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What do we do with your money?

Our guide to your Shropshire Council Tax bill 2020 to 2021

YOUR GUIDE TO YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL 2020 TO 2021



Foreword from Peter Nutting, Leader of Shropshire Council

Our vision over the coming years is to innovate to thrive. We aim to put together plans for Shropshire that are bold, far-reaching and ambitious yet realistic to ensure Shropshire continues to be a great place to visit, to work and to do business.

Since taking over as Leader of the Council three 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 to create a sustainable future for Shropshire.

The above requires a long-term strategy involving some difficult decisions and dealing with changes that are beyond our control. It is not something that can be achieved overnight.

2020/21 is the first year of the five-year plan set out in our new Financial Strategy. The years ahead are expected to continue to provide many challenges for the Council.

We know that our population is ageing with needs growing ever more complex as time goes on. But 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 £13m in 2020/21 alone.

There has been a change in the demands in Children's Services over the last three years. Safeguarding our younger population has proved difficult to manage financially since 2017/18 leading to significant financial pressures. In 2020/21, we have estimated that costs in Children's Social Care will grow by £3.9m.

We continue to see government funding fall every year. Revenue Support Grant, for example, was £67m in 2014/15 representing almost 30% of our £232m net funding. As of 2020/21, this has dropped to only 3% of the £226m we now to spend. This means that we have to raise more money locally through Council Tax, yet have less money in real terms to spend than ever before with demand for our services growing each year.

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.

In 2019, we declared a climate emergency and adopted the Shropshire Council Climate Change Strategy Framework through which we have committed to becoming carbon net zero by 2030. A key element to our success in this is having the funds to implement solutions. We have included a new budget for 2020/21 funded from 100% business rates retention for renewable energy schemes. £960,000 has been committed to invest in renewable energy schemes within the Council. There will be an ongoing budget that will be included in future years.

Our funding gap in 2020/21 is estimated to be £30m and we plan to deliver savings of £18.7m to close this, with the balance coming from one-off grants and social care funding and reserves earmarked for this purpose.

We are very proud that our Adult Social Care teams have won several national awards for their vital work. This includes recognition as being one of the top local authorities in the UK in reducing the delayed transfers of care in hospitals. The teams have also worked innovatively with partners to use technology to enable independence and allowing people to remain at home and within their own communities.

Economic regeneration and our focus on shaping our communities are continuing to develop and perform well financially and Shrewsbury Shopping Centres have yielded positive returns for

the second consecutive year. Our newly approved Capital Strategy sets out the Council's commercial investment plans and is key to us increasing our income from other channels for further investment in crucial services for Shropshire.

Whilst we are awaiting the outcome of the fair funding review we are only able to produce a short term budget plan for 2020/21. Our financial plan does not provide a balanced and sustainable budget for the long-term future, it does meet our immediate challenges, and our key focus to deliver a balanced budget in 2020/21.

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.

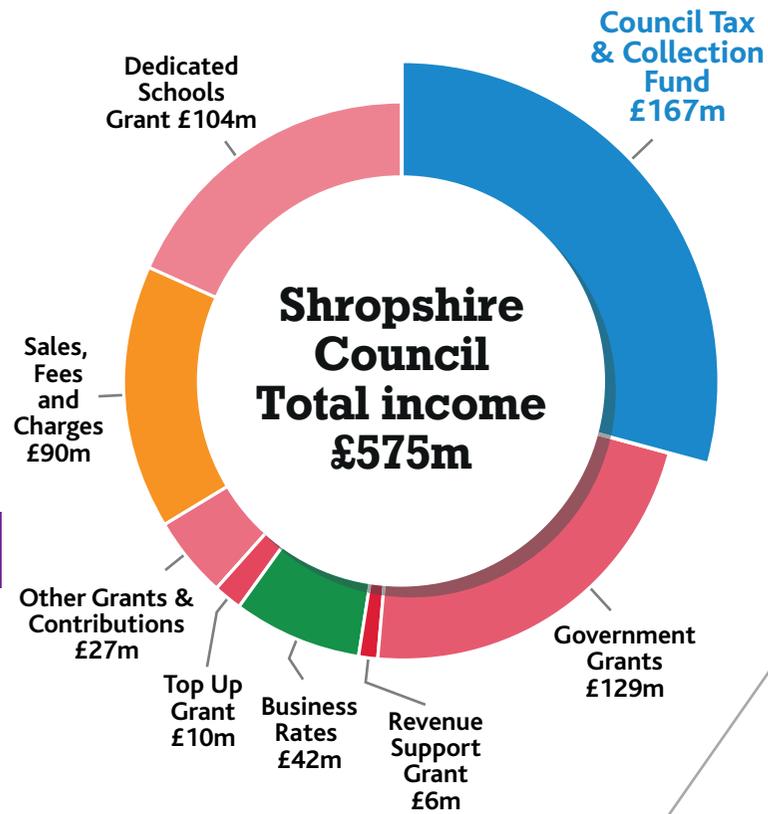
Peter Nutting
Leader of Shropshire Council

