

Worcestershire County Council Budget

2014 – 2015

Worcestershire County Council Budget 2014-15

How the money is spent – summary of gross expenditure, income and staffing

The planned costs of services are shown below:

<i>2013-14</i> Net Exp £m	Services	<i>2014-15</i> Gross Exp £m	<i>2014-15</i> Income £m	<i>2014-15</i> Net Exp £m	Council Tax for a band D property £	Staffing
0.0	Schools Budget	250.2	250.2	0.0	0.00	5,534
77.5	Children's Services excluding Schools	93.9	16.8	77.1	244.11	855
150.9	Adults & Public Health	218.6	73.0	145.6	461.09	1,275
11.0	Cultural & Community	21.3	11.7	9.6	30.40	289
35.7	Highways & public transport	36.7	3.3	33.4	105.68	376
25.5	Waste disposal	42.2	15.0	27.2	86.27	10
3.0	Planning & economic development	9.2	6.0	3.2	10.29	65
30.9	Net cost of council borrowing	30.6	0.2	30.4	96.29	-
6.5	Other services	20.7	15.1	5.6	17.70	708
-2.2	Council Tax Freeze Grant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	-
-0.7	Council Tax Transition Support Grant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	-
338.1	Total cost of services	723.4	391.3	332.1	1,051.83	9,112
-2.2	Use of general reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	-
-1.1	Addition to or use of earmarked reserves	2.3	0.0	2.3	7.39	-
334.8	Net budget requirement	725.7	391.3	334.4	1,059.22	9,112
Funded by:						
0.6	Council Tax Surplus			1.8		
195.4	Amount to be met by Council Tax payer			203.9		
196.0	Council Tax Requirement			205.7		
55.4	Business Rates			56.6		
83.4	Revenue Support Grant			72.1		
334.8	Total			334.4		

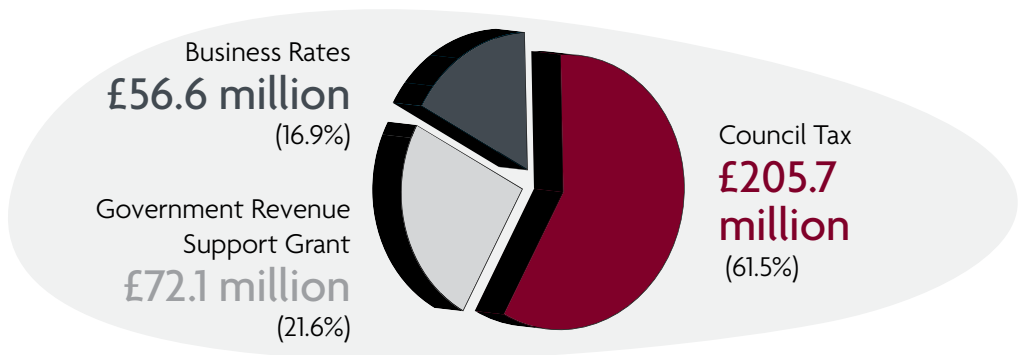
Where the money comes from to pay for the 2014-15 Budget

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 (council's 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 million funding for mainstream schools and statutory functions in 2014-15 and can only be used for this purpose.

The cost of providing our services in 2014-15, net of specific grants, is £332.1 million which, after transferring £2.3 million to earmarked reserves, leaves £334.4 million to be funded from business rates, Revenue Support Grant and local taxation.



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 overall progress against our Corporate Plan and key areas of focus. It also enables us to support managers and councillors in managing performance throughout the Council.

We recognise that a number of the indicators are long term and outside of the direct control of the Council, but we are measuring progress against them because of their importance to local residents. To view our performance table, go to **www.worcestershire.gov.uk/performance**

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).

Worcestershire FutureFit



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:

Championing...

Open for Business

You said ensuring Worcestershire is **Open for Business** is vital.

Supporting...

Children and Families

You said supporting **Children and Families** and keeping children safe should be fundamental to what we do.

Protecting...

The Environment

You said protecting **The Environment** is important.

Promoting...

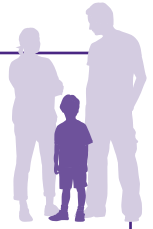
Health and Well-being

You told us promoting **Health and Well-being** should be a priority.

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".

Thinking about Adoption or Fostering?



Adoption:

0800 633 5442

www.isadoption4me.co.uk

Fostering:

0800 028 2158

www.isfostering4me.co.uk

Contacting your county council

You can access a wide range of council services online at www.worcestershire.gov.uk. This includes reporting a pot hole or broken street light; applying for a school place; applying for and renewing a blue badge or bus pass; applying for a library card and renewing a library book; and paying your council tax, business rates or homecare invoice.

If you don't have a computer, you can visit your local library and use one for free. If you'd prefer to contact us by phone or need to make an appointment to see one of our advisors, all of our numbers are listed in the phone directory.

Budget 2014-2015

To view your county council's budget and how the money is spent, including a summary of gross expenditure, income and staffing, go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/budget

Find your councillor

To find out who your local County Councillor is and to contact them about local issues, go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/councillors

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