

# The Budget, Your Council Tax and Local Services

Each year  
St Helens Council  
delivers over 700  
local services to:

178,000



Residents

82,000



Households

Our services are funded in a number of ways, but mainly from:

Council  
Tax

Fees &  
Charges  
e.g. leisure,  
registrars

Business  
Rates

Government  
Grant

Over the  
last 10 years  
our general  
Government  
grant has  
been cut by:

£90m  
per year

That's a 71% reduction

This means  
**£507**  
less per year  
for every man,  
woman & child  
in St Helens

At the same time the demand and cost of delivering our services is increasing.

71%



of our net budget  
is now spent on  
adult social care  
and children's  
services

In the last

10 years

the cost of caring for  
children looked after  
has more than doubled



**Some of the demand in adult and children's services in 2019:**



**3,748**

people in need of long term adult social care



**825,000**

hours supporting over 65's to live at home



**2,167**

referrals to children's social care



**529**

children looked after



**£192,000**

avg cost of a children's out of borough placement\*

\*This is for safeguarding reasons

**This is how much we will spend in 2020/21 on some of the services we provide:**



£180m

Children's and Family Services



£72m

Adult Social Care & Health



£13m

Public Health



£6m

Waste Collection & Recycling



£5m

Highways & Street Lighting



£4m

Sports & Leisure



£2m

Planning & Development



£2m

Libraries & Arts



£1m

Parks & Open Spaces



£1m

Street Cleansing

**Demand for these essential services is rising, so we have no choice but to raise council tax.**

This will generate...

**£3m**



For over **85%** of households

This is less than an additional

**£1** a week

**Without the council tax rise, we'd have to find a further £3m in savings.**

Also in 2020/21 we have budgeted to receive:

**£57.7m**



of business rates

This includes an estimated

**£2.1m**



of new growth

With the extra income from council tax and business rates taken into consideration, for 2020/21 we will have a budget gap of:

**£10m**

So **HOW** will we **FILL** the gap?

**£5m**

from the one off use of reserves. This is not a sustainable way of delivering services

**£5m**

from income generation & unavoidable cuts to services

We'll continue to do all we can by:



Attracting new businesses



Increasing partnership working



Doing more online



Transforming & being more efficient



Maximising the benefits of being in the Liverpool City Region

# Did you know?

Not all council tax collected pays for council services. It also supports the police, the fire service and the Combined Authority too.



ST HELENS  
COUNCIL  
£1,503.75\*



POLICE  
£211.97



FIRE  
£80.40



COMBINED  
AUTHORITY  
£19.00



COUNCIL TAX  
BAND D  
£1,815.12\*

\*Excluding parish precepts

## Did you also know?

Council tax in St Helens continues to be the lowest on Merseyside.

## Help us keep council costs down



### Manage your council tax online

Sign up for e-billing and help the council cut down on costly paperwork, visit: [www.sthelens.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/counciltax)



### Contact the council and make payments online

Online transactions cost the council roughly 32pence compared to £7.40 to speak to us. Use the self-service section of our website for fast and easy access to council services, visit: [www.sthelens.gov.uk/selfservice](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/selfservice)



### Recycle more

Recycling helps protect our environment and reduces costs. Find out more on: [www.sthelens.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/recycling)

## Join in the conversation

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Please contact us to request translation of Council information into Braille, audio tape or a foreign language.