend money on land, buildings, new roads, major maintenance work and vehicles

The chart below shows our planned capital spending of £94.3 million in 2016/2017.



How the money is spent

	2015/2016	2016/2017		SPENDING	
	Spending after income £ millions	Spending before income £ millions	Income £ millions	Spending after income £ millions	Cost for each person £
Children & Young People including Schools	50.5	330.1	-262.4	67.7	120.8
Adult Social Care	116.4	172.2	-44.0	130.2	232.2
Resources and Support Services	40.9	53.8	-11.5	42.3	75.5
Sustainable Communities including waste disposal	21.7	28.0	-5.3	22.6	40.4
Public Health	0.5	19.9	-19.7	0.2	0.4
Localities and Community Safety	8.5	14.0	-5.3	8.6	15.4
Transport and Highways	25.7	40.7	-13.8	26.9	47.9
Fire and Rescue	19.0	19.2	-0.1	19.1	34.1
Other Services	64.3	49.9	-5.6	44.2	78.9
<b>Service costs</b>	<b>347.5</b>	<b>727.9</b>	<b>-365.9</b>	<b>362.0</b>	<b>645.5</b>
Money taken from or put into our savings	-3.4	-21.5		-21.5	-38.4
<b>Our budget</b>	<b>344.1</b>	<b>706.3</b>	<b>-365.9</b>	<b>340.4</b>	<b>607.1</b>
<b>Less money from the Government:</b>					
Revenue support grant	-55.6			-37.5	-66.9
Business rates	-59.1			-59.1	-105.3
Extra or shortfall on council tax collection from previous years	-2.0			-2.6	-4.7
<b>Amount we will raise from the council tax (£ million)</b>	<b>227.4</b>			<b>241.2</b>	<b>430.2</b>
<b>Tax base</b>	<b>189,320.1</b>			<b>193,146.3</b>	
<b>Band - D council tax (£)</b>	<b>£1,201.14</b>			<b>£1,249.02</b>	

Notes:

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

'Other services' includes financing, banking and managing money and insurance.

We estimate that in 2016/2017, 560,800 people will be living in Warwickshire.

The Council has decided to levy the additional 2% Council Tax to contribute to the funding of the additional costs facing adult social care, as allowed by the government.

The additional 2% levy will raise £4.6m.

The funds will be used to help address the following financial pressures within adult social care.

Addressing the essential funding needed in Warwickshire's local social care workforce (approx. 7,000 staff), both private and public sector, including recognising the pressures of the National Living Wage on contractors.

Meeting the needs of the increasing number of older people within Warwickshire and their increasing need in support.

### Useful telephone numbers and websites

If you have any complaints, comments or suggestions about our services please contact our shared customer service helpline called 'Warwickshire Direct' on **01926 410410**.

We now provide a wide range of services on our website. For example, you can renew library books, check bus timetables, apply to be a foster parent and apply for copies of birth, marriage or death certificates.

For more information, go to **[www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk)**

Your local borough or district council collects your council tax. They will be able to help you if you have any questions about your bill or about whether you are entitled to Council Tax Benefit.

Warwickshire County Contact: **John Betts** Phone: **01926 412441**

### **This leaflet contains important information.**

If you would like information in another language or format please call **01926 415000**