

Council Tax Information



2021/22

Essex's path out of the pandemic

We have produced our budget and plans for 2021/22 under circumstances we have never faced before. This has been the most testing time the council and our communities have ever been through.

Our plan for the coming year defines the path to build back better from the pandemic.

We have had to make some incredibly tough decisions in the short term to protect our communities and economy in the long term. Our strategy and investment plan aim to improve the lives of our residents and help mitigate the impacts of the last year.

The challenge of Covid-19 comes on top of the existing financial stresses that public services have faced for a decade.

Essex County Council has focused relentlessly on reducing bureaucracy and improving productivity. For this reason, we have been consistently identified as one of the 10 most efficient councils in the country. This has enabled us to keep council tax increases to a minimum, while providing even better services for residents.

Our focus is now on bolstering our economy, protecting the vulnerable and supporting our communities.

We will continue to address the challenges of Covid-19 over the next 12 months. We will work with our public health professionals to minimise the risk of Covid-19 to our population's health. There is no more fundamental responsibility for government than to save lives. Working with our partners and central government, we will continue to do whatever it takes to protect you from this dreadful virus.

It has been a challenging year and the next few months promise to be no less so. We know how hard it has been for you and the pressures you have faced.

That is why we make one simple promise: we are on your side and we will work, day and night, to support you, your families, and your neighbourhoods.



Councillor Finch
Leader of the Council

Our plan for 2021/22

Our plan has four strategic priorities:

Economic growth

There is nothing more important to the long-term wellbeing of our communities than the health of our economy. We will spend our money with Essex businesses, support schemes to tackle youth unemployment and invest in our economic centres.

Helping people get the best start and age well

We will help and support people in our county who are least able to help themselves. Everyone has the right to live the best life they can, and it is our responsibility to help them do so.

Creating great places

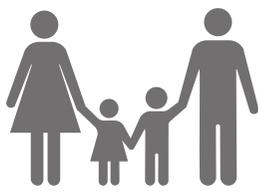
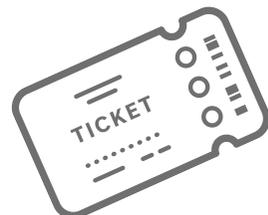
We are the guardians of the county for future generations. We will balance the need to protect our natural environment with the housing and economic demands of our growing population.

Transforming the council

We have a responsibility to the people of Essex to constantly strive to be better. We will become more efficient and more effective in securing good outcomes.

Daily spending

This is how much we spend per day on some of the services we provide to the general public.

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Adult Social Care</p>  <p>£1,740,728 per day</p> | <p>Schools</p>  <p>£1,313,694 per day</p> | <p>Children Services</p>  <p>£375,928 per day</p> | <p>Early Years & Child Care</p>  <p>£268,069 per day</p> | <p>Environment & Waste</p>  <p>£231,751 per day</p> | <p>Infrastructure</p>  <p>£185,206 per day</p> | <p>Public Health</p>  <p>£175,831 per day</p> |
| <p>Home to school transport</p>  <p>£91,208 per day</p> | <p>Concessionary fares</p>  <p>£49,280 per day</p> | <p>Library Services</p>  <p>£38,219 per day</p> | <p>Economic Development</p>  <p>£18,456 per day</p> | <p>Coroners Services</p>  <p>£9,852 per day</p> | <p>Country Parks</p>  <p>£9,608 per day</p> | <p>Registrar Services</p>  <p>£7,028 per day</p> |

Listening to you

In September and November 2020, we carried out a budget consultation with residents of Essex.

You told us that the most important issues to you were:

- the Covid-19 pandemic
- the environment and climate change
- our economic situation
- protecting key services such as care and support for vulnerable older people and those with mental health needs
- maintaining roads, footways and bridges.



Investing

We will invest in the services that are most important to you this year.

We will continue to invest in our infrastructure by fixing our roads and putting more than £2.5 million towards flood defences.

