

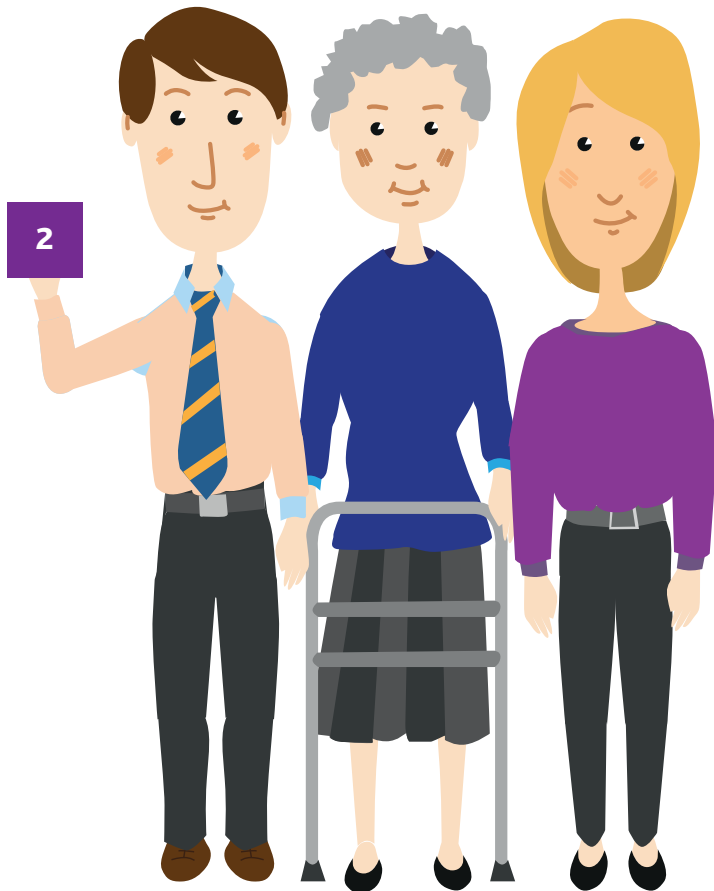
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What do we do with your money?

Our guide to your Shropshire Council Tax bill 2019 to 2020

YOUR GUIDE TO YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL 2019 TO 2020



Foreword From Peter Nutting, Leader of Shropshire Council

Our plans for the coming years are to innovate to thrive. We are putting together plans for Shropshire that are bold and far-reaching to ensure Shropshire remains a great place to visit, to work and to do business.

Since taking over as Leader of the Council two years ago, my priority has been to focus on economic regeneration, raising income, becoming more commercial and efficient and ensuring Shropshire gets its fair share of funding.

Creating a sustainable future for Shropshire is not something that can be achieved overnight, this is a long-term strategy involving some difficult decisions and dealing with changes that are beyond our control.

2019/20 is the second year of a five-year plan set out in our Financial Strategy. The years ahead are expected to provide many challenges for the Council.

We know our population is aging with needs growing ever more complex as time goes on, yet we understand our duty to provide the best care that we can afford for the people of Shropshire. We estimate that the cost of Adult Social Care will rise by £8.8m in 2019/20.

Demographic demands in Children's Services have seen a step change over the last two years and safeguarding our younger population has proved difficult to manage financially since 2017/18. In 2018/19 this led to financial pressures of almost £4m in Children's Services. In 2019/20 we have estimated costs in Children's Social Care will grow by £2.6m.

We have also seen government funding continue to fall every year. Revenue Support Grant, for example, was over £67m five years ago representing almost 30% of our £232m net

funding. This has dropped to only £6m in 2019/20 and is just under 3% of the £214m we now have to spend. This means we have to raise more money locally through Council Tax, yet have less money to spend than ever before with demand for our services growing as each year goes by.

We manage these significant financial pressures in the knowledge that we provide some of the lowest cost services in the country while maintaining high standards of delivery.

We achieved a coveted 'Good' standard in last year's Ofsted inspection of Children's Services which is testament to our officers' desire to deliver the highest quality services we are able to, even if our financial position works against rather than for this.

Economic regeneration and our focus on place shaping are continuing to develop and they have already borne fruit financially, with positive financial returns from last year's acquisition of Shrewsbury Shopping Centres. Plans are beginning to take shape on the future of this vital town centre asset, forming a cornerstone of our evolving Capital Strategy.

Our financial plan does not, as yet, provide a balanced and sustainable budget for the long-term future, but it does meet our immediate challenges, and our key focus to deliver a balanced budget in 2019/20.

Our funding gap in 2019/20 is estimated to be £21m and we plan to deliver savings in the order of £18.5m to close this, with the balance coming from reserves earmarked for this purpose.

Through innovation, we will focus on the highest priority areas and those most likely to provide greatest reward. We will aim to improve efficiency and think more commercially in our approaches and we will continue to lobby Central Government hard for a fair deal for Shropshire. However, we also know that we will have to reduce or remove some services to balance our books.

