

## Your council tax, 2015/16

# Council continues to invest in care for older people as grant drops

### Surrey County Council has set a budget of nearly £1.7bn for 2015/16 to help meet the growing demand for care services.

This will mean a 1.99% increase in council tax for the coming year, which works out at an extra 46 pence a week for a Band 'D' household. The council approved the budget at its meeting on 10 February 2015.

Council Leader David Hodge said the investment was essential to meet rising demand.

**“Our government grant continues to go down - this coming year by £24 million - while demand for our services rises. This means we have to invest in services to support vulnerable people and meet new care responsibilities without the grant funding to help us achieve it,”** Mr Hodge said.

The council will continue with its year-on-year programme of efficiencies, which has achieved savings of £260m over the last four years, the equivalent of a quarter of the council's non-schools budget. The council aims to save a further £330m by 2019.

Surrey is increasingly looking at partnership arrangements with other councils and new ways to deliver services to help address the ongoing financial pressures on public services.

Among the pressures the council has to face are:

- **New care responsibilities** under the Care Act, which will cost up to **£150m** without increased funding;
- The need to provide **13,000 additional school places** in the next five years;
- Like-for-like government grant has **dropped by £24m** this year taking account of new responsibilities.



## Where the money comes from

	2014/15	2015/16	
Surrey council tax	£571m	£598m	
Core funding from central government	£194m	£170m	
Government grants to support schools and other services	£665m	£714m	
Fees, charges and other income	£152m	£138m	
Local share of business rates	£44m	£44m	
Reserves	£26m	£4m	
<b>Total income to the council</b>	<b>£1,652m</b>	<b>£1,668m</b>	

## How the money is spent

	2014/15	2015/16	
Schools and learning	£688m	£691m	
Social care and health	£531m	£559m	
People, community and culture	£113m	£110m	
Business and consumers	£99m	£97m	
Roads and transport	£76m	£75m	
Your council (debt servicing for services & infrastructure, support services for the democratic process)	£74m	£69m	
Environment, housing and planning	£71m	£67m	
<b>Total spending on council services</b>	<b>£1,652m</b>	<b>£1,668m</b>	

These figures represent Surrey County Council's portion of your council tax bill for 2015/16

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
<b>Council Tax</b>	£813.12	£948.64	£1,084.16	£1,219.68	£1,490.72	£1,761.76	£2,032.80	£2,439.36