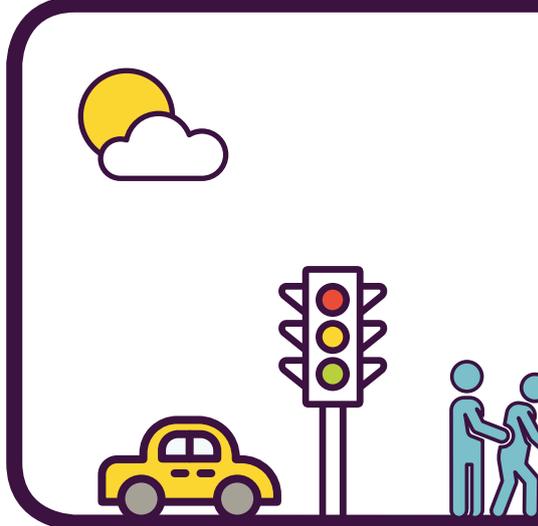
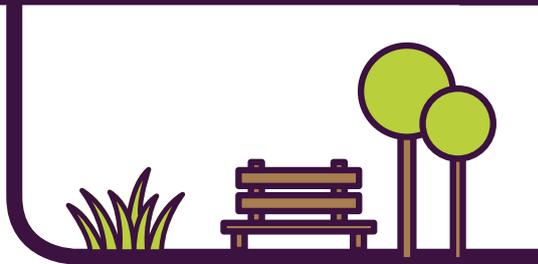


YOUR GUIDE

TO COUNCIL TAX
AND THE BUDGET
2019-2020



BarnsleyCouncil



@BarnsleyCouncil

**Working together
for a brighter future,
a better Barnsley.**



[Barnsley.gov.uk/budget](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/budget)



[Barnsley.gov.uk/council-tax](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/council-tax)



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council



THIS GUIDE LOOKS AT...

- Where the funding for the budget comes from
- How the budget works
- Your council tax and how it's calculated
- How we'll spend and invest for the future

Every year, we set a budget for the financial year ahead. This sets out how we'll spend our money to provide you with the services you need – such as schools, social care, bin collections and road maintenance.

In February 2017, we produced a three-year financial plan taking us up to 2020. This plan has been critical in helping us to prioritise, plan and prepare for the future. We've continued to work hard to prepare for the financial challenges we face and have achieved a balanced budget for 2019-20.

Since 2010, we've suffered extensive cuts from the government and made budgeted savings of an estimated £107 million, including £5.8 million to be made during 2019-20. We've had to make some difficult decisions, we face significant uncertainty.

The next 12 months will be critical in planning for the future. It's not going to be easy but we'll prepare for every financial scenario and maintain momentum as we continue to improve, grow and change to become a modern sustainable future council.

THE REVENUE BUDGET

The **revenue budget** is spent on our day to day running costs. This includes paying our staff to deliver a range of vital services you and your family need each day; the cost to fuel and maintain our bin lorries to collect and dispose of your waste; the payment we make to care providers to help look after our elderly residents and the cost of opening and running our public buildings.

Council tax contributes towards funding the revenue budget.



In household terms, this is equivalent to

you paying your household bills, fuelling your car, food shopping or insuring your home.

THE CAPITAL BUDGET

In addition to the revenue budget, we also have a separate **capital budget** which is used to pay for one-off investments and projects.

Capital funds are used to purchase or pay for the improvement of our assets that we need to deliver our services. Capital spend is usually large in value, provides long term benefit and ongoing sustainability – for example the purchase of land, equipment, buildings and significant road improvements.

Capital resources are not used to fund day to day running costs. Capital resources come from a number of places including selling off our assets, borrowing and specific grants and contributions.

£41 million of new capital investment will be spent over the next two years through the ongoing rollout of our capital investment programme.



In household terms, this is equivalent to you purchasing a new car, buying a house or furniture for your home.