This leaflet explains how our services are funded, how much you contribute towards this through your council tax, and how we calculate what you pay. I hope you will find this information useful and keep this guide to hand throughout the year.

Peter Nutting
Leader of Shropshire Council

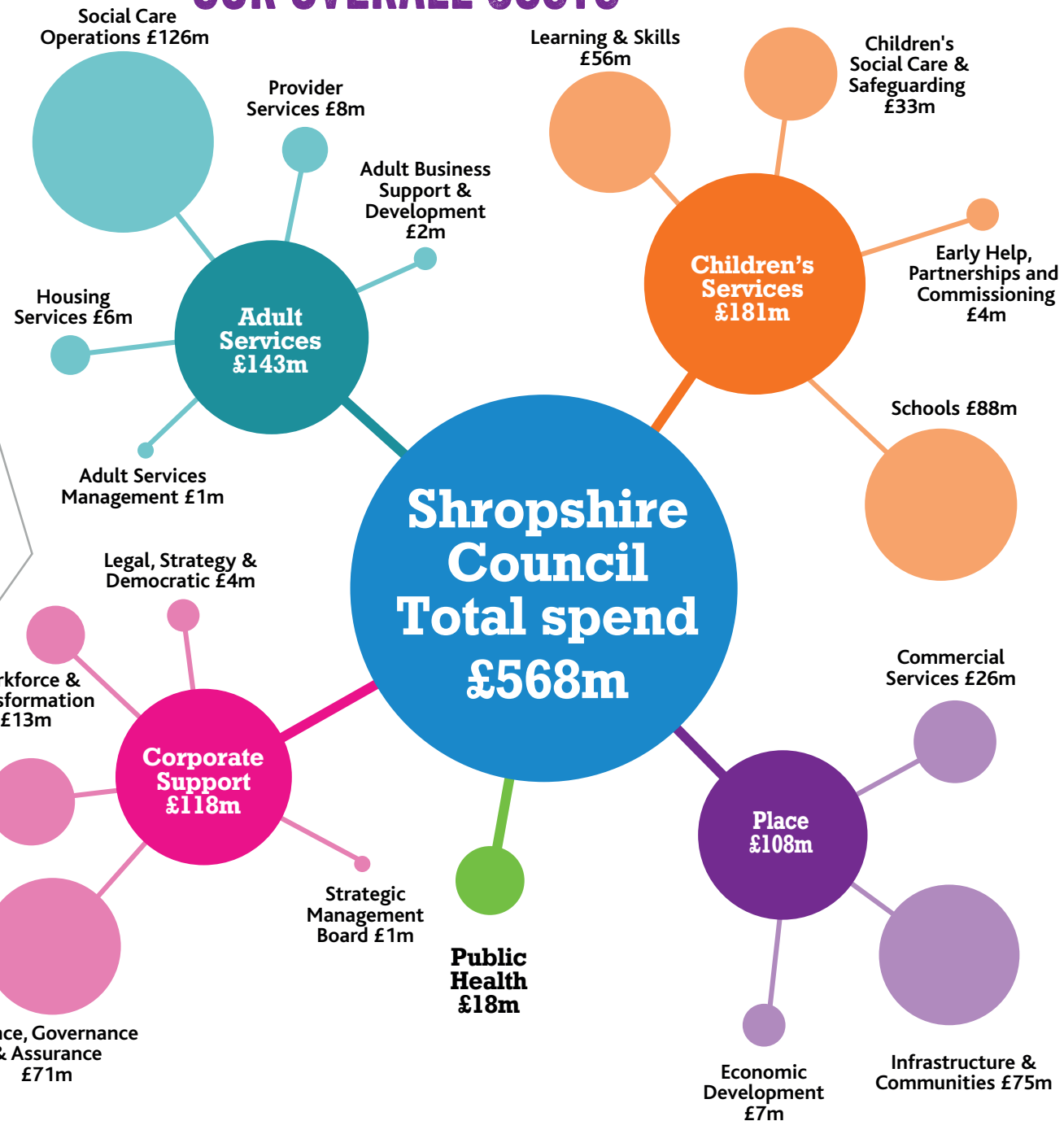
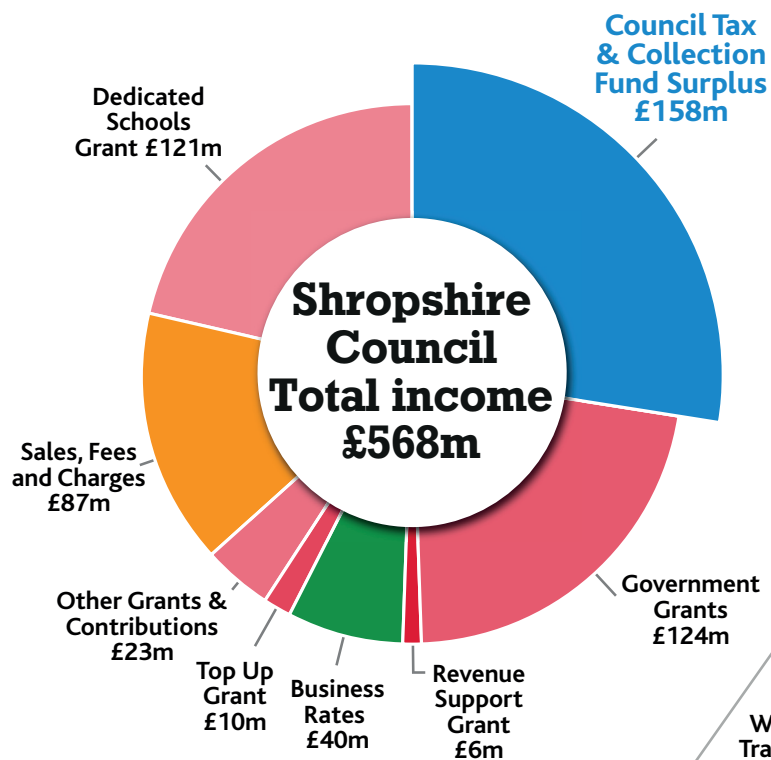
**IF YOU'D LIKE MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