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

www.shropshire.gov.uk



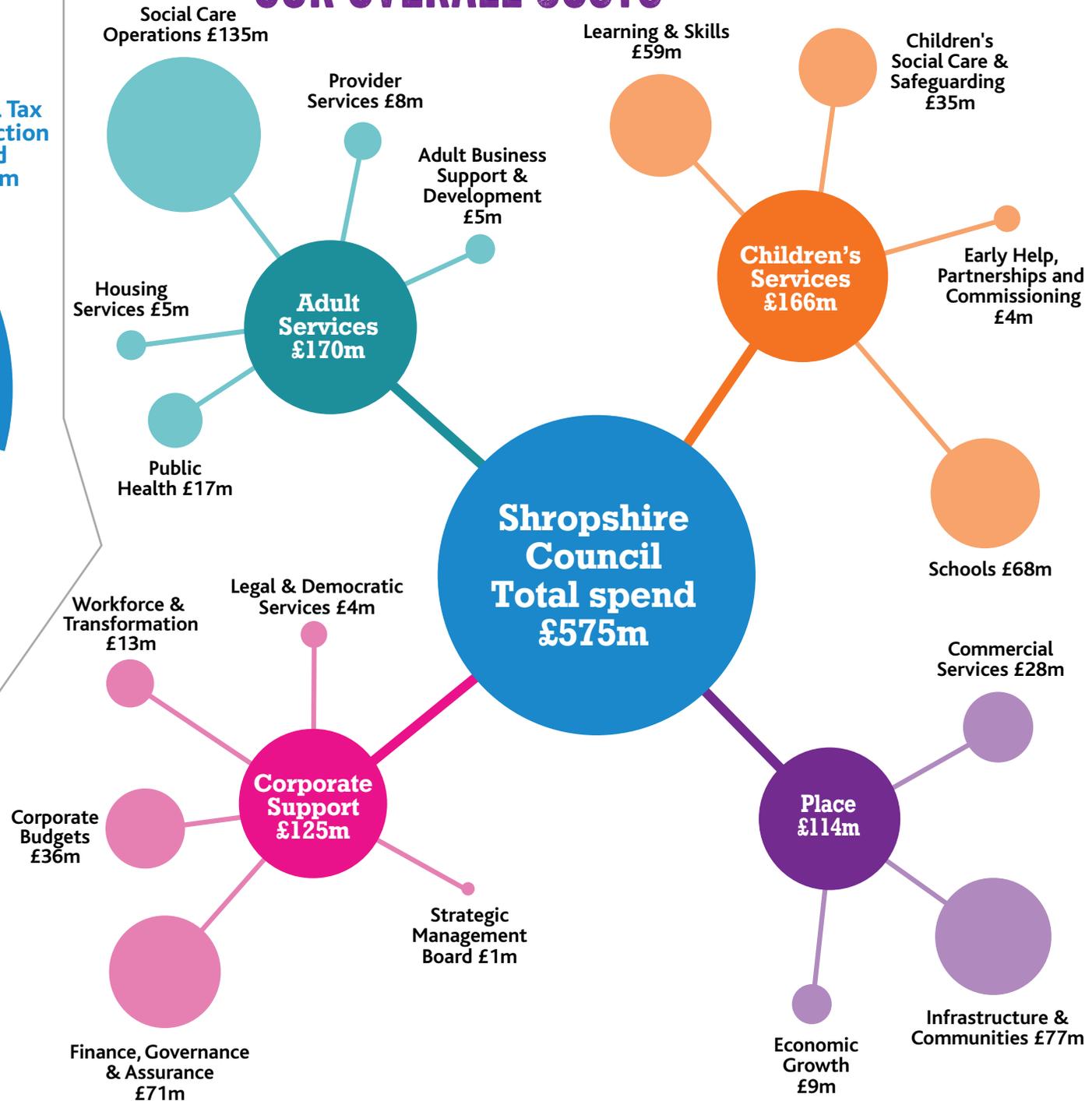
OUR SOURCES OF INCOME



