

# Your council tax explained

County council services and  
how your money is spent 2021/22



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

## Dear resident,

This booklet provides an update on the services we, at Oxfordshire County Council, provide, how they are funded and our vision for thriving communities in the county.

We're proud of the services we deliver – everything from fire and rescue to taking care of vulnerable children and adults. Protecting those in need will always be our priority and we are dedicated to investing in services that will have a positive long-term impact for local communities.

Like all local authorities, we face funding pressures and uncertainties, including the loss of income and other impacts on services due to COVID-19. However, responsible and careful financial forward planning over the last decade has meant that the council is in a more sustainable and resilient position to meet our budget pressures. This has included decisions around council tax.

This year, more than ever, the need to raise extra funding has to be balanced against the pressures on residents' incomes during the pandemic. This is not an easy time, financially or otherwise, for businesses, residents and families. We have listened to what you told us in our 2021/22 budget consultation and will continue to find ways to save money and transform services to make them more efficient, while protecting and investing in frontline services. Taking all this into account, we will be raising council tax by 2.99 per cent for 2021/22 (one per cent less than last year), so we can meet the demands on key services, such as adult social care, and make small investments into priority areas.

This year is likely to remain tough but we will continue to support you, our communities and our local economy to recover and thrive together.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Hudspeth', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Councillor Ian Hudspeth**  
Leader, Oxfordshire County Council



# ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Oxfordshire County Council provides 80 per cent of the local government services by expenditure, including adult and children’s social care, some education services, fire and rescue, libraries and museums, roads, trading standards, waste disposal and recycling.

# OUR VISION

Thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire



## To achieve our vision, we will:

- Listen to our diverse residents so we can continuously improve our services and provide value for money.
- Provide services that enhance quality of life and take action to reduce the impact of climate change and protect the local environment.
- Strive to give every child a good start in life and protect everyone from neglect.
- Enable older and disabled people to live independently and care for those in greatest need.
- Tackle inequality, help people live safe and healthy lives and enable everyone to play an active part in their community.
- Support a thriving and inclusive local economy that recovers strongly from the COVID crisis.

# WORKING FOR YOU

## Our services

We are proud to provide and support a huge range of services that enhance and improve the lives of people across our whole community.

Here's just a few of the services we provided last year:

Cared for an average of **776** children in care each day



Every day last year we supported over **6,000** adults with ongoing social care



Managed **297,134** tonnes of household waste, of which 60 per cent was recycled, reused or composted  
(Dec 19 - Nov 20)



Registered **7,194** births



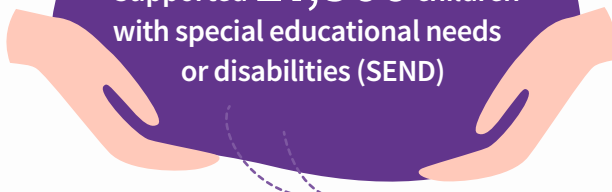
Repaired **40,356** potholes



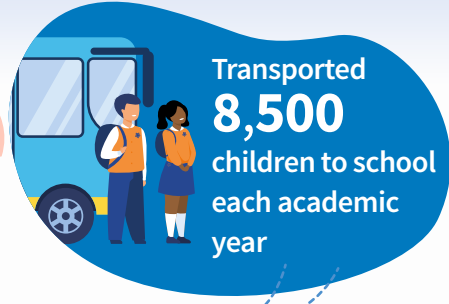
Attended **5,625** fire and rescue service call outs



Supported **17,500** children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)



Transported **8,500** children to school each academic year



## Our response to COVID-19



The continued health, social and financial impact of COVID-19 on our communities has been huge. As a council we acted quickly to support people through this unprecedented challenge and continue to do so, along with the dedicated voluntary, community and faith organisations, residents and businesses across the county who have all stepped up to support each other.

Here's just some of what we've been doing:



Delivered **4,579** online music lessons to schools



Investigated **600** COVID-19 related community safety complaints



Contacted over **15,000** people who were having to shield



Made over **10,000** phone calls providing support and advice to residents



Paid out **£730,000** in grants for food and other essentials to community food services and those in need, in partnership with our city and district colleagues



Provided **£15** per week for each child eligible for free school meals over the Christmas, February and Easter holidays



Launched a local contact tracing service, with over **1,000** people successfully reached (Oct 20 – Jan 21)



Received **2,004,024** visits to our online library and delivered **8,364** library books through our home library service