www.shropshire.gov.uk



OUR SOURCES OF INCOME

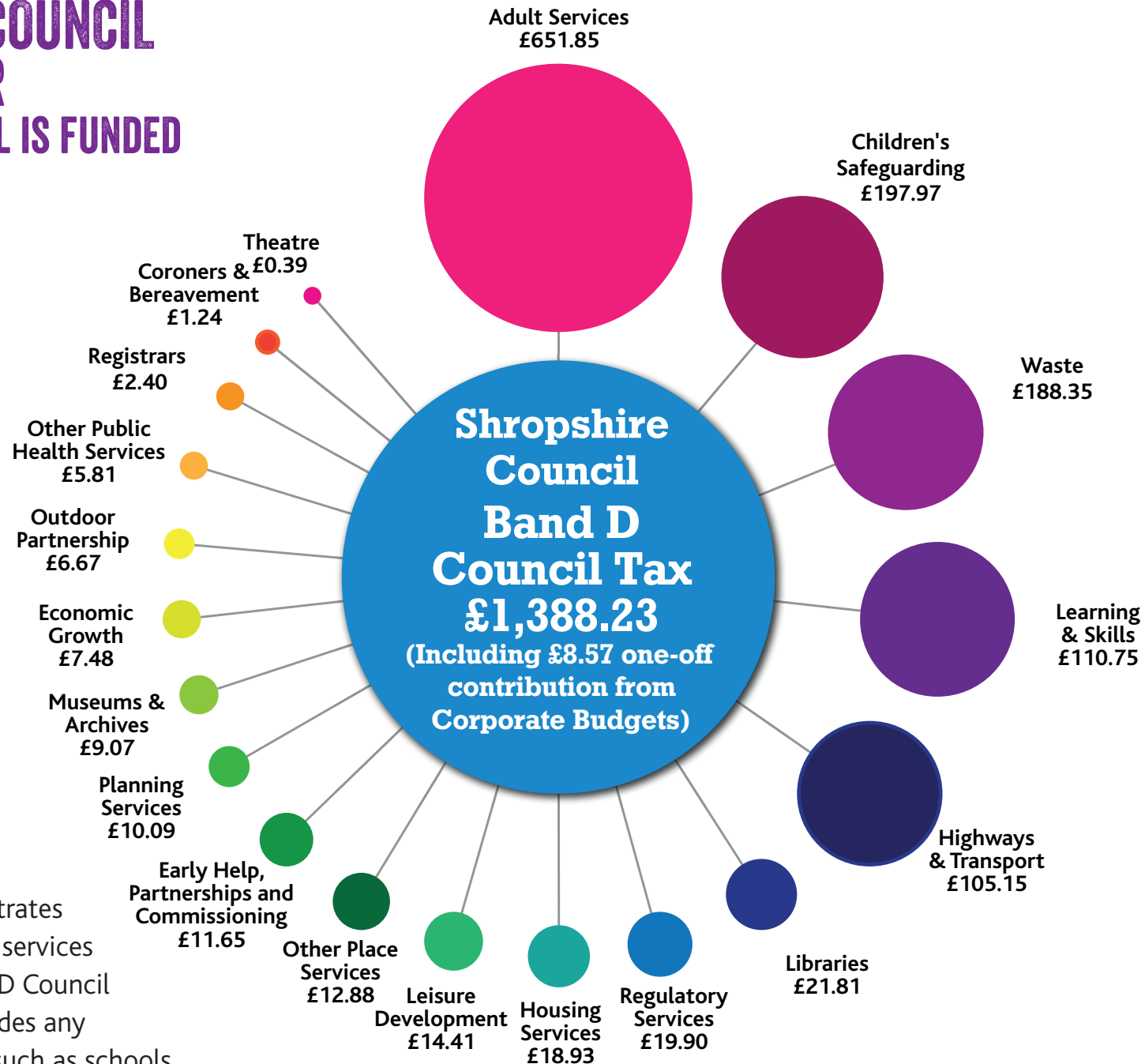
OUR OVERALL COSTS



The above chart shows where the council gets its money from and includes money from Government grants.