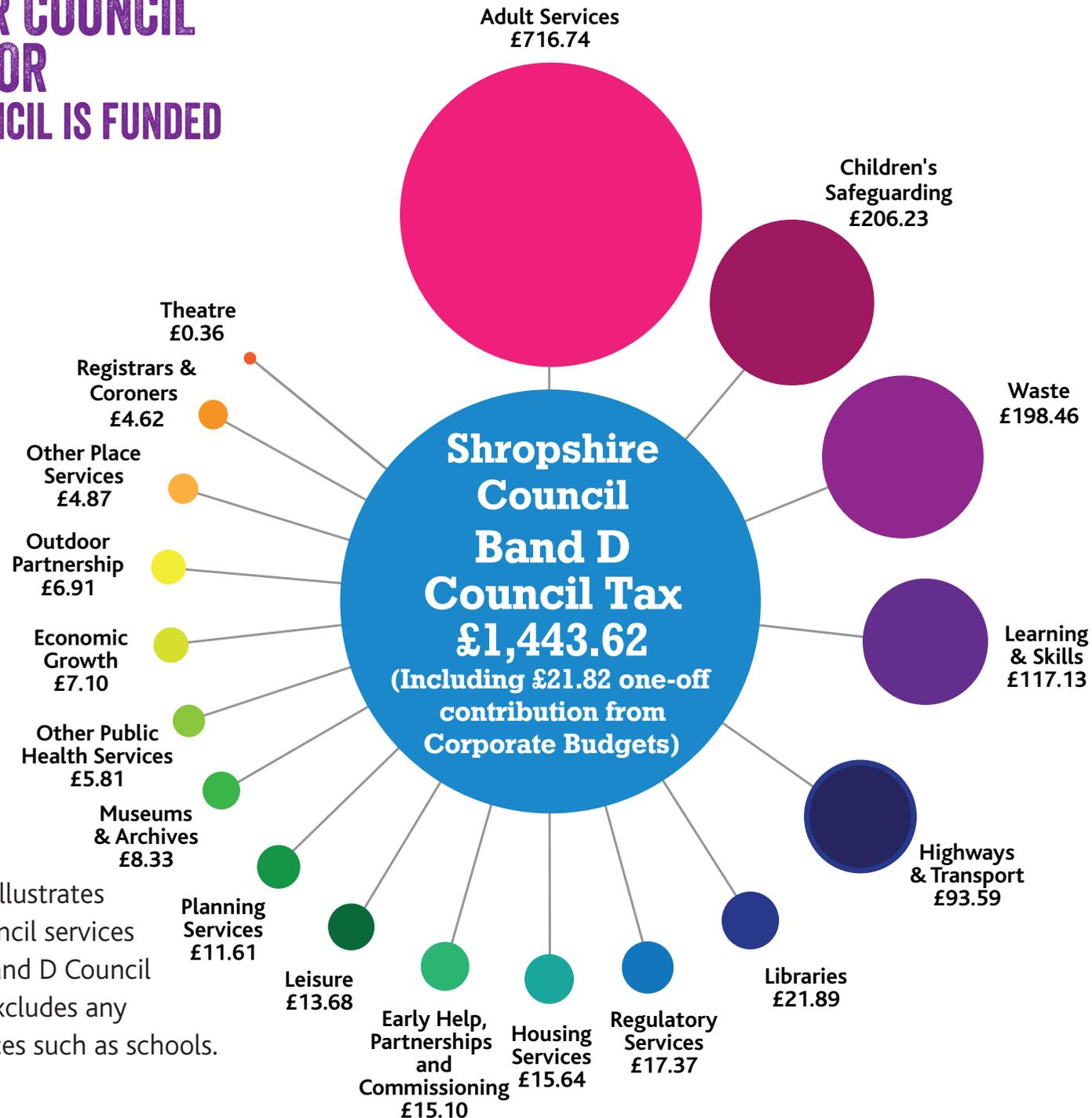
The above chart shows where the council gets its money from and includes money from Government grants.