We are tackling climate change by planting 50,000 trees to help capture carbon. We will welcome the full report of the Essex Climate Action Commission in the summer for more ways we can combat climate change.

We are investing an additional £33 million in service budgets in 2021/22. This includes £19 million in social care services.

We have ambitious plans for capital investment alongside our revenue budget, with a capital programme of £290 million for 2021/22.

This programme includes investment in our highways such as the M11 junction 7A and the A127 Fairglen Interchange. We will improve transport in Chelmsford and create independent living schemes for older and vulnerable adults. The programme will also create 1,500 new school places as well as new schools for children with special needs.

Saving

We have faced significant reductions in local authority grants in recent years. To adapt to this shortfall, we have saved £282 million over the last four years.

We have achieved this saving by redesigning, modernising and transforming our services. We have made better use of technology and developed new income streams.

In 2021/22, we will deliver a further £46 million, through both savings and income streams. We will continue to adapt and learn from the challenges the pandemic has brought about.



Spending and charges explained

There is always a balance between investing in and protecting services and asking people to pay a little more. This year, we will be taking up 1.5% of the 3% Adult Social Care precept, which is a facility offered by Government to raise income for social care. We will not be increasing our general Council Tax precept this year.

This will result in an increase in council tax for a band D property of 38p per household per week, taking the Band D charge to £1,340.91.

The following table shows the Council tax charge by band.

| Band | Council tax charge £000 | Band | Council tax charge £000 |
|------|----------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| A | 893.94 | E | 1,638.89 |
| B | 1,042.93 | F | 1,936.87 |
| C | 1,191.92 | G | 2,234.85 |
| D | 1,340.91 | H | 2,681.82 |

The 2021/22 budget sets out the financial resources that the Council has available to deliver the Organisation Plan.

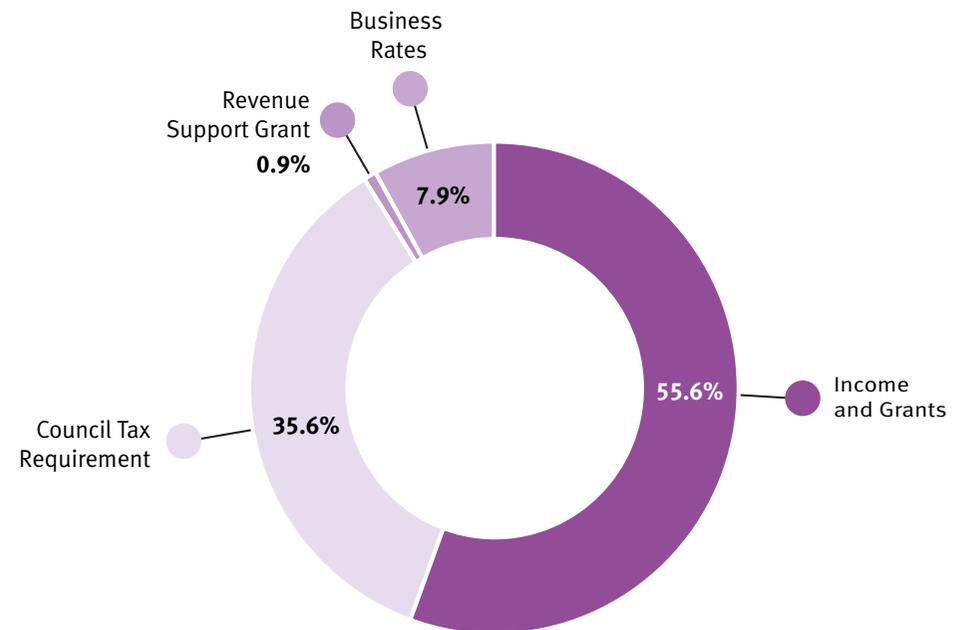
| Financial Overview | 2020/21 £m | 2021/22 £m | Change £m |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Total expenditure | 1,944.0 | 2,014.0 | 70.0 |
| Income and grants | (1,030.4) | (1,119.1) | (88.7) |
| Budget requirement | 913.6 | 894.9 | (18.7) |
| This is paid for by: | | | |
| Collection fund (surplus)/deficit | (7.1) | 0.3 | 7.4 |
| Business Rates | (180.1) | (159.0) | 21.1 |
| Revenue Support Grant | (18.6) | (18.7) | (0.1) |
| Council tax requirement | (707.8) | (717.5) | (9.7) |
| Total funding | (913.6) | (894.9) | 18.7 |