The chart on the right shows the key areas where the council spends its money.

WHAT YOUR COUNCIL TAX PAYS FOR HOW THE COUNCIL IS FUNDED



This chart broadly illustrates the Shropshire Council services that the average Band D Council Tax supports and excludes any grant-funded services such as schools.

HOW THE COUNCIL IS FUNDED

In 2019/20 Shropshire Council's total gross spending on services will be £568m (more details are provided below). This spending is funded by central government grants, business rates, council tax and fees and charges to users for some services.

In 2019/20 Shropshire Council expects to receive income from specific grants targeted at certain service areas, including the Dedicated Schools Grant, worth £245m. We also expect to receive income from fees and charges of £87m.

6

Consequently, in 2019/20 Shropshire Council's net budget requirement (including the collection fund surplus) will be £214m. Of this, £6m or 3 per cent will come from central government in Revenue Support Grant, around £50m or 23 per cent will come from business rates and your council tax will contribute around £157m or 74 per cent of the money we have available to spend on services.

Where do you get your money from?



COUNCIL BUDGET 2019 - 2020

The budget requirement for 2019/20

2018/19 £'000s		2019/20 £'000s
561,950	Gross Expenditure (excluding internal market charges)	568,489
-249,502	Government Grants	-245,171
-23,062	Other Grants and Contributions	-22,522
-80,618	Fees & Charges (including internal recharges)	-86,957
208,768	Net Budget Requirement	213,839

Financed by:

13,301	Revenue Support Grant	6,119
9,649	Top-Up Grant	9,870
40,310	Business Rates	40,055
145,638	Council Tax	154,427
-130	Collection Fund (Business Rates and Council Tax)	3,368
208,768	Total Financing	213,839

SIGN UP TO E-BILLING

Many people nowadays receive their bills online, whether it's your electricity, gas or other utility bill. So why not receive your council tax bill this way rather than having a paper copy sent to you each year?

Receiving your bill by email would be more convenient for you, and will also help us reduce our costs as we would no longer have to print and post your bill.

So if you would like to sign up to e-billing log on to your council tax citizen access account here

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax/your-account-online/>

You'll need your council tax account reference and your online password from your latest council tax bill in order to do this.

**HAVE YOU
UPGRADED TO
SUPERFAST
BROADBAND?**

See back inside page
for details



YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL 2019/20 EXPLAINED

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. (“Adult social care authorities” are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.).

8

The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional “precept” on its council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this “precept” at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.

As an adult social care authority Shropshire Council has used this additional flexibility. In 2019/20 therefore you will see an increase of 3.99% in the council tax amount for Shropshire Council services. This increase is comprised of two elements: a 1% increase specifically to fund adult social care duties and responsibilities in 2019/20 and a 2.99% increase to fund other core council services.

The actual level of any increase to your whole council tax bill will depend on which parish or town council area you live in and the local spending in your area, together with any increases in spending by West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority. The total amount on your bill will depend on where you live within the area and which valuation band your property is in.

The various Band D Council Tax breakdown for 2019/20 is shown below:

Shropshire Council 2018/19	£1,334.96
– Core Services Increase	£39.92 (+2.99%)
– Adult Social Care Charge	£13.35 (+1.00%)
Shropshire Council 2019/20	£1,388.23 (+3.99%)
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	£216.66 (+9.94%)
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire & Rescue Authority	£100.25 (+2.99%)
Parish / Town Council (Average)	£73.82 (+3.84%)

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS AND PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPTS

	2018/19	2019/20	
	Budget Requirement / Precept	Budget Requirement / Precept	Council Tax At Band D
Budget Requirements:	£	£	£
Shropshire Council	208,768,450	213,838,755	1,388.23
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	206,773,000	218,891,000	216.66
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	21,641,328	22,288,080	100.25
Parish & Town Councils	7,755,095	8,211,338	73.82
Parish and Town Council Precepts:	£	£	£
Abdon & Heath	-	-	-
Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley & Langley	5,413	5,793	22.30
Acton Scott	160	200	4.96
Adderley	13,397	15,000	73.71
Alberbury with Cardeston	9,500	9,000	23.78
Albrighton	109,293	130,000	86.01
All Stretton, Smethcott & Woolstaston	4,374	4,500	26.22
Alveley & Romsley	51,200	52,170	61.29
Ashford Bowdler	-	-	-
Ashford Carbonel	8,076	7,881	43.00
Astley	6,587	6,510	33.23
Astley Abbots	5,000	6,200	25.45
Aston Botterell, Burwarton & Cleobury North	6,000	5,500	48.43
Atcham	6,124	6,141	61.88
Badger	3,300	3,800	64.22
Barrow	7,000	8,067	30.74