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

OUR OVERALL COSTS



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 2020/21 Shropshire Council's total gross spending on services will be £575m (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 2020/21 Shropshire Council expects to receive income from specific grants targeted at certain service areas, including the Dedicated Schools Grant, worth £233m. We also expect to receive income from fees and charges of £90m.

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Consequently, in 2020/21 Shropshire Council's net budget requirement (including the collection fund surplus) will be £226m. Of this, £6m or 3 per cent will come from central government in Revenue Support Grant, around £53m or 23 per cent will come from business rates and your council tax will contribute around £167m or 74 per cent of the money we have available to spend on services (55 per cent in 2015/16).

Where do you get your money from?



COUNCIL BUDGET 2020 - 2021

The budget requirement for 2020/21

2019/20 £'000s		2020/21 £'000s
568,489	Gross Expenditure (excluding internal market charges)	575,462
-245,171	Government Grants	-232,874
-22,522	Other Grants and Contributions	-27,000
-86,957	Fees & Charges (including internal recharges)	-90,066
213,839	Net Budget Requirement	225,522

Financed by:

6,119	Revenue Support Grant	6,219
9,870	Top-Up Grant	10,031
40,055	Business Rates	41,689
154,427	Council Tax	163,934
3,368	Collection Fund (Business Rates and Council Tax)	3,649
213,839	Total Financing	225,522

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.

It also saves paper, so is much better for the environment.

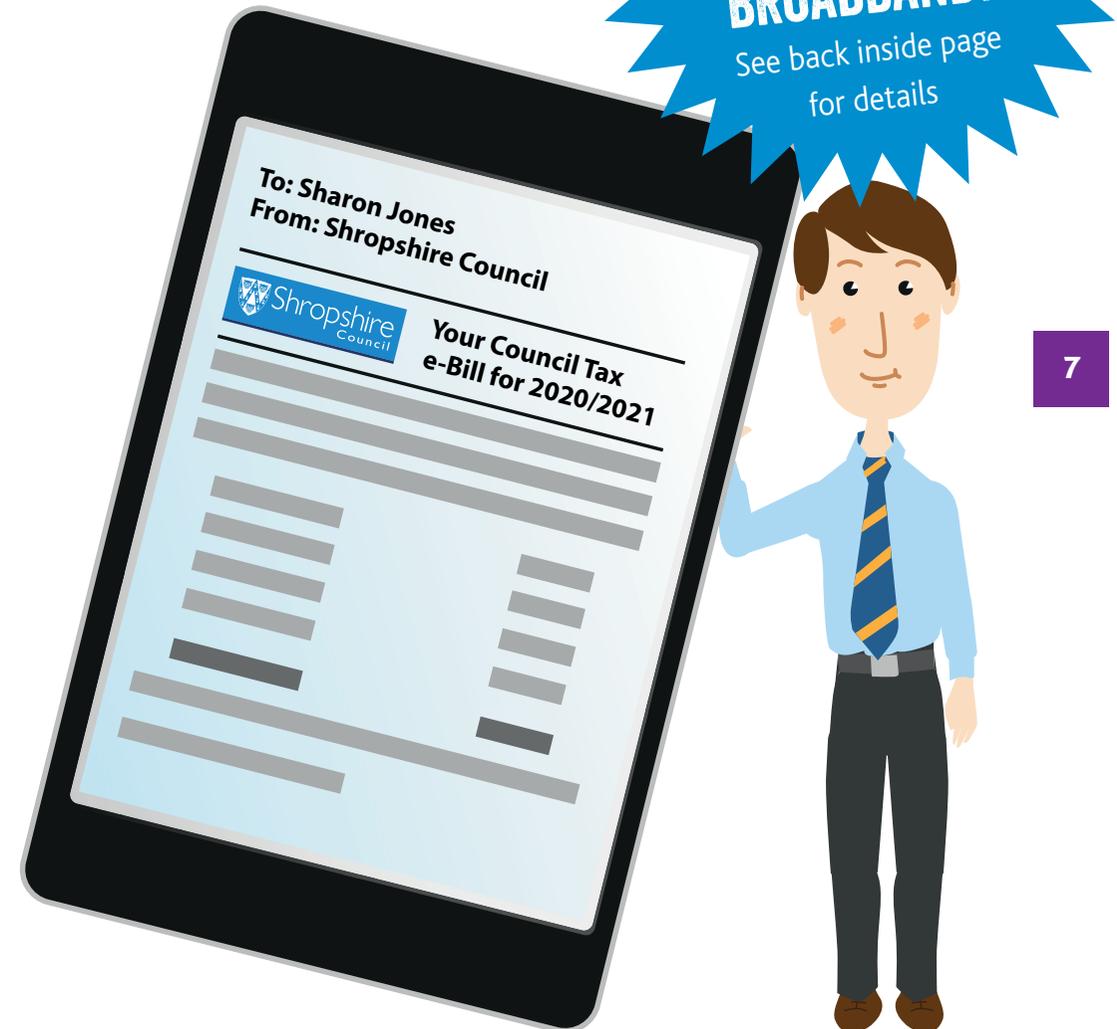
So if you would like to sign up to e-billing log on to your council tax citizen access account here