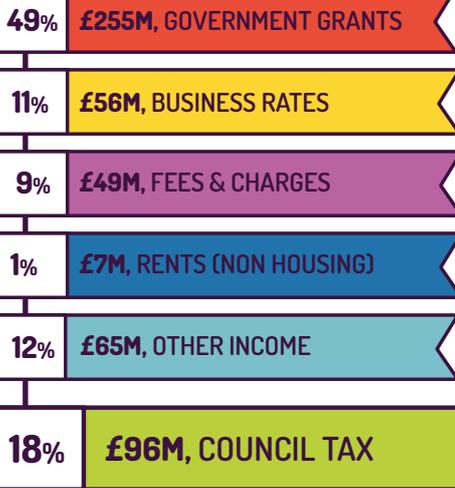
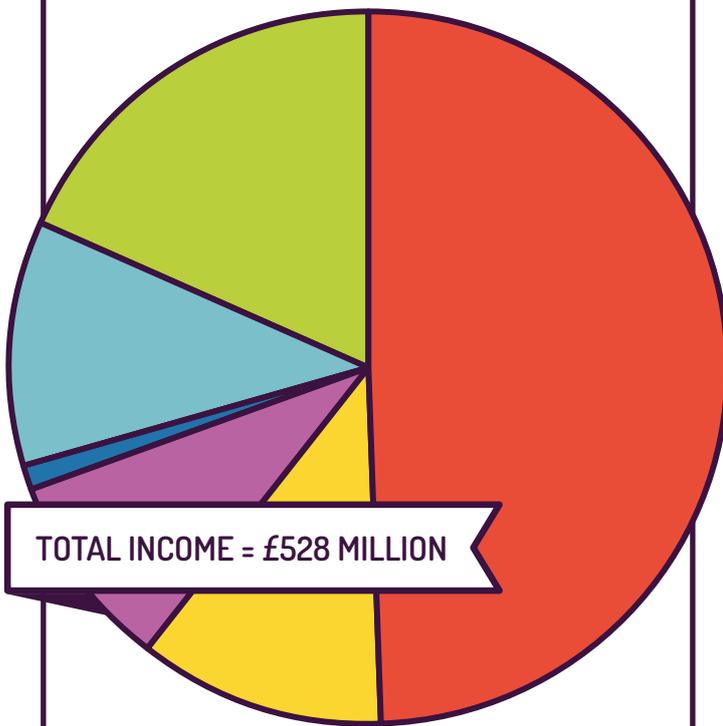




WHERE DOES THE REVENUE BUDGET COME FROM?

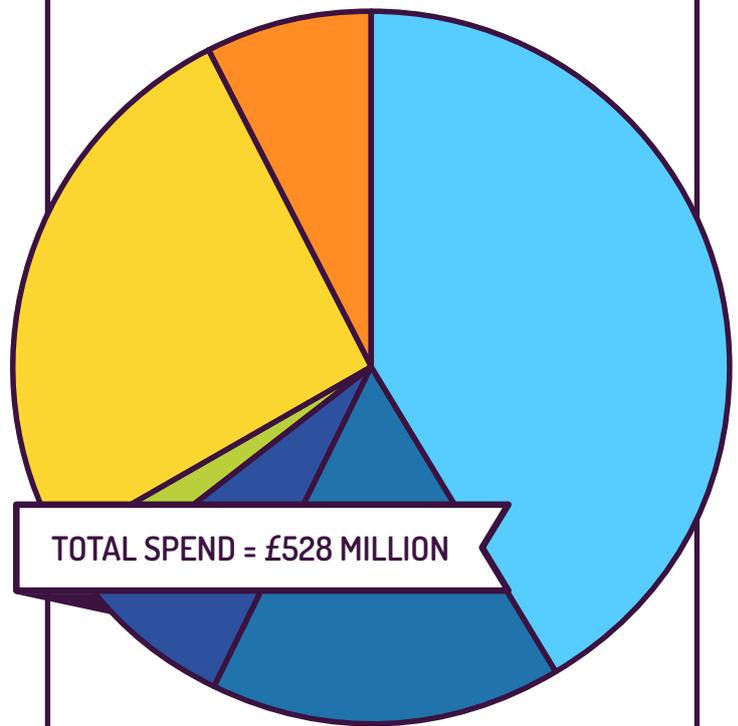
In 2019/20, we'll spend approximately **£528 million** providing you with a range of services. Our main source of funding comes from government funding and grants. As you'll see, council tax only contributes 18 percent towards the total amount of money we need.

