



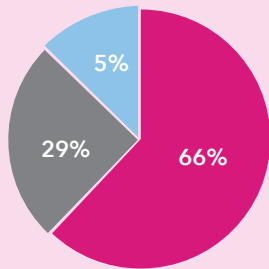
Our Flintshire, Our Future 2020 - 2021

The budget, your Council Tax and local services

Every year councils have to set a budget which balances their resources with their spending needs. Until this year Flintshire, like all councils, has had reduced funding from governments year on year for over a decade. As one of the lowest funded councils per head of population in Wales, Flintshire has been particularly exposed to the effects of austerity.

Over the last 12 years, Flintshire County Council has cut back on its spending by **£92M**. Every year it's been harder and harder to make more savings and protect services. At times hard budget choices have been needed.

Where the Council's money comes from



- Comes from the Welsh Government
- Comes from Council Tax
- Comes from the fees we charge for some services e.g. planning fees, garden waste charges, Register Office fees



£286M

the Council's budget for 2020/21 to provide local services for local people

The National funding position for 2020/21

On 16 December 2019, Welsh Government announced an improvement in the amount of funding it would give to Welsh councils to pay for goods and services in 2020/21. This amounted to £6.559M of new funds for Flintshire.

Whilst Flintshire continues to face financial risks and must continue with an approach of strong financial management, the settlement was an important first step towards ending a decade of challenging budget settlements for local government.



What your Council Tax pays for

The Council Tax you pay goes up every year, but not all the money collected goes to pay for council services. It also supports the money needed by:



34 Town and Community Councils (T&CC)



North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)



North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (NWF&RA)

How Council Tax is shared between the Council and other public services

£108.4M is the total the Council expects to collect in Council Tax in 2020/21, of which:

- 77%** is kept by the Council as a contribution to run local services
- 3%** is required as a contribution to meet the cost of the North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority
- 17%** is collected on behalf of North Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner
- 3%** is collected on behalf of our Town and Community Councils

Council Tax from across the six counties of North Wales contributes to the Fire and Rescue service under a system called the 'levy'. This year our contribution will be £7,968,197. An increase of £177,721 on last year. An extra 0.25% has been added to Council Tax bills to pay for this increase.



How Flintshire's Council Tax compares to other counties

Over the last two years, Flintshire residents have experienced higher than usual Council Tax increases.

Without additional funding from Welsh Government the Council had no choice but to apply these increases to set a legally balanced budget.

Despite the increase in 2019/20 Flintshire continued to set Council Tax at a lower level than most other Councils.

£39 less than the Welsh national average

£183 less than the average charged by our English neighbours

The increase in Flintshire County Council's portion of the Council Tax you pay

Having experienced large increases over the past two years the Council has been keen to do all it can to keep the 2020/21 increase below 5%. With additional funding from Welsh Government it has been possible to apply a more acceptable increase.

4.5%

the Council's portion of the rise to bridge the funding gap and protect key local services for local people

+

0.25%

to raise the additional £177,721 set by North Wales Fire and Rescue

=

4.75%

for an average Band D property this is equal to an increase of

£60.83
for the whole year

or

£5.07
a month

The total Council Tax increase

The total percentage increase for an average Band D property, including the money collected for the Council, Fire & Rescue, Police and Town & Community Councils.



Balancing the books for 2020/21

£16.315M

the total amount of cost pressures facing the Council

£9.756M

the amount the Council has found to close the gap

£6.559M

additional **new** funds from Welsh Government

£0.000M

our balanced budget

For more information about the budget and local services go to:
www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurFlintshire20-21