<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 2020/21 EXPLAINED

The Secretary of State 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.)

The offer was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional “precept” on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

In 2020/21 the Secretary of State renewed the offer and as an adult social care authority Shropshire Council has used this additional flexibility. In 2020/21 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 2% increase specifically to fund adult social care duties and responsibilities in 2020/21 and a 1.99% 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 elements making up the Band D Council Tax for 2020/21 are shown below:

Shropshire Council 2019/20	£1,388.23
– Core Services Increase	£27.63 (+1.99%)
– Adult Social Care Charge	£27.76 (+2.00%)
Shropshire Council 2020/21	£1,443.62 (+3.99%)
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	£225.20 (+3.94%)
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire & Rescue Authority	£102.25 (+1.99%)
Parish / Town Council (Average)	£78.73 (+6.65%)

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS AND PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPTS

	2019/20	2020/21	
	Budget Requirement	Budget Requirement	Council Tax At Band D
	/ Precept	/ Precept	
	£	£	£
Budget Requirements:			
Shropshire Council	213,838,755	225,521,570	1,443.62
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	218,891,000	233,021,000	225.20
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	22,288,080	23,221,499	102.25
Parish & Town Councils (average)	8,211,338	8,940,108	78.73
Parish and Town Council Precepts:			
	£	£	£
Abdon & Heath	-	-	-
Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley & Langley	5,793	5,935	22.30
Acton Scott	200	400	10.57
Adderley	15,000	15,780	75.92
Alberbury with Cardeston	9,000	9,500	23.84
Albrighton	130,000	156,000	102.33
All Stretton, Smethcott & Woolstaston	4,500	5,255	30.17
Alveley & Romsley	52,170	53,765	62.50
Ashford Bowdler	-	-	-
Ashford Carbonel	7,881	8,400	45.00
Astley	6,510	6,736	33.23
Astley Abbotts	6,200	6,230	25.45
Aston Botterell, Burwarton & Cleobury North	5,500	6,000	52.12
Atcham	6,141	12,596	61.88
Badger	3,800	3,800	66.38
Barrow	8,067	10,130	38.30

Parish and town council precepts:	2019/20	2020/21	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
Baschurch	45,809	48,056	43.41
Bayston Hill	152,635	167,562	92.96
Beckbury	7,300	8,000	51.84
Bedstone & Bucknell	21,500	22,500	71.11
Berrington	11,382	14,500	34.05
Bettws-Y-Crwyn	6,000	6,500	71.04
Bicton	11,950	11,950	29.01
Billingsley, Deuxhill, Glazeley & Middleton Scriven	6,000	7,000	42.52
Bishops Castle Town	138,000	150,000	227.67
Bitterley	7,161	7,179	20.43
Bomere Heath & District	19,551	22,034	25.43
Boningale	2,300	2,560	18.56
Boraston	300	450	5.95
Bridgnorth Town	613,161	632,066	138.05
Bromfield	3,735	3,914	31.67
Broseley Town	240,874	266,287	171.79
Buildwas	7,000	8,060	77.75
Burford	18,000	19,000	43.93
Cardington	5,500	6,804	32.80
Caynham	19,448	20,448	38.53
Chelmarsh	12,407	13,773	59.90
Cheswardine	21,963	22,229	56.29
Chetton	5,000	6,500	40.70
Childs Ercall	12,729	12,729	42.57
Chirbury with Brompton	12,026	12,327	36.12
Church Preen, Hughley & Kenley	4,000	3,500	27.03
Church Pulverbatch	3,286	3,360	20.35
Church Stretton & Little Stretton Town	396,835	408,202	187.66
Claverley	22,500	23,480	26.95
Clee St. Margaret	-	-	-

