



Message from Councillor Pete Marland Leader of the Council

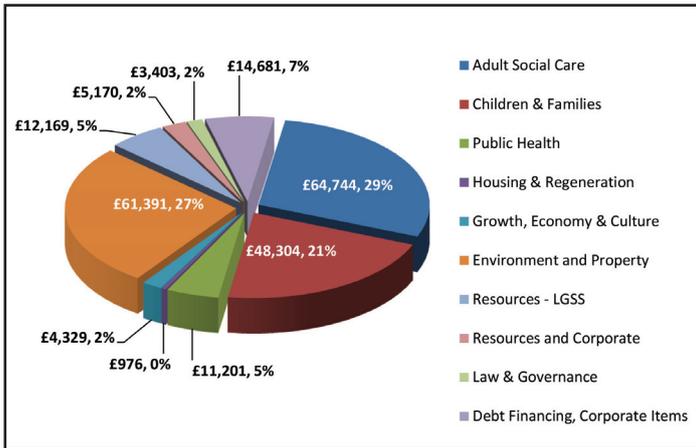
Please find enclosed your Council Tax summary for the 2020/21 financial year.

Where does my money go?

Most of the council budget is spent on providing complex social services. Over half goes into care and support for vulnerable adults and children.

Our adult and children's social services are ranked as some of the best in the country.

How the budget is spent (£200.8m excluding parish precepts)



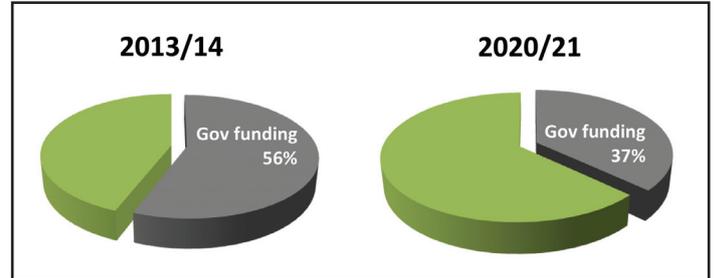
Spending in 2020/21 budget will:

- Introduce a new low cost public transport scheme for 16 – 21 year olds;
- Tackle climate change by creating wildlife corridors and new woodland, and plant 2,000 new trees;
- Invest £1m to improve the city centre and clean up our estates;
- Invest an extra £4m in tackling homelessness;
- Fix more potholes and resurface redways;
- Do more to tackle anti-social behaviour and combat knife crime;
- Extend our summer free school meals programme;
- Make a long-term investment in children's mental health.

Why is council tax rising again?

Since 2011 Milton Keynes Council has had to make over £165m in cuts as the funding we receive directly from central government to help pay for services has decreased.

Reduction in government funding to MKC



We've taken the difficult decision to increase council tax by 1.99% next year.

We will also be implementing the Social Care Precept, introduced by the Government, equivalent to an additional 1.5% increase in council tax.

The total increase of 3.49% equates to around £48 for a Band D property. This will bring in around an extra £4m in revenue to run services. Even with the council tax rise we're still having to make cuts of around £6m in our spending to balance increasing demand for services and reduced government funding.

Council Tax in Milton Keynes is still on average £120 less than in our neighbouring local authorities.

Your council tax bill also includes charges from other precepting bodies which we collect on their behalf but do not control.

While some other councils have spent large parts of their reserves on running their day to day services and are in severe difficulty, we will not let that happen in Milton Keynes. Keeping control of our budget means we are able to invest in what matters to you, and we'll keep working to make Milton Keynes a fair, affordable and healthy place where everyone can be proud of where they live.

Councillor Pete Marland
Leader of the Council