Parish and town council precepts:	2018/19	2019/20	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
Baschurch	43,300	45,809	41.73
Bayston Hill	152,635	152,635	85.05
Beckbury	7,300	7,300	47.83
Bedstone & Bucknell	19,350	21,500	68.63
Berrington	10,871	11,382	27.46
Bettws-Y-Crwyn	5,800	6,000	66.98
Bicton	11,950	11,950	29.19
Billingsley, Deuxhill, Glazeley & Middleton Scriven	6,000	6,000	36.61
Bishops Castle Town	134,000	138,000	213.44
Bitterley	7,032	7,161	20.43
Bomere Heath & District	18,996	19,551	23.99
Boningale	1,450	2,300	16.28
Boraston	200	300	4.09
Bridgnorth Town	594,932	613,161	134.69
Bromfield	2,000	3,735	31.67
Broseley Town	214,784	240,874	157.40
Buildwas	7,000	7,000	66.56
Burford	17,000	18,000	42.04
Cardington	4,500	5,500	27.26
Caynham	18,426	19,448	37.22
Chelmarsh	11,980	12,407	53.90
Cheswardine	20,990	21,963	56.29
Chetton	7,600	5,000	31.91
Childs Ercall	12,500	12,729	42.57
Chirbury with Brompton	11,800	12,026	35.25
Church Preen, Hughley & Kenley	4,300	4,000	31.95
Church Pulverbatch	3,135	3,286	20.35
Church Stretton & Little Stretton Town	378,395	396,835	183.98
Claverley	21,422	22,500	26.29
Clee St. Margaret	-	-	-

Parish and town council precepts:	2018/19	2019/20	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
Cleobury Mortimer	112,200	115,000	99.65
Clive	12,740	13,428	55.20
Clun Town with Chapel Lawn	38,160	38,160	75.26
Clunbury	3,600	4,000	16.25
Clungunford	3,800	3,800	25.08
Cockshutt-cum-Petton	18,500	19,244	63.69
Condoover	37,329	37,745	43.65
Coreley	4,176	4,278	31.67
Cound	5,756	5,756	27.55
Craven Arms Town	56,184	55,864	70.14
Cressage, Harley & Sheinton	15,970	24,826	60.34
Culmington	3,486	3,530	20.78
Diddlebury	5,128	5,552	20.90
Ditton Priors	11,650	11,564	35.67
Donington & Boscobel	30,823	31,286	54.18
Eardington	12,500	10,000	41.90
Easthope, Shipton & Stanton Long	7,073	1,000	4.94
Eaton-Under-Heywood & Hope Bowdler	4,556	4,686	25.35
Edgton	448	448	9.29
Ellesmere Rural	35,422	36,516	39.59
Ellesmere Town	206,836	212,300	149.47
Farlow	3,000	5,000	27.33
Ford	20,000	21,177	71.14
Great Hanwood	27,500	28,450	72.55
Great Ness & Little Ness	20,504	20,889	43.83
Greete	-	-	-
Grinshill	5,000	5,500	48.96
Hadnall	10,292	11,647	33.41
Highley	102,218	108,360	102.01
Hinstock	19,500	22,926	47.17

	2018/19	2019/20	
	Budget Requirement	Budget Requirement	Council Tax At Band D
	/ Precept	/ Precept	
Parish and town council precepts:	£	£	£
Hodnet	20,900	21,272	37.36
Hope Bagot	400	500	17.27
Hopesay	11,763	12,293	52.43
Hopton Cangeford & Stoke St. Milborough	2,200	2,100	13.01
Hopton Castle	-	700	14.86
Hopton Wafers	7,400	7,700	27.37
Hordley	4,021	4,433	43.67
Ightfield & Calverhall	10,000	11,747	60.82
Kemberton	3,090	3,265	27.94
Kinlet	8,841	9,252	22.53
Kinnerley	23,000	23,050	47.07
Knockin	10,395	10,875	94.85
Leebotwood & Longnor	6,450	6,500	32.37
Leighton & Eaton Constantine	5,282	5,493	26.68
Llanfairwaterdine	2,800	2,800	27.96
Llanyblodwel	10,122	10,230	38.56
Llanymynech & Pant	25,300	25,670	38.39
Longden	27,451	33,461	63.82
Loppington	3,900	3,900	13.80
Ludford	3,900	4,700	19.36
Ludlow Town	545,166	557,037	159.11
Lydbury North	11,072	11,349	51.32
Lydham & More	-	-	-
Mainstone & Colebatch	1,050	900	10.31
Market Drayton Town	440,881	462,240	120.85
Melverley	1,200	4,000	76.63
Milson & Neen Sollars	7,483	7,531	63.84
Minsterley	18,500	19,500	33.39
Montford	6,000	6,000	23.83
Moreton Corbet & Lee Brockhurst	1,500	1,700	13.58