Parish and town council precepts:	2019/20	2020/21	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
Cleobury Mortimer	115,000	116,749	99.65
Clive	13,428	14,028	58.27
Clun Town with Chapel Lawn	38,160	42,000	81.44
Clunbury	4,000	4,500	18.10
Clungunford	3,800	3,800	24.97
Cockshutt-cum-Petton	19,244	19,373	63.69
Condover	37,745	43,400	49.16
Coreley	4,278	7,278	53.44
Cound	5,756	5,756	27.31
Craven Arms Town	55,864	59,215	73.56
Cressage, Harley & Sheinton	24,826	24,841	60.34
Culmington	3,530	4,492	26.72
Diddlebury	5,552	6,952	26.08
Ditton Priors	11,564	12,556	37.09
Donington & Boscobel	31,286	33,000	54.97
Eardington	10,000	10,000	41.19
Easthope, Shipton & Stanton Long	1,000	1,000	4.95
Eaton-Under-Heywood & Hope Bowdler	4,686	5,252	28.92
Edgton	448	477	10.00
Ellesmere Rural	36,516	36,848	39.59
Ellesmere Town	212,300	231,193	155.45
Farlow	5,000	4,500	24.31
Ford	21,177	23,823	78.26
Great Hanwood	28,450	29,850	72.55
Great Ness & Little Ness	20,889	27,992	53.88
Greete	-	-	-
Grinshill	5,500	6,500	57.29
Hadnall	11,647	12,459	34.08
Highley	108,360	113,194	102.01
Hinstock	22,926	25,106	49.52

Parish and town council precepts:	2019/20	2020/21	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
Hodnet	21,272	22,015	38.11
Hope Bagot	500	550	19.04
Hopesay	12,293	12,707	53.56
Hopton Cangeford & Stoke St. Milborough	2,100	2,100	12.99
Hopton Castle	700	700	16.90
Hopton Wafers	7,700	8,400	28.32
Hordley	4,433	4,491	43.67
Ightfield & Calverhall	11,747	12,500	62.21
Kemberton	3,265	3,372	29.05
Kinlet	9,252	9,434	22.83
Kinnerley	23,050	23,100	47.04
Knockin	10,875	11,878	100.88
Leebotwood & Longnor	6,500	9,000	44.89
Leighton & Eaton Constantine	5,493	6,320	30.77
Llanfairwaterdine	2,800	2,800	27.84
Llanyblodwel	10,230	10,500	40.17
Llanymynech & Pant	25,670	25,875	38.37
Longden	33,461	35,620	66.80
Loppington	3,900	3,900	13.74
Ludford	4,700	6,000	24.67
Ludlow Town	557,037	612,740	174.27
Lydbury North	11,349	11,630	51.83
Lydham & More	-	-	-
Mainstone & Colebatch	900	1,000	11.75
Market Drayton Town	462,240	493,356	124.48
Melverley	4,000	4,000	77.82
Milson & Neen Sollars	7,531	7,862	64.14
Minsterley	19,500	21,000	35.40
Montford	6,000	6,000	23.27
Moreton Corbet & Lee Brockhurst	1,700	1,900	14.67

Parish and town council precepts:	2019/20	2020/21	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
Moreton Say	12,200	12,600	62.19
Morville, Acton Round, Aston Eyre, Monkhopton & Upton Cressett	6,000	6,000	16.33
Much Wenlock Town	194,698	204,432	167.47
Munslow	3,751	5,633	32.16
Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill	27,846	29,250	46.34
Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Wentnor	4,609	4,694	17.83
Nash	3,015	3,170	23.03
Neen Savage	5,411	5,411	34.76
Neenton	-	-	-
Newcastle	6,600	8,200	63.69
Norton-In-Hales	15,914	17,414	55.30
Onibury	4,752	4,752	35.72
Oswestry Rural	45,583	45,583	27.11
Oswestry Town	404,000	416,000	78.05
Pontesbury	80,000	100,000	78.08
Prees	24,373	25,757	22.71
Quatt Malvern	5,930	6,000	63.73
Richards Castle	4,500	4,500	31.70
Rushbury	6,800	7,200	26.48
Ruyton-XI-Towns	31,000	31,000	67.86
Ryton & Grindle	3,620	3,620	45.17
Selattyn & Gobowen	82,750	83,320	66.30
Shawbury	51,250	53,500	60.81
Sheriffhales	15,000	16,000	50.31
Shifnal Town	447,975	475,760	145.20
Shrewsbury Town	1,233,447	1,517,035	60.25
Sibdon Carwood	-	-	-
St. Martins	53,097	54,554	58.34
Stanton Lacy	3,622	3,976	23.91
Stanton-Upon-Hine Heath	10,992	10,992	45.23

