

SETTING YOUR 2021-22 COUNCIL TAX

St Helens Borough Council has one of the lowest council tax rates in Merseyside. Given the financial position, and the size of savings necessary to arrive at a legally balanced budget, we are reluctantly increasing council tax by 1.99%.

In recognition of the demand for care services, the Government has confirmed that councils with adult social care responsibility can apply an adult social care precept of up to 3% in 2021-22. This brings the potential overall council tax increase to 4.99% for 2021-22.

This increase would raise an extra £3.9m, and for approximately 85% of residents it would mean less than an additional 20 pence per day to help maintain the vital services we all need and use.

Elections are taking place on 6 May 2021.

Polling stations will be safe places to vote in May, but there are other ways to vote.



Want to vote by post?
Apply early.

The deadline for postal applications is 20 April 2021.

For more information, please visit: electoralcommission.org.uk/voter
or contact us on 01744 676464,
or at: elections@sthelens.gov.uk for an application form.

The
Electoral
Commission

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT



[STHELENS.GOV.UK/COUNCIL TAX](https://sthelens.gov.uk/counciltax)

 #STHELENSTOGETHER

(STHULNADZ)

YOUR GUIDE



COUNCIL TAX 2021-2022

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER BOROUGH

THE BUDGET 2021-22

St Helens Borough Council provides a wide range of statutory and non-statutory services to a growing population of more than **180,000** people in **84,500** properties.

Every year, councils are required by law to set a balanced budget for the financial year ahead. The budget sets out how the council will allocate funds to provide the essential services our communities need - such as social care, maintaining parks, children's services, bin collections and road maintenance.

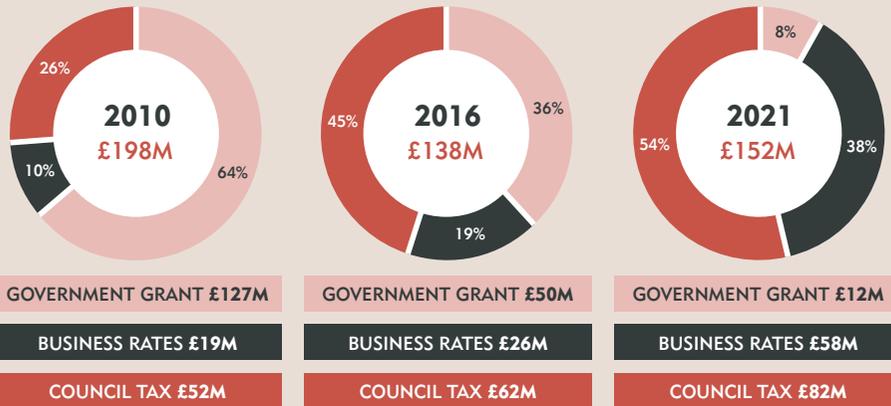
Setting the budget for 2021-22 and in future years will be a huge challenge. Since 2010 we have lost significant levels of Government funding (see overleaf) whilst at the same time demand for many services has increased. In the face of these difficulties, we have to take some tough decisions in order to continue to provide essential services.

In setting a balanced budget for 2021-22, we have focused on supporting the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting frontline services as much as possible and delivering many in new and innovative ways, attracting investment, growth and prosperity to our borough, and working together with residents, businesses, charities and organisations in order to help ensure our borough and all residents have the opportunity to succeed.

THE BUDGET 2021-22

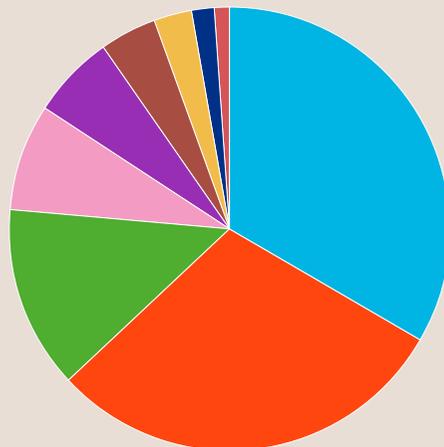
WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?*

In the last ten years our general funding from central government has been cut from **£127m per year to just £12m per year**. At the same time, demand for services such as social care and children's services has increased.



*Funding from Business Rates, Council Tax and General Government Grant is illustrated above.

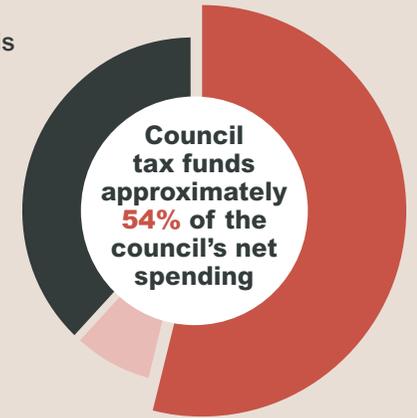
HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT?*



*The approved net service budget is illustrated above.

It's important to remember that council tax is only a contribution towards the day to day running costs of delivering our services - it's not a charge for individual services.

Council tax is one source of funding towards the total amount we'll spend delivering services for you and all other residents and does not contribute towards any capital investment schemes we deliver.



HERE'S A SNAP-SHOT OF WHAT YOUR COUNCIL TAX CONTRIBUTES TO IN A YEAR