Figures from April – December 2020

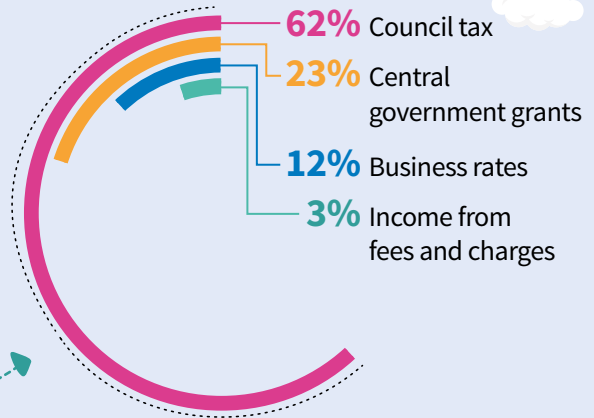
# MANAGING OUR BUDGET

## Council funding and spending 2021/22

### Where the money comes from

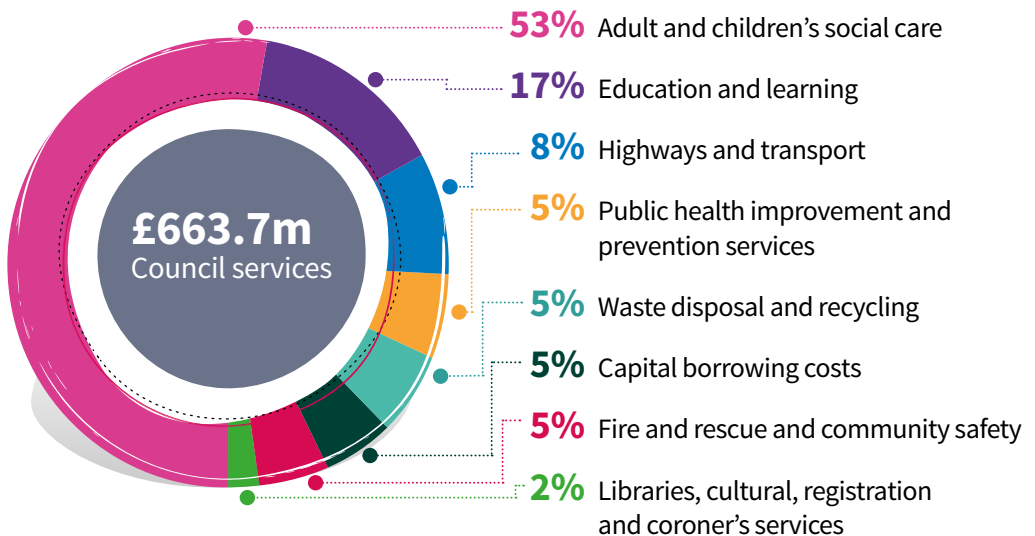
For 2021/22 the council set a gross expenditure budget of £856.2m (£828.9m in 2020/21).

Gross expenditure excluding schools (£663.7m) is funded in the following ways.



### What we spend on council services

The figures below show how we plan to spend our **£663.7m** gross expenditure budget (excluding schools) on services compared to £640.2m in 2020/21. In addition, we spend **£192.4m** on maintained schools, which covers teachers and running costs, and comes directly from government.





## Council tax

**The council tax increase for 2021/22 is 2.99 per cent**  
(the council tax increase for 2020/21 was 3.99 per cent)

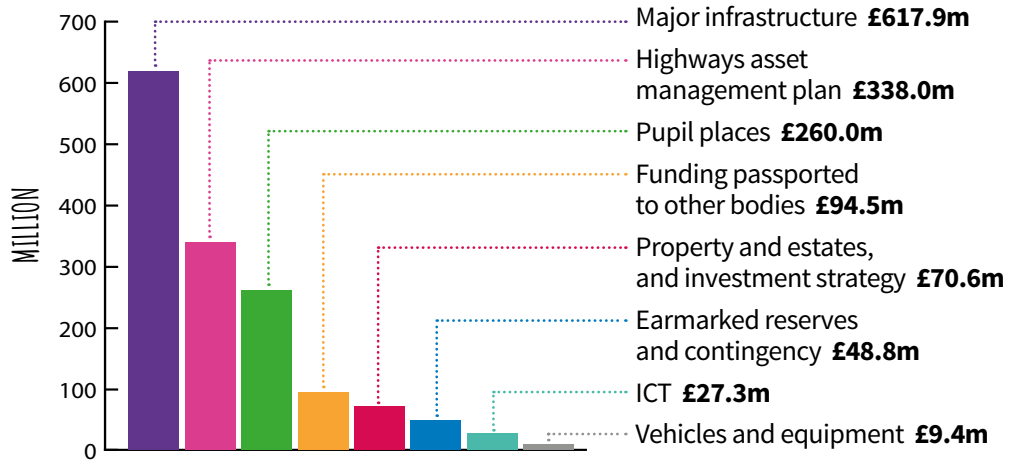
Late last year, the government announced it would once again give councils the flexibility to raise council tax by an additional three per cent (a precept) over the next two years to help pay for adult social care services. This is on top of a maximum 1.99 per cent 'core' council tax that can be charged. Supported by feedback on our budget consultation, we have chosen to propose levying one per cent of that precept in addition to a core council tax charge of 1.99 per cent.

This will allow us to meet the demand on priority service areas and make investments, such as in our youth offer. However, given the level of remaining uncertainties, including around COVID-19, we will continue to take a cautious and measured approach towards managing our budgets.

- Council tax requirement is £407.9m in 2021/22 (£391.5m in 2020/21)

## Capital programme

Our £1.4bn capital programme includes investment in highway improvements, new school buildings and energy efficient street lighting over 10 years. This money can only be used for the purpose it has been given and cannot be allocated to day-to-day council spending.



# YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Oxfordshire County Council has 63 county councillors who you vote for every four years. The next election is planned for **Thursday 6 May 2021** (subject to any government changes as a result of the pandemic). Your county councillor can help if you have a query or concern about the council's services by offering advice or directing you to someone who can help

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-councillors](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-councillors)

## WASTE AND RECYCLING

Household waste recycling centres

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste)

### Bin collections:

- [westoxon.gov.uk/bins](https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins)
- [cherwell.gov.uk/bins](https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/bins)
- [southoxon.gov.uk/bins](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/bins)
- [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/bins](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/bins)
- [oxford.gov.uk/recycling](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/recycling)

Recycling advice

[oxfordshirerecycles.org.uk](https://www.oxfordshirerecycles.org.uk)

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard)

## REPORT

Potholes, faulty street or traffic lights

[fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk](https://www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## LIBRARIES

Find your local library, renew and reserve, borrow audio and ebooks, and find events.

If you are new to the library, sign up for your free library card and enjoy all of what Oxfordshire Libraries offer.

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)

