



Our approach for the year ahead

East Sussex County Council faces £110 million budget cuts in the 10 years to 2020. This includes a total cash reduction of £75 million over the five years of the current Government from 2010 to 2015.

Changes in our community like the growing number of older people and rising costs from inflation mean we need to do even more with a smaller budget. Around 75% of our spending is on services for specific groups, including support for vulnerable children and adults, while the remaining 25% is spent on services for everyone.

We want to make rapid progress to achieve the targets in our Council Plan and deliver better services for local people. To do this we have to become more innovative, efficient and effective.

We will:

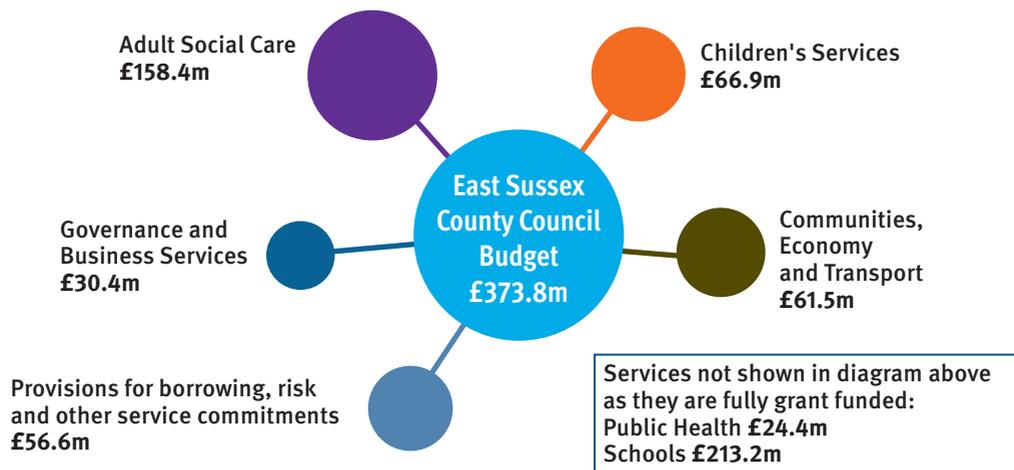
- commission services where they are most needed and cost effective;
- work as One Council and focus on what works best for our customers, driving out ineffective processes so we can achieve value for money; and
- work together with partners to make the greatest positive impact.

We will use our £373.8 million revenue budget 2014/15 and our ambitious capital programme of £339.4 million from 2014 to 2018 to provide the services and long term improvements that will support the needs of our residents.

Programme for growth

We will continue to use our capital programme to boost the county's economy through major improvements, such as to roads and broadband, that will unlock private investment for business and housing. We will also invest in more school places, better libraries and improving the energy efficiency of our buildings.

How the revenue budget for 2014/15 will be spent



Our priorities for 2014/15

Our responsibility is not only to balance our budget, but to use it to play our part in helping East Sussex become more prosperous, while protecting the most vulnerable, and supporting all people to live well and realise their potential.

We have four priorities – building resilience, driving economic growth, making best use of our resources and keeping vulnerable people safe. They have objectives that depend on each other and we need to balance how we allocate our limited resources across them.

Objectives

- Enhance what individuals and communities can do for themselves
- Reduce demand for services
- Break dependency

Through

- Early intervention
- Choice, control and personal support
- Supporting independence

Objectives

- Create the conditions for growth and enterprise
- Help local businesses thrive and grow
- Ensure local people have the skills they need to succeed

Through

- Improving infrastructure
- Improving skills and qualifications of children and adults
- Using our purchasing power to support businesses

Objectives

- Maximise the value from public finance
- Maximise operational efficiency and effectiveness
- Services meet the needs of local communities
- Maximise resources focused on frontline services

Through

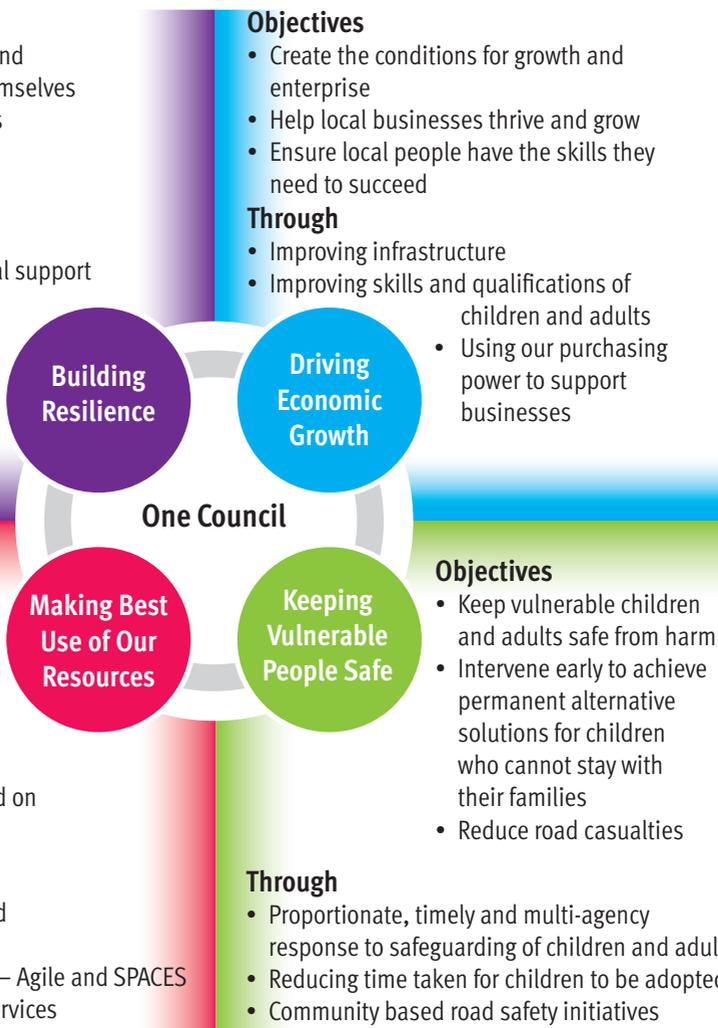
- Commissioning services and partnership working
- Best use of physical assets – Agile and SPACES
- Better, cheaper access to services