Parish and town council precepts:	2018/19	2019/20	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
Moreton Say	11,200	12,200	60.44
Morville, Acton Round, Aston Eyre, Monkhopton & Upton Cressett	12,000	6,000	16.74
Much Wenlock Town	187,605	194,698	161.24
Munslow	3,535	3,751	21.44
Myddle & Broughton	27,300	27,846	45.60
Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Wentnor	4,583	4,609	17.83
Nash	1,400	3,015	21.64
Neen Savage	5,411	5,411	35.33
Neenton	-	-	-
Newcastle	6,300	6,600	52.26
Norton-In-Hales	14,400	15,914	50.65
Onibury	4,740	4,752	36.30
Oswestry Rural	43,250	45,583	27.84
Oswestry Town	385,000	404,000	76.54
Pontesbury	70,000	80,000	66.37
Prees	23,775	24,373	22.49
Quatt Malvern	5,930	5,930	61.18
Richards Castle	5,000	4,500	31.87
Rushbury	5,700	6,800	25.67
Ruyton-XI-Towns	25,563	31,000	67.69
Ryton & Grindle	3,620	3,620	46.61
Selattyn & Gobowen	82,750	82,750	66.30
Shawbury	51,250	51,250	61.09
Sheriffhales	16,500	15,000	47.04
Shifnal Town	420,440	447,975	145.20
Shrewsbury Town	1,097,906	1,233,447	50.21
Sibdon Carwood	-	-	-
St. Martins	52,372	53,097	58.34
Stanton Lacy	3,415	3,622	22.04

Parish and town council precepts:	2018/19	2019/20	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
Stanton-Upon-Hine Heath	10,780	10,992	46.66
Stockton	4,508	5,500	41.58
Stoke-Upon-Tern	16,000	18,000	37.96
Stottesdon & Sidbury	28,598	28,648	87.66
Stowe	1,223	700	14.57
Sutton Maddock	2,128	2,228	20.68
Sutton-Upon-Tern	5,000	6,000	14.76
Tasley	7,244	7,540	18.11
Tong	2,860	3,500	29.19
Uffington	8,571	8,538	81.40
Upton Magna	5,106	5,171	32.81
Welshampton & Lyneal	19,500	21,500	58.14
Wem Rural	26,000	26,263	39.07
Wem Town	302,767	316,462	159.32
West Felton	19,250	19,227	35.53
Westbury	13,500	14,000	26.72
Weston Rhyn	31,000	36,000	42.88
Weston-Under-Redcastle	3,700	6,000	49.79
Wheathill	2,000	3,900	52.44
Whitchurch Rural	20,340	21,643	36.58
Whitchurch Town	459,079	484,603	144.66
Whittington	41,798	43,880	51.88
Whitton	-	-	-
Whixall	7,708	8,300	24.43
Wistanstow	12,408	12,255	37.29
Withington	6,000	6,000	57.03
Woore	25,727	30,727	51.45
Worfield & Rudge	22,000	23,000	24.97
Worthen with Shelve	35,700	36,414	46.49
Wroxeter & Uppington	4,165	4,360	27.81

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPTS OVER £140,000

The larger local councils precepting more than £140,000 in 2019/20 have provided additional information about their budget and tax levels. Further information can be obtained from the Town Clerk at the relevant council.

	2018/19		2019/20			
	Gross Expenditure £	Budget Requirement £	Gross Expenditure £	Transfer to(-) / from (+) Reserves £	Income £	Budget Requirement £
Town Council						
Bayston Hill	150,309	152,635	176,856	13,087	11,134	152,635
Bridgnorth Town	1,238,792	594,932	907,802	7,906	286,735	613,161
Broseley Town	261,975	214,784	280,160	-	39,286	240,874
Church Stretton & Little Stretton Town	403,075	378,395	421,515	-	24,680	396,835
Ellesmere Town	207,245	206,836	212,716	-	416	212,300
Ludlow Town	862,549	545,166	872,015	-	314,978	557,037
Market Drayton Town	519,671	440,881	524,756	4,016	58,500	462,240
Much Wenlock Town	223,225	187,605	231,309	-	36,611	194,698
Oswestry	2,482,627	385,000	2,741,806	1,136,581	1,201,225	404,000
Shifnal Town	447,130	420,440	481,755	-	33,780	447,975
Shrewsbury Town	3,422,877	1,097,906	3,452,414	(525)	2,219,492	1,233,447
Wem Town	315,437	302,767	331,943	1,386	14,095	316,462
Whitchurch Town	577,979	459,079	740,383	165,440	90,340	484,603



CHANGES TO YOUR COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

The Council Tax Support Scheme assists people with low income by reducing their Council Tax bill.

Council Tax Support is not awarded to you automatically - you must claim it. To apply online go to www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits or e-mail benefits@shropshire.gov.uk. Please note that normally benefit can only be awarded from the Monday following the date a claim is received by the Council.

You must not withhold payment or part payment of the Council Tax whilst awaiting the outcome of your application.

If you are in receipt of Council Tax Support you have a duty to inform Shropshire Council of any changes in circumstances that may affect your entitlement as soon as possible. This could be changes in your earnings, benefit entitlement, capital / savings, or the number of adults resident in the property. Failure to do so may lead to your benefit being stopped and you owing the council money.

