

Balancing the Council's Budget

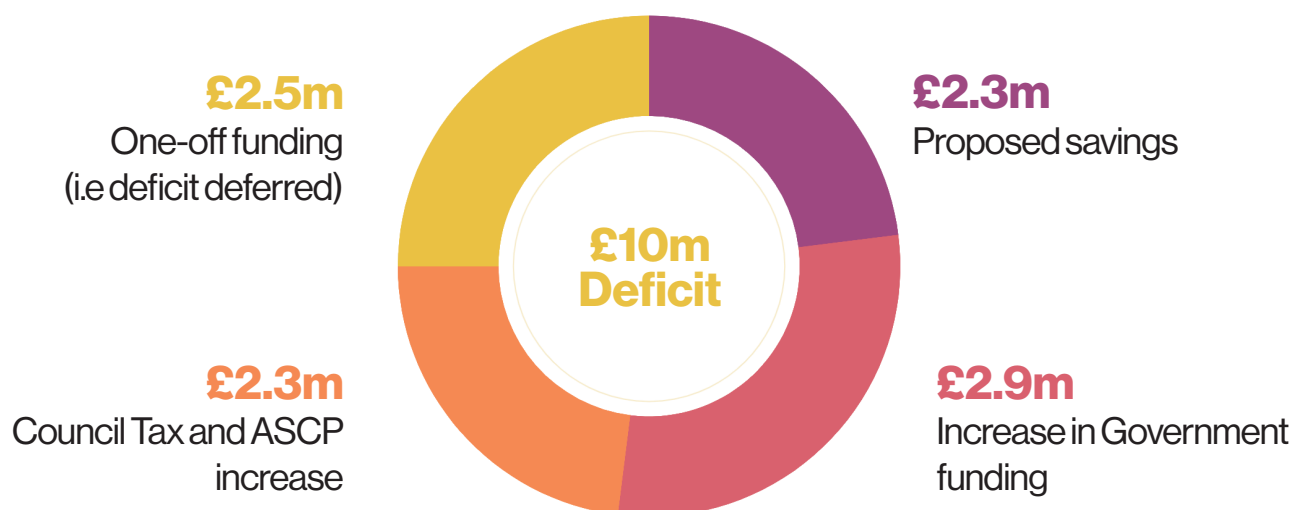
All councils are experiencing significant inflation pressures and as a result Hartlepool Borough Council faces increased costs of £10 million.

As part of a package to address this situation, the Council has agreed its budget for 2023/24 which includes raising a total of £2.3 million from a 2.9% increase in Council Tax and 2% rise in the Adult Social Care Precept (ASCP).

The budget helps to protect front-line services and ensures the Council's future financial viability. Without the increases, further significant cuts in services would be needed.

Although the Council's Government grant allocation for next year is better than expected, we are still disappointed that the national funding system continues to shift the burden of funding Council services from Central Government to local taxpayers. We will continue to press the case for a fairer funding system.

Summary of strategy to address 2023/24 deficit



How inflation is affecting Council services









Higher energy prices will increase streetlighting costs by around £300,000 – about £20 a year extra for each streetlight.

Care home fees will need to increase by over 13% from April 2023 to maintain current service provision as a result of a 9.5% rise in the National Living Wage and the impact of inflation on food and energy prices.

The amount we pay for home care services will increase by over 10%.

Independent providers of children's services are advising that their annual fees will be going up by between 6% and 10% due to inflation.

A band-by-band guide to Council Tax 2023/24

	Hartlepool Borough Council (inc ASCP)	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner	Cleveland Fire Authority	Total	% of properties in each band
 Band A	1,284.54	193.82	57.91	1,536.27	53%
 Band B	1,498.63	226.12	67.56	1,792.31	17%
 Band C	1,712.72	258.43	77.21	2,048.36	14%
 Band D	1,926.81	290.73	86.86	2,304.40	8%
 Band E	2,354.99	355.34	106.16	2,816.49	4%
 Band F	2,783.17	419.94	125.46	3,328.57	2%
 Band G	3,211.35	484.55	144.77	3,840.67	1%
 Band H	3,853.62	581.46	173.72	4,608.80	1%

If you live in an area with a parish council, there will be an additional small charge for services it provides

How each £1 of Council Tax is spent



Are you eligible for help paying your Council Tax?

Discounts

Reductions are available if, for example, you're the only person in your household over the age of 18, a family member is disabled or severely mentally impaired or your partner is in a nursing home. Discounts depend on individual circumstances.

Local Council Tax Support Scheme

You may be able to claim if you - or another adult in your home - are on a low income, either in or out of work. The level of support depends on your income.

Local Council Tax Support Fund

The Government is providing one-off funding to councils nationally in 2023/24 to reduce bills by a minimum of up to £25 for working age and pension age Local Council Tax Support claimants. Hartlepool councillors have decided to use this funding to increase support to £30. Eligible residents will be notified via their Council Tax bill.

Paying your Council Tax

You can pay your bill anytime. All you need is your account details and bank card:



0300 1230703
(charged at local rate)



www.hartlepool.gov.uk/payment