

Worcestershire County Council

Where the money comes from to pay for the 2014-15 Budget

This is the second year of the Business Rates Retention Scheme which enables more local control of income collected from business rates. Since the introduction of this scheme in April 2013, the County area can keep up to 50% of the business rates growth collected in Worcestershire. The Council continues to receive a Revenue Support Grant from Central Government and funding through specific grants.

Worcestershire's funding from Government and through business rates in 2014-15 is £128.641 million or £227 per person, compared with the shire county average of £249 per person for comparable county councils (councils without responsibility for the Fire service).

We also receive other grants from the Government for specific purposes. The most significant is the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) that provides £232.0

Why spending has changed from 2013-14

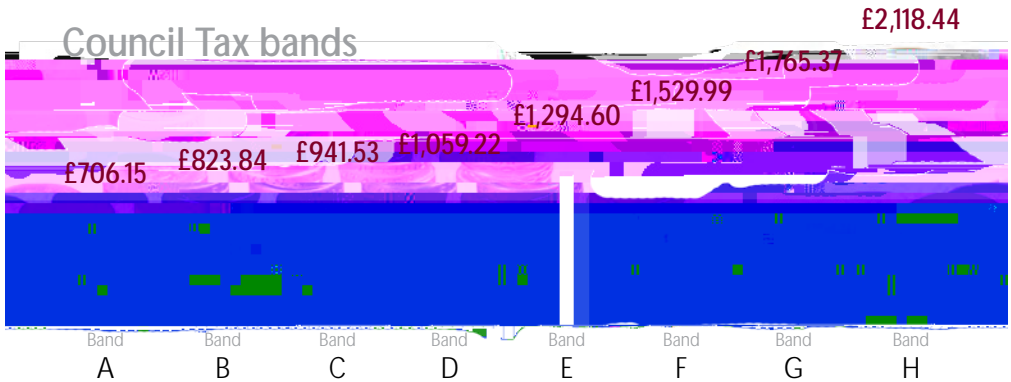
The Council faces additional cost pressures in respect of inflation and increases in the demand for services such as the extra numbers of people needing social care. Some inflationary costs experienced by local authorities are significantly higher than the general rate of inflation.

The net budget requirement for 2014-15 has decreased by £6.6 million over last year, as shown in the following table.

	£m
Net budget requirement 2013-14	334.8
Add back use of general balances in 2013-14	2.2
Add back use of earmarked reserves in 2013-14	1.1
Council Tax Freeze Grant 2013-14 funding adjustment	2.2
Council Tax Transition Grant 2013-14 funding adjustment	0.7
Revised starting position 2013-14	341.0
Inflation	7.3
Children's Social Care service pressures	4.0
Adult Social Care service pressures	3.0
Investment in road maintenance	0.5
Other	1.2
Future Fit Savings	-24.9
Transfer to earmarked reserves in 2014-15	2.3
Net budget requirement 2014-15	334.4

Council Tax

The council tax contribution towards our 2014-15 budget for a Band D property is £1,059.22, a rise of 1.94% or 39p per week from last year. The following list shows how much you will pay for our services for each property band.



Staffing

During 2014-15 we expect to employ the equivalent of 9,112 full-time staff. This includes a decrease in school-based staff due to the transfer of school academies, and the planned reduction in staff numbers as part of the Council's efficiency measures.

Capital Investment

We plan to invest £150 million during 2014-15 in capital projects such as building and refurbishing schools, improvements to roads and infrastructure, provision of funding for an Energy from Waste project, flood mitigation measures and the provision of Super Fast Broadband.

Borrowing

We borrow money to pay for some of our capital investment. The total borrowing at 31 March 2014 is estimated to be £240 million.

General Balances

We plan to keep a general reserve of around £12.9 million to pay for emergencies and other unforeseen expenditure.

Summary of Performance

Our summary of performance table is available online and shows the latest

Environment Agency Midlands Region

The Environment Agency, as a levying body for its flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) functions, provides the following information.

FCERM money is spent on flood defence schemes, maintenance of the river system, a flood warning system and coastal erosion risk management.

Severn and Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

	2013/14 '000s	2014/15 '000s
Gross Expenditure	£44,866	£47,098
Levies Raised	£3,000	£3,000
Total Council Tax Base	2,499	2,543

Changes in the Gross Budgeted expenditure between the years reflects the impact of the Government Spending Review and national prioritisation of capital projects. For 2014/15 Grant Aided Expenditure is included on all Risk Management Authority Programs. The total Local Levy raised has increased by 0%.

The local flood defence levy included in the County Council's budget for 2014/15 is £0.2m (2013/14 £0.2m).

Your county council

Worcestershire



Last year, Worcestershire County Council re-launched our corporate plan for up to 2017. Called FutureFit, it sets out our vision for the county council and our priorities over the next three years.

We've received over 35,000 responses from residents and businesses who have taken part in our public consultations to date and they have told us that these are the four areas that are most important to them:

Supporting...

Children and Families

Protecting...

The Environment



Promoting...

Health and Well-being



Each of these four areas of focus sits at the heart of FutureFit and will remain the key drivers for the County Council over the next three years. To view FutureFit, go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/corporateplan.

As we continue through this period of change, your feedback remains important to us. We will continue to engage and inform local residents and businesses and would encourage you to get involved with future consultation activities. To view a list of our current public consultations, go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk and search for "Consultation".