The revenue budget comes from a combination of sources:



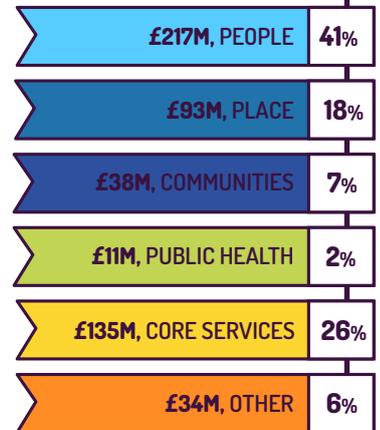
HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT?

We prioritise spending in line with our three priorities: a thriving and vibrant economy, people achieving their potential and strong, resilient communities. Our services are structured to help us achieve this and deliver the outcomes we're committed to in our corporate plan. We're also supported by a lean core which is critical in our drive to be a more business-like and efficient organisation.



Included within the above totals are the following levy payments:

- Passenger Transport levy in Place £9.494M
- Flood Defence in Place £0.108M
- South Yorkshire Pensions Levy in Other £0.085M
- Includes £67M of Housing Benefit Payments in Core



*The above income excludes rental income from Council Housing totalling £70M.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF OUR 2019-2020 BUDGET



This is how much we'll spend **EVERYDAY** to provide you and your family with the vital services you need:

Figures in thousands £000



£316*

EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES



£95

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE



£206

ADULT SOCIAL CARE



£11

LEISURE, CULTURE AND TOURISM



£42

ROAD MAINTENANCE



£10

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES



£42

WASTE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING



£3

HOUSING (NON COUNCIL)



£31

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES AND CREATING JOBS



£8

PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL



£35

LIBRARIES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES



£21

AREA COUNCILS - STRONGER, SAFER COMMUNITIES



£26

PUBLIC TRANSPORT LEVY



£2

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES



£29

PUBLIC HEALTH



£192**

REVENUES AND BENEFITS

The amounts above do not include the costs of Core (support) services and other corporate costs.

We also spend £192,000 on council housing per day.

*includes schools

**includes housing benefit payments



We'll continue to invest and prioritise our spending in those areas that help us continue our drive to change and improve, meet the increasing demand on our services and prepare for the financial uncertainty we continue face.

CREATING MORE AND BETTER HOMES

As Barnsley's population continues to grow, so does the need for more and better houses. This includes making the best use of our existing housing stock through the implementation of a three-year empty property programme which will broaden the support available to put empty properties back into use providing much-needed homes across the borough.



EARLY HELP AND INTERVENTION

We'll continue to prioritise early help and intervention providing assistance as soon as it's needed. We'll develop a new integrated Affordable Warm Homes service which will tackle fuel poverty, excess winter deaths and cold homes. We'll prioritise improving the support pathways we offer adolescents and implement our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy to enable our young people to achieve their potential through an enhanced programme of early help and prevention.



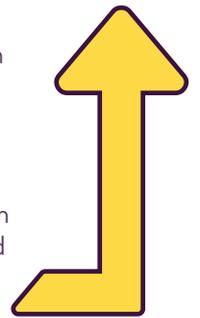
TOWN SPIRIT

We'll roll out of our recently launched Town Spirit which shows the work we're doing to make Barnsley a great place to live, work, invest and visit. We'll build on this to integrate and embed Town Spirit into our communities. As we look beyond 2020, Town Spirit will be critical as by working together, we can achieve more than ever before by finding new ways of meeting the challenges facing the borough.

Town Spirit

COMMERCIAL STRATEGY

We'll focus on our commercial strategy which will embed a more business-like culture across the organisation. This will improve the efficiency of our services, increase income streams and instill a more commercial mind-set across the organisation. We'll also focus on our assets - making sure we're managing and making the best use of them to support our services.



ONGOING INVESTMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We'll continue to deliver our capital investment programme over the next two years as we continue our drive to invest in the ongoing redevelopment and sustainability of Barnsley's future. Our Capital Programme is committed to the ongoing investment of £434 million, including £41 million of new investment in 2019-20. This includes:



£3 MILLION

invested to facilitate further commercial developments, bringing new job opportunities and inward investment to the area.