Parish and town council precepts:	2019/20	2020/21	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
Stockton	5,500	5,500	42.15
Stoke-Upon-Tern	18,000	19,000	39.60
Stottesdon & Sidbury	28,648	25,000	75.81
Stowe	700	820	16.96
Sutton Maddock	2,228	2,617	24.66
Sutton-Upon-Tern	6,000	6,570	16.35
Tasley	7,540	8,140	19.58
Tong	3,500	3,600	29.10
Uffington	8,538	9,829	81.40
Upton Magna	5,171	5,151	32.81
Welshampton & Lyneal	21,500	23,500	62.78
Wem Rural	26,263	26,788	39.07
Wem Town	316,462	334,049	165.78
West Felton	19,227	20,095	35.53
Westbury	14,000	14,420	27.36
Weston Rhyn	36,000	38,500	45.32
Weston-Under-Redcastle	6,000	6,000	48.58
Wheathill	3,900	3,000	40.87
Whitchurch Rural	21,643	22,239	36.58
Whitchurch Town	484,603	507,666	151.45
Whittington	43,880	49,129	53.68
Whitton	-	-	-
Whixall	8,300	8,900	25.90
Wistanstow	12,255	12,390	37.29
Withington	6,000	6,000	56.39
Woore	30,727	30,727	51.41
Worfield & Rudge	23,000	24,000	26.09
Worthen with Shelve	36,414	37,144	47.26
Wroxeter & Uppington	4,360	4,600	28.62

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPTS OVER £140,000

The larger local councils precepting more than £140,000 in 2020/21 have provided additional information about their budget and tax levels. Further information can be obtained from the Town Clerk at the relevant council.

	2019/20		2020/21			Budget Requirement £
	Gross Expenditure £	Budget Requirement £	Gross Expenditure £	Transfer to(-) / from (+) Reserves £	Income £	
Town Council						
Albington	N/A	N/A	216,853	5,000	55,853	156,000
Bayston Hill	176,856	152,635	210,470	13,900	29,008	167,562
Bishops Castle Town	N/A	N/A	154,000		4,000	150,000
Bridgnorth Town	907,802	613,161	963,359	31,005	300,288	632,066
Broseley Town	280,160	240,874	318,423	-	52,136	266,287
Church Stretton & Little Stretton Town	421,515	396,835	519,899	48,197	63,500	408,202
Ellesmere Town	212,716	212,300	278,600	10,577	36,830	231,193
Ludlow Town	872,015	557,037	920,582	-	307,842	612,740
Market Drayton Town	524,756	462,240	556,306	1,108	61,842	493,356
Much Wenlock Town	231,309	194,698	255,133	-	50,701	204,432
Oswestry	2,741,806	404,000	2,292,847	681,353	1,195,494	416,000
Shifnal Town	481,755	447,975	519,460	-	43,700	475,760
Shrewsbury Town	3,452,414	1,233,447	3,726,281	(186)	2,209,432	1,517,035
Wem Town	331,943	316,462	349,049	-	15,000	334,049
Whitchurch Town	740,383	484,603	667,249	60,000	99,583	507,666

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.

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.



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

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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, 5th and 6th Floors, 2 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

- No discount is awarded in respect of second homes (unless you are required to live in another property as a condition of your contract of employment, subject to certain conditions)
- No discount is awarded in respect of property undergoing or in need of major repair
- Property that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished will receive 100% discount for 1 month, and no discount thereafter.
- Property that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years will pay 100% council tax premium
- Property that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than five years will pay 200% council tax premium

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:

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- 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:

	2019/20 Actual Expenditure		2020/21 Budgeted Expenditure	
	Severn & Wye	North West	Severn & Wye	North West
Gross Expenditure (£'000s)	14,901	63,830	15,808	98,276
Levies Raised (£'000s)	1,151	4,017	1,174	4,097
Total Council Taxbase Band D Equivalents ('000s)	974	2,145	988	2,178

