



YOUR GUIDE

ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL TAX 2023-2024

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER BOROUGH

THE BUDGET 2023-2024

Councils are legally required to set a balanced budget, and for most - including ours - this continues to be challenging because of significant reductions in central government funding for council services over the last 13 years, increasing demand for those services, high levels of inflation and energy costs which are affecting all of us. For these reasons we face a significant budget gap for 2023-2024, and some difficult choices have been necessary.

The council is determined to do all it can to support communities and we are continually looking to deliver services in the most efficient and effective ways. We are also pursuing opportunities to deliver new jobs, new homes, new infrastructure and new opportunities to generate funding for essential services, and we will continue to work with residents, communities, business, charities and other organisations for the good of our whole borough through St Helens Together.

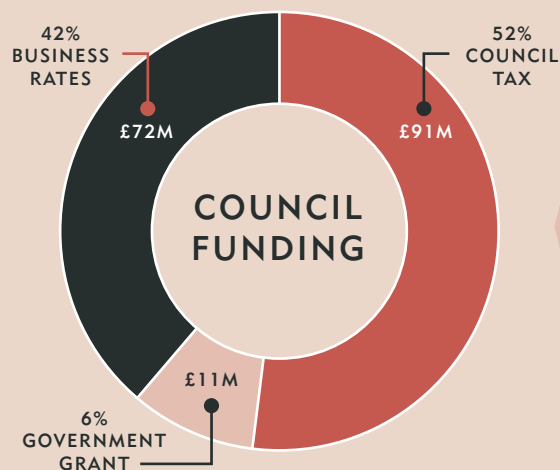
SETTING YOUR 2023-2024 COUNCIL TAX

Our borough has one of the lowest Council Tax rates in Merseyside. Given the financial challenges and the savings required to arrive at a legally balanced budget, we are reluctantly increasing Council Tax by 2.99%. 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. We will apply a further 2%, bringing the overall Council Tax increase to 4.99% for 2023-2024.

This increase in Council Tax will not cover the entire budget gap we face, but it will raise around £4.3m for services which otherwise would have to be cut. For approximately 85% of households the rise will mean less than an extra 20 pence per day to help maintain vital services at a time of increasing demand.

THE BUDGET 2023-2024

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?*



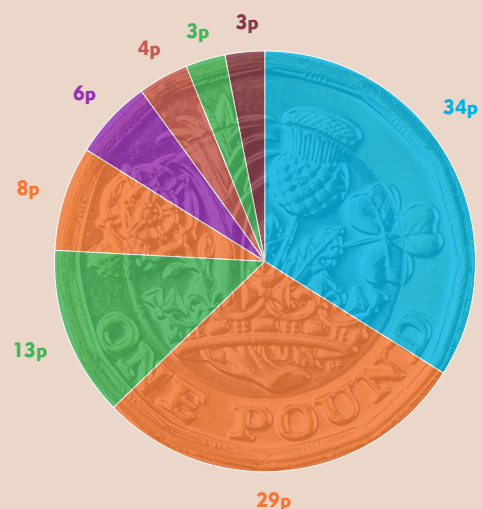
Since 2010, St Helens Borough Council has had its Government Grant cut by

£116m

At the same time, demand for services such as adult social care and children's services has increased.

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

HOW IS YOUR POUND SPENT?*



- 34p SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE AND ADULTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS
- 29p PROTECTING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE
- 13p ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT INCLUDING RECYCLING & WASTE, MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAYS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES
- 8p SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT LEARNING (EXCLUDING SCHOOLS)
- 6p COMMUNITY SAFETY, HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- 4p BUSINESS SUPPORT, FINANCE, LEGAL, HR AND IT
- 3p LEISURE, LIBRARIES, HERITAGE, AND CULTURE
- 3p PLANNING, ESTATES AND ECONOMY

*The approved net service budget is illustrated above.

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



WE SUPPORT OVER
3,400
ADULTS WITH
LONG-TERM
SOCIAL CARE



2,756
REFERRALS MADE
TO ST HELENS
CHILDREN'S
SOCIAL CARE



93
PARKS &
OPEN SPACES
MAINTAINED



7.2m
WASTE & RECYCLING
COLLECTIONS MADE



2,880
POTHoles
FILLED



1.2m
FREE SCHOOL MEALS
PROVIDED



476
CHILDREN
LOOKED
AFTER



2,900
PEOPLE SUPPORTED TO
LIVE INDEPENDENTLY
IN THEIR OWN HOME



23,872
STREET
LIGHTS
MAINTAINED



781
KILOMETRES
OF HIGHWAYS
MAINTAINED



973,057
VISITS TO COUNCIL
OWNED SPORTS AND
LEISURE FACILITIES



369,863
VISITS
TO
LIBRARIES

CAPITAL SPENDING 2023-2024

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 will spend delivering services for you and all other residents** and does not contribute towards any capital schemes we deliver.

Our ongoing programme of capital investment includes investment in assets such as roads, land and buildings, equipment and vehicles. These funding sources are restricted to capital schemes and cannot be used to fund services.

We often spread the costs and benefits of this investment over a number of years. This spending will be funded by a combination of government grants, affordable borrowing, developer contributions and proceeds from the sale of assets.

The council has approved investment of £103.7m on capital projects, including:



£34.7m

Parkside
Link Road



£14m

Regeneration of
our Town Centres



£12.5m

School Rebuilding
Projects and Improvements



£8.1m

Investment in
our Transport
Network



£5.3m

Disabled
Facilities Grants
and Adaptations



£3.3m

Improving Accessibility
& Infrastructure
around Lea Green

In addition to the currently approved capital programme, the council has a programme of ambitious capital pipeline schemes in development, with a potential value of over £168m over the next four years, including significant further investment in St Helens and Earlestown Town Centres.

(STHMULLSZ)

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Fostering St Helens
making dreams come true

ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL