

The planned costs of services are shown below:

| 2022-23 Gross Exp | 2022-23 Income | 2022-23 Net Exp | | 2023 - 24 Gross Exp | 2023 - 24 Income | 2023 - 24 Net Exp |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| £m | £m | £m | Services | £m | £m | £m |
| 231.5 | 231.5 | 0.0 | Schools budget | 249.5 | 249.5 | 0.0 |
| 131.4 | 22.3 | 109.1 | Supporting vulnerable children & Education | 144.9 | 33.8 | 111.1 |
| 301.6 | 153.3 | 148.3 | Adult social care and health | 319.7 | 166.6 | 153.1 |
| 37.1 | 30.3 | 6.8 | Libraries, museums & community services | 39.4 | 32.5 | 6.9 |
| 87.0 | 30.2 | 56.8 | Highways, planning, transport & waste disposal | 100.1 | 30.9 | 69.2 |
| 71.6 | 19.4 | 52.2 | Support services, capital financing & pensions | 79.9 | 19.4 | 60.5 |
| 860.2 | 487.0 | 373.2 | Total cost of services | 933.5 | 532.7 | 400.8 |
| 2.2 | | 2.2 | Use of reserves | | | -5.9 |
| 862.4 | 487.0 | 375.4 | Net budget requirement | | | 394.9 |
| Funded by: | | | | | | |
| | 2.9 | | Council Tax surplus/(deficit) | | -0.6 | |
| | 301.3 | | Amount to be met by Council Tax payer | | 318.4 | |
| | 304.2 | | Council Tax Requirement | | 317.8 | |
| | 68.7 | | Business Rates | | 77.1 | |
| | 2.5 | | Other grants | | 0.0 | |
| | 375.4 | | Total | | 394.9 | |

The majority of the Council's funding is from Council Tax income with £317.8 million forecast for 2023-24. Alongside this, the County area is allowed to keep up to 50% of the business rate growth collected in Worcestershire since the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme in April 2013. The Council only receives a very small general Revenue Support Grant, £26,278 in 2023-24.

We also receive grants from the Government for specific purposes including funding for schools and social care. The most significant is the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and we expect to receive approx. £249.5 million for 2023-24. This grant provides funding for mainstream schools, special schools and statutory functions and can only be used for this purpose. Another Government grant that we receive is the Public Health Grant. We are awaiting final confirmation but expect to receive approx. £32 million which is ring-fenced to invest in a number of public health related activities across the County.

The budget for providing our services in 2023-24, net of specific grants, is £400.8 million.

The council tax contribution towards our 2023-24 budget for a Band D property is £1,465.78, a rise of 4.94% or £1.33 per week from last year. The following list shows how much you will pay for our services for each property band.



| Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| £977.19 | £1,140.05 | £1,302.92 | £1,465.78 | £1,791.51 | £2,117.24 | £2,442.97 | £2,931.56 |

We borrow money to pay for some of our capital investment. The total borrowing at 31 March 2023 is estimated to be approximately £532 million.

We plan to keep a general reserve of around £14.3 million to pay for emergencies and other unforeseen expenditure.

The council tax for Worcestershire County Council has increased in total by 4.94% in 2023-24 to £1,465.78 for

The following paragraphs are required to be included with information to be made available to Council Taxpayers. They explain that the County Council can raise an additional amount of Council Tax for Adult Social Care without holding a referendum:

The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly).

The offer was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to approval of the House of Commons.

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 & Wye, and Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committees | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| | 2022/23 '000s | 2023/24 '000s |
| Gross Expenditure | £103,968 | £112,428 |
| Levies Raised | £3,445 | £3,513 |
| Total Council Base | 2,877 | 2,921 |

A change in the Gross Budgeted expenditure between the years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees. The total Local Levy raised has increased by 2.0%.

The local flood defence levy included in the County Council's budget for 2023/24 is £0.27m (2022/23 £0.26m).