Funding for services

Around half of the Council's funding is from grants or income such as fees and charges, of which £541 million is passed directly to schools. The rest of the funding comes primarily from tax payers – whether through Business Rates (£159.0 million) or Council Tax (£717.5 million).

| Funding for services | £m |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Income and Grants | 1,119.1 |
| Council Tax Requirement | 717.5 |
| Revenue Support Grant | 18.7 |
| Business Rates | 159.0 |
| Collection Fund Deficit | (0.3) |
| Total | 2,014.0 |

Figure 1: Funding for services



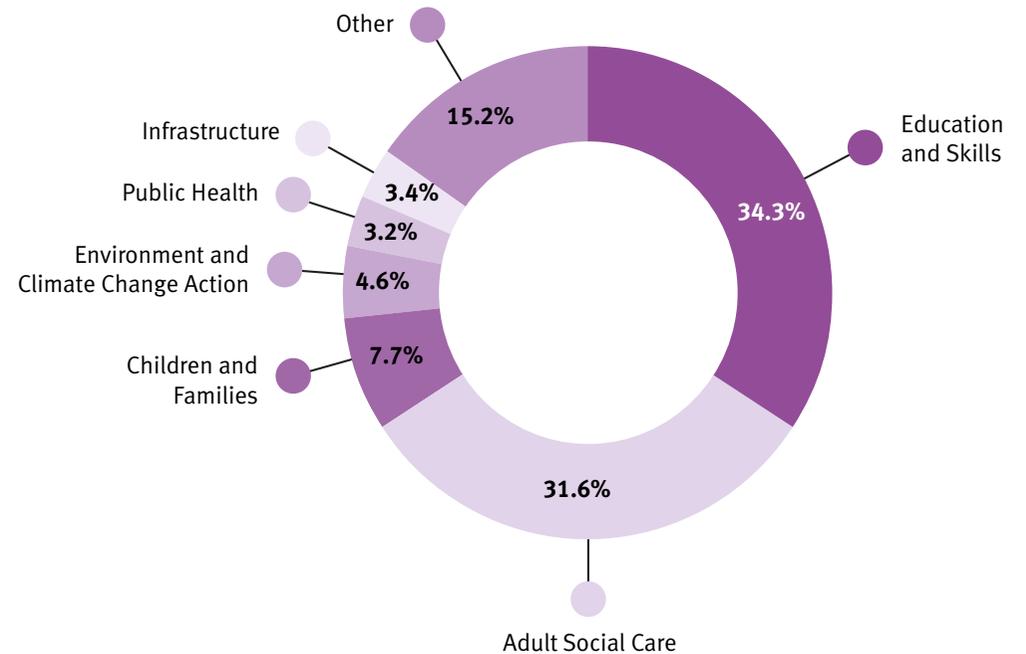
Expenditure on services

The Council has committed to spending:

- £691 million on Education and Skills
- £635million on services supporting vulnerable adults
- £156 million on services supporting vulnerable children and families

| Expenditure on services | £m |
|--|----------------|
| Education and Skills | 691.2 |
| Adult Social Care | 635.4 |
| Children and Families | 155.6 |
| Environment and Climate Change Action | 93.5 |
| Public Health | 64.2 |
| Infrastructure | 67.6 |
| Other, which includes services such as Libraries, Coroners, Registrars and Country Parks | 306.5 |
| Total | 2,014.0 |

Figure 2: Expenditure on services



This information is issued by:
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