Therefore, the following changes were implemented with effect from 1 April 2018:

1. The scheme has been aligned with Housing Benefit changes
2. There is now a minimum award of £1.50 per week
3. Customers in receipt of Universal Credit will only have their entitlement reassessed if their award of Universal Credit increases or decreases by more than £10 per week
4. The maximum entitlement has been restricted to 80% of your Council Tax bill. This means that everyone is being asked to pay 20% of their annual Council Tax charge. This change will not affect you if you are in receipt of the Severe Disability Premium, the support component of Employment Support Allowance or you are in receipt of a war pension.

For more information on these changes or to read the full report, please go to www.shropshire.gov.uk or alternatively you can contact us by calling 0345 678 9001 or email benefits@shropshire.gov.uk

Universal Credit

The Government is replacing a number of working age benefits with the new Universal Credit. This benefit is currently being rolled out nationally. From 9 May 2018, most postcodes within the Shropshire area have transitioned over to Universal Credit full service. Therefore, dependent on where you live, your age and your household setup, you may now be required to claim Universal Credit rather than Housing Benefit. You'll still need to apply for Housing Benefit if:

- You, and your partner, are of pension credit age
- You live in specified exempt accommodation
- You live in temporary accommodation provided by Shropshire Council
- your postcode isn't one which falls within a Universal Credit full service area.

To find out if you are affected and what is being replaced visit www.gov.uk and search Universal Credit. Universal Credit replaces means-tested benefits so if you do need to claim, please remember to claim for any national insurance contribution-based benefits as well.

DEMAND NOTICE EXPLANATORY NOTES

Council tax valuation bands

Most dwellings are subject to the Council Tax. There is one bill for each dwelling, whether it is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette, mobile home or houseboat, and whether it is owned or rented.

Each dwelling has been placed into one of eight bands by the Listing Officer of the Valuation Office Agency, according to its open market value at 1 April 1991.

Valuation Band

Range of Values

A	up to and including £40,000
B	£40,001 to £52,000
C	£52,001 to £68,000
D	£68,001 to £88,000
E	£88,001 to £120,000
F	£120,001 to £160,000
G	£160,001 to £320,000
H	£320,001 and above

The valuation band for your dwelling is shown on your Council Tax bill. You may look at any property's valuation band on the Valuation Office Agency website (www.voa.gov.uk)

Appeals to the Valuation Office Agency

The grounds for appeal against your property's valuation band are as follows:

- You became the Council Taxpayer in respect of a property for the first time and you think your valuation band is incorrect - your appeal must be made within 6 months
- You believe that the banding should be changed because there has been a reduction in the dwelling's value - for example part of it has been demolished
- The Listing Officer has altered the band. This may occur when the property is sold and the previous owner has added an extension.
- You start or stop using your property to carry out a business or the balance between domestic and business use changes

Any appeal against the banding, made within the first six months, can be made by calling 03000 501501. **Any other banding appeal should be made in writing to the Listing Officer, Valuation Office Agency, 2 Broadway, Broad Street, Birmingham, B15 1BG** or via email to ctwest@voa.gsi.gov.uk

You may appeal to the council if you think:

- you are not liable to pay the Council Tax, for example because you are not the resident or owner of the property
- your property should be exempt
- the amount shown on your bill is incorrect

You should make any appeal in writing. The council will consider your case and if we have not contacted you within two months or if no agreement has been reached by this time, you have a further right of appeal to the Valuation Tribunal. Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment or part payment of the council tax. If your appeal is successful you will be entitled to a refund of any overpayment.

Reductions for people with disabilities

If you, or someone who lives with you, needs an extra room (which could include an extra bathroom or kitchen) or extra space in your property because of a permanent disability you may be entitled to a reduced council tax bill. A reduced bill will be calculated as if your property had been placed in a band immediately below the one shown in the valuation list. People in a band A property may also be entitled to a reduced council tax bill. If you think that you are entitled to a reduction and it is not shown on your bill, please contact the council. If your property has any special features which have been added for a resident with a disability which reduced the value of the property and you do not think it has been taken into account in the valuation band, you should contact the Listing Officer. (see 'Appeals to the Valuation Office Agency' section).

Discounts

A full Council Tax bill assumes that there are two or more adults living in a property. If you are the only adult living in your property you are entitled to a 25% discount. The following people do not count when calculating the number of adult residents:

- Apprentices
- Care workers or carers
- Foreign diplomats
- Full-time students, student nurses
- Members of religious communities
- Members of visiting forces
- Non British partners/dependant of a student
- Patients resident in a home
- Patients resident in hospital
- People for whom child benefit is payable
- Prisoners
- Residents of hostels
- School leavers
- Severely mentally impaired
- Youth training trainees

If all the adults resident in your property are not counted, then a discount of 50% will apply. If all but one of the adults resident in your property are not counted, then a discount of 25% will apply.

EMPTY PROPERTY AND SECOND HOMES

From 1st April 2004, billing authorities have been able to vary the level of discount on second homes and empty homes.

From 1st April 2013 there has been no discount awarded for second homes.

From 1st April 2014 a property that has been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than two years was charged an additional 50% Council Tax premium. With effect from 1st April 2019, the premium will be increased from 50% to 100%.