£15 MILLION

creating a Digital Campus at the heart of the town center including development of Digital Media Centre 2.



£4 MILLION

street lighting replacement



£120 MILLION

ongoing investment in the town centre re-development programme, including starting phase two of The Glass Works, the completion and opening of Library @ the Lightbox and construction of Market Gate Bridge.



£161 MILLION

housing including £31M on new housing.



ANNUAL INCREASE 4.49%

Despite our efforts to bridge the gaps in funding. Due to year on year cuts from central government, combined with inflation and the growing demand on our services, council tax will increase from April 2019 by 4.49 percent.

This includes:

- 2.99% to help fund general services
- 1.5% to support adult social care

We know money is tight and have not taken this decision lightly. We've explored a number of options and done everything we can to minimise the impact of this increase on you and your family.

This does not include the amount you pay towards police and fire authorities.

WHAT WILL THIS INCREASE MEAN TO YOU?

The financial impact of this increase will depend on the house band in which you live. The table below provides the weekly and annual increase based on your house band:

% INCREASE	0.00%	GENERAL INCREASE 2.99%		ADULT SOCIAL CARE INCREASE 1.5%		OVERALL INCREASE 4.49%		TOTAL COST 2019/20	
	CURRENT ANNUAL CHARGE	ANNUAL INCREASE	WEEKLY INCREASE	ANNUAL INCREASE	WEEKLY INCREASE	ANNUAL INCREASE	WEEKLY INCREASE	TOTAL ANNUAL COST	WEEKLY COST
BAND									
Band A-	£788.73	£23.58	£0.45	£11.83	£0.23	£35.41	£0.68	£824.14	£15.85
Band A	£946.48	£28.30	£0.54	£14.20	£0.27	£42.50	£0.82	£988.98	£19.02
Band B	£1,104.23	£33.02	£0.63	£16.56	£0.32	£49.58	£0.95	£1,153.81	£22.19
Band C	£1,261.98	£37.73	£0.73	£18.93	£0.36	£56.66	£1.09	£1,318.64	£25.36
Band D	£1,419.73	£42.45	£0.82	£21.30	£0.41	£63.75	£1.23	£1,483.48	£28.53
Band E	£1,735.22	£51.88	£1.00	£26.03	£0.50	£77.91	£1.50	£1,813.13	£34.87
Band F	£2,050.72	£61.32	£1.18	£30.76	£0.59	£92.08	£1.77	£2,142.80	£41.21
Band G	£2,366.21	£70.75	£1.36	£35.49	£0.68	£106.24	£2.04	£2,472.45	£47.55
Band H	£2,839.46	£84.90	£1.63	£42.59	£0.82	£127.49	£2.45	£2,966.96	£57.06

This does not include the amount you pay towards South Yorkshire Police Authority and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

MAJOR PRECEPTING AUTHORITIES

We also bill and collect council tax on behalf of the South Yorkshire Police Authority and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. The table below shows the precept that will be charged by each authority in 2018/19, in addition to the amount paid directly to us.

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	TOTAL PRECEPT	ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION										Additional information on budget papers can be viewed here:
		£	A-	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
South Yorkshire Fire Authority	4,686,283	40.63	48.75	56.88	65.00	73.13	89.38	105.63	121.88	146.26	www.southyorks.gov.uk	
South Yorkshire Police Authority	12,442,072	107.87	129.44	151.01	172.59	194.16	237.31	280.45	323.60	388.32	www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk	

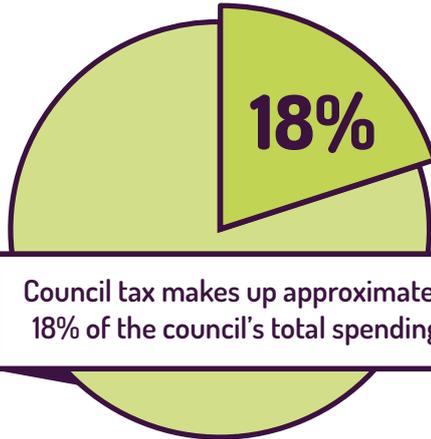
If you live in an area that has a Parish Council, you may also have to pay an additional amount set by the Parish Council which we also collect on behalf of the individual parish precepts. This amount can be found on our website: Barnsley.gov.uk/council-tax

THIS WEEK, YOU WERE SERVED BY BARNSELEY COUNCIL



It's important to remember that council tax is only a contribution towards the day to day running costs of delivering our services – it's not a charge for individual services.