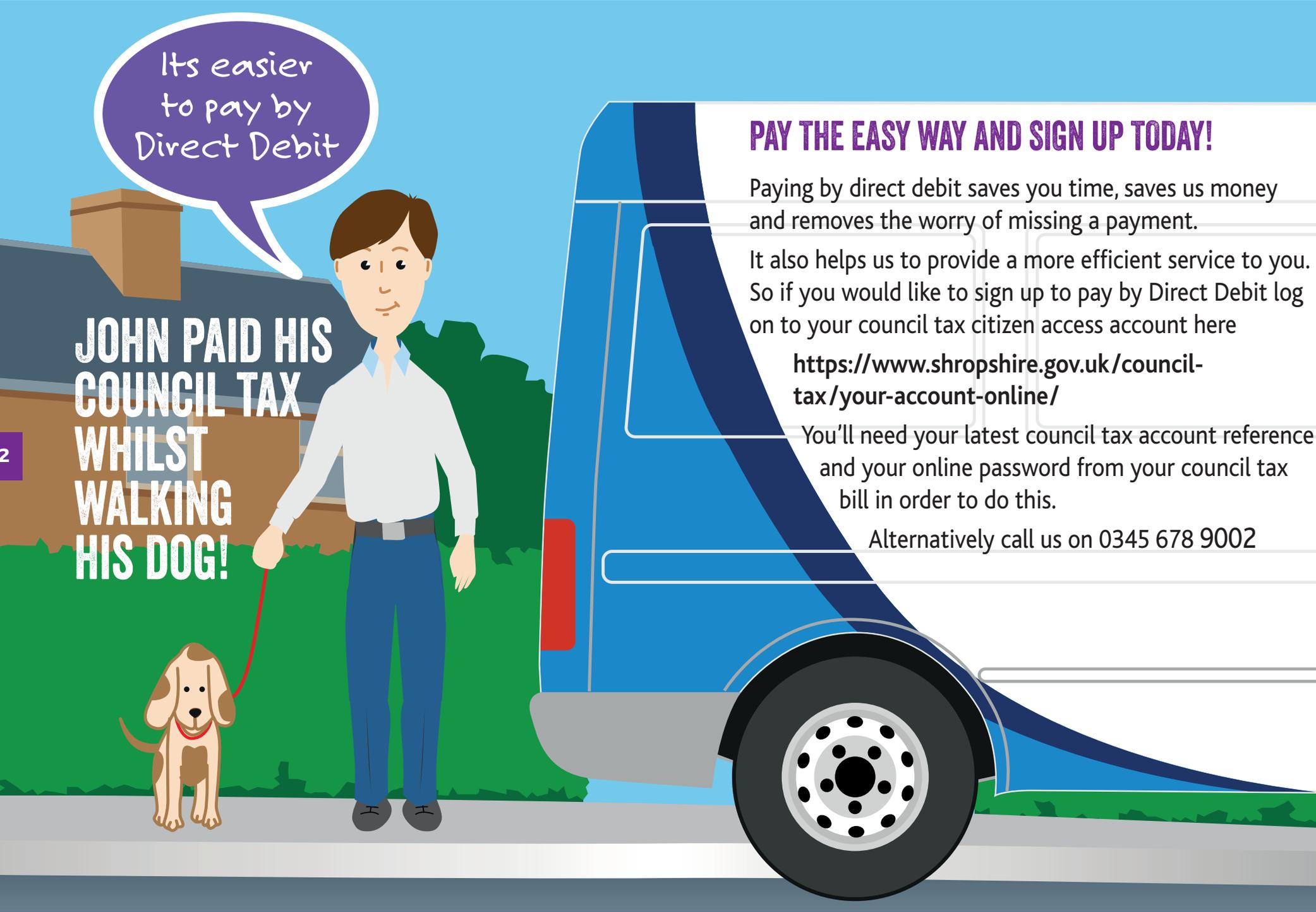
The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership 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 £1,150,579 in 2019/20 to £1,173,590 for 2020/21 for the Severn & Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and from £4,016,646 in 2019/20 to £4,096,979 for 2020/21 for the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

The amounts levied on Shropshire Council in 2019/20 and 2020/21 are as follows:

	2019/20 £	2020/21 £
Severn Region Flood Levy	123,325	126,676
North West Region Flood Levy	4,590	4,701



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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 68,000 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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CONTACT DETAILS:

Revenues and Benefits **0345 678 9002**
benefits@shropshire.gov.uk
council.tax@shropshire.gov.uk
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



Get the latest information and news from Shropshire Council. Sign up to our updates [here](#).

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.