From 1st April 2018 empty homes receive 100% discount for one month from the point they become both unoccupied and substantially unfurnished and then no discount will apply afterwards.

From 1st April 2018, the 50% discount for an unoccupied and unfurnished property requiring structural alteration or major works to render it habitable was removed.

Please note these are irrespective of a change in ownership.

Annexes

Some properties, occupied by one household might appear to be single properties. However, they are allocated more than one council tax band. This is because they are made up of more than one self-contained unit and each self-contained unit must have a separate council tax band. The smaller unit is often referred to as an annex.

With effect from 1 April 2014, a 50% discount can be awarded in respect of annexes where:

- The annex is occupied by people related to the person liable to pay the council tax on the main dwelling.
- People who are living in dwellings with annexes which are unoccupied are using those annexes as part of their main residence.

Exempt Properties

Some properties are exempt from council tax:

20

- B** Unoccupied properties owned by charities (exempt for up to six months)
- D** Properties left empty by prisoners
- E** Properties left empty by long stay patients in hospitals and care homes
- F** Properties left empty by deceased persons
- G** Properties where occupation is prohibited by law
- H** Empty clergy properties
- I** Properties left empty by people moving to receive personal care from another
- J** Properties left empty by people moving to provide personal care to another
- K** Properties left empty by students
- L** Repossessed properties
- M** Halls of residence
- N** Properties occupied by students or school leavers
- O** Armed forces accommodation, ie barracks
- P** Properties occupied by members of visiting forces
- Q** Properties left empty by bankrupts
- R** Unoccupied caravan pitches and houseboat moorings
- S** Properties occupied only by person(s) under 18
- T** Unoccupied annexes which form part of a single property and may not be let separately without a breach of planning consent
- U** Properties occupied only by person(s) who are severely mentally impaired
- V** Property where at least one person who would otherwise be liable is a diplomat
- W** Annexes and similar accommodation occupied by an elderly or disabled relative

For further information or if you think you are entitled to an exemption, please go to www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT LEVY

The council is required to provide the following information for the Environment Agency issuing a flood defence levy in the area.

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 2,486 and 6,500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Severn & Wye and North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committees respectively. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

	2018/19 Actual Expenditure		2019/20 Budgeted Expenditure	
	Severn & Wye	North West	Severn & Wye	North West
Gross Expenditure (£'000s)	14,847	46,481	15,871	83,428
Levies Raised (£'000s)	1,128	3,938	1,151	4,017
Total Council Taxbase Band D Equivalents ('000s)	958	2,110	974	2,145

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by the Severn & Wye and North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committees has increased by 2.0% and 2.0% respectively.

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £1,128,018 in 2018/19 to £1,150,579 for 2019/20 for the Severn & Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and from £3,937,888 in 2018/19 to £4,016,646 for 2019/20 for the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

The amounts levied on Shropshire Council in 2018/19 and 2019/20 are as follows:

	2018/19 £	2019/20 £
Severn Region Flood Levy	120,767	123,325
North West Region Flood Levy	4,525	4,590

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<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax/your-account-online/>

You'll need your latest council tax account reference and your online password from your council tax bill in order to do this.

Alternatively call us on 0345 678 9002

FAIR PROCESSING NOTICE – HOW WE USE YOUR INFORMATION

The information that you provide will be processed in accordance with Data Protection and other relevant legislation. This council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers and may use information held about you for the prevention and detection of fraud and other lawful purposes.

This may include, but is not limited to, matching council tax data with electoral registration records. The council will also use the information for the purpose of performing any of its statutory enforcement duties. It will make any disclosures required by law and may also share this information with other bodies responsible for detecting or preventing fraud or auditing or administering public funds. We will not disclose your personal information to third parties for marketing purposes.



HAVE YOU UPGRADED TO SUPERFAST BROADBAND?

Since 2013, Shropshire Council has invested over £9m in the Connecting Shropshire broadband programme, which provides access to faster broadband. As a result of this work, over 63,000 premises now have access to a superfast broadband connection.

Across the Shropshire Council area, download speeds of 30mbps are now available to over 90% of homes and businesses.

To find out whether you can switch to a faster broadband connection, go to: <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk>

Please email queries about broadband coverage to: connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk



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tax/your-account-online/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax/your-account-online/)

CONTACT DETAILS

Contact Revenues and Benefits on:

Benefits	0345 678 9001 benefits@shropshire.gov.uk
Council Tax	0345 678 9002 council.tax@shropshire.gov.uk
National Non-Domestic Rates	0345 678 9003 business.rates@shropshire.gov.uk
National Benefit Fraud hotline	0800 854 440
Payment Line	0345 678 9009

Revenues and Benefits address is:

Revenues & Benefits, Shropshire Council, PO Box 4749, Shrewsbury, SY1 9GH

For general Shropshire Council enquiries:

Visit www.shropshire.gov.uk or call 0345 678 9000
customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk

Our postal address is:
Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6ND

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If you can read this but know someone who can't, please contact us on 0345 678 9000 so we can provide this information in a more suitable format.