Council tax only contributes towards around 18 percent of the total amount we'll spend delivering our services and does not contribute towards any capital investment schemes we deliver.



Council tax makes up approximately 18% of the council's total spending.

Here's a snap shot of what your council tax contributes towards in one week

667 TONNES

of waste was recycled



1.97 MILLION square metres of grass was cut

We've gritted and cleaned roads within the borough's **729 MILE** network



169,500 bins were emptied

66 INCIDENTS

of fly tipping were removed



It costs around **£10.2M** A WEEK to provide the services you need. **Council tax only contributes £1.9M** towards these costs!

8,506 BOOKS

346 E-BOOKS PER WEEK

were issued or renewed at local libraries



4 CHILDREN were found loving foster homes

3,005 older people were cared for including those receiving home support



...with a further £1.4M per week spent on Council Housing



HOW DO YOU WORK OUT HOW MUCH COUNCIL TAX YOU NEED TO CHARGE?

To work out much council tax our residents need to pay, we work out how much money we need to deliver our services and then take away the money we receive from the government and other sources (see page 3). This leaves us with the funding gap or short fall we need to fund through council tax contributions.

WHY HAS MY COUNCIL TAX INCREASED?

Despite our efforts to make financial savings, we're faced with ongoing cuts from the government and a growing demand on our services which increases the gap in funding we need to fill. If we didn't increase council tax to fill this gap, we'd have to cut vital services as the funding is simply not there.

WHY IS MY COUNCIL TAX BILL MORE THAN MY FRIENDS?

The amount of council tax you pay depends on the property band you live in. All properties are banded into one of eight valuation bands (A to H) set by the government. If you live in an area with a Parish Council, you may also have to pay an additional precept set by them which is added to your bill.

WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR SERVICES I DON'T USE?

Council tax is like income tax – it's not a charge for individual services, it contributes towards the overall running costs of delivering our services. It contributes towards lots of services you use daily or benefits everyone – such as your bin collections, road maintenance and public health. Some services are used by fewer residents depending on personal circumstances but remember, we never know what services we may need in the future.

HOW DO I PAY MY COUNCIL TAX?

You'll receive your bill in March which outlines payment options. You can pay the annual bill in one go or in monthly instalments. The easiest way to pay is to set up a direct debit – you can choose whether to pay over 10 or 12 months and you can even choose out of four dates when the payment leaves your account each month. Even better, register for a My Bentax account so you can access information about your bill, change payment details and even register for paperless e-billing. To do this, visit: barnsley.gov.uk/mybentax

WHAT DO I DO IF I CAN'T PAY MY COUNCIL TAX?

If you're struggling to pay your bill, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make reasonable alternative payment arrangements.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I MISS A PAYMENT?

If you don't pay your council tax bill on time, we'll send you a reminder telling you how much is overdue which you'll be required to pay within 7 days. If you fail to do so, you could lose the right to pay in instalments.

If payment is still not made as required, recovery proceedings may be taken against you. For more information, visit: barnsley.gov.uk/ctrecovery

COULD I BE ELIGIBLE FOR A DISCOUNT OR EXEMPTION?

Depending on your personal circumstances, you may be eligible for a discount on your council tax, for example, if you're the only person over 18 living in your home, you're a fulltime student or your property is unoccupied whilst undergoing major repairs. In some cases, you may be exempt from paying council tax at all. For more information about discounts and exemptions or to make an application, visit: barnsley.gov.uk/council-tax

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

Information about all aspects of council tax – including how to pay, telling us about changes to your circumstances; discounts and exemptions and managing your account online can be found all in one place on our website: barnsley.gov.uk/council-tax.

To make things even more convenient, we've introduced a live webchat service to the council tax section of the website so someone will be on hand to deal with any queries you may have at the click of a button – freeing up phone lines and saving you time.