Objectives

- Keep vulnerable children and adults safe from harm
- Intervene early to achieve permanent alternative solutions for children who cannot stay with their families
- Reduce road casualties

Through

- Proportionate, timely and multi-agency response to safeguarding of children and adults
- Reducing time taken for children to be adopted
- Community based road safety initiatives



You can find out more about the work we will be doing over the next three years in our Council Plan, which will be published on our website at the end of March, along with full details of our budget for the year ahead. Go to eastsussex.gov.uk/councilplan

Our Budget

The council budget for 2014/15 covers the second year of our three year savings plans. Key services have been protected as far as possible from the effects of growth in demand and price increases. Service spending reduces by £20 million.

At the same time we have ensured we can invest in the future to manage the many risks we face. We will use one-off funding to support the capital investment programme, in particular highways structural maintenance. Our overall net budget will therefore reduce by £8.3 million compared to 2013/14 as shown in the total net budget line of the table overleaf.

Council tax has increased for the first time in four years. The 1.95% increase will give us greater financial stability in delivering services now and in planning for the future.

Contact us: To find out more, call 0345 60 80 190, email finance@eastsussex.gov.uk, visit eastsussex.gov.uk/finance or write to The Chief Executive, East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE.

Why our spending has changed

The tables below show the changes in gross spending between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

	£m	£m
Gross spend 2013/14		827.7
Service funding		
Increase in fees, charges and receipts	2.6	
Changes in Government grants	-11.7	
Other income	-0.4	
Sub total		-9.5
Service spending		
Unavoidable additional service spend	3.0	
Savings	-30.4	
Inflation and price changes	2.7	
Changes in Government grants	0.5	
Contingencies to be allocated	4.2	
Sub total		-20.0
Corporate spend		
Treasury management	0.7	
Funding capital programme	11.8	
Funding risks and future uncertainties	0.3	
Sub total		12.8
Gross spend 2014/15		811.0

Department spending plans

	2013/14	2014/15	Total change
	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care	169.8	158.4	-11.4
Public Health	23.7	24.4	0.7
Children's Services	71.4	66.9	-4.5
Communities, Economy and Transport	66.5	61.5	-5.0
Governance Services	7.9	7.2	-0.7
Business Services	26.5	23.2	-3.3
Contingencies yet to be allocated	0.4	4.6	4.2
Net service spend	366.2	346.2	-20.0

Our budget	2013/14	2014/15	Change	
	see note 1		£m	%
Total gross spend	827.7	811.0	-16.7	-2.0
Less:				
Fees and charges income	-56.6	-59.2		
Specific Government grants	-330.1	-319.5		
Other income (see note 2)	-58.9	-58.5		
Total net budget	382.1	373.8	-8.3	-2.2%
Made up of:				
Net service spend (see note 3)	366.2	346.2	-20.0	
Contributions to capital programme (see note 4)	7.5	19.3		
Treasury management (see note 5)	30.1	30.8		
Funding risks and future uncertainties	11.8	12.1		
Levies (see note 6)	0.5	0.5		
Corporate grants	-34.0	-35.1		
Net corporate spend total	15.9	27.6	11.7	
	382.1	373.8	-8.3	-2.2%
Funded by:				
Business rates retention scheme	-65.6	-66.7		
Revenue support grant	-101.0	-85.7		
Collection fund (surplus shown as negative)	-1.9	-1.8		
Funding other than council tax	-168.5	-154.2	-14.3	-8.5%
Council tax requirement	213.6	219.6	6.0	2.8%
Number of 'Band D' equivalent dwellings	184,394	185,942		
Band D council tax	£1,158.30	£1,180.89		

Note 1: Last year's service budgets are updated for permanent changes in 2013/14 as follows:

Item	£ million
Inflation and price change	5.0
Community safety	-0.3
Home to school transport grant	-0.2
Adjustment for internal charging	1.6
Total	6.1

Note 2: The Council will use £20 million of reserves to meet the costs of specific projects.

Note 3: The Council service savings plans by department can be found in the table on previous page.

Note 4: In addition to the planned £5.8 million support for capital works, the Council has agreed to use one-off funding available through updated planning assumptions to include an extra £5 million for roads structural maintenance and £8.5 million for funding the future capital programme.

Note 5: Treasury management is the yearly cost of borrowing and other contributions to pay for certain major building projects.

Note 6: The Council pays levies to certain other bodies:

Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA)	£301,000
Environment Agency (flood defence)	£130,000
Ashdown Forest Conservators	£76,000
Total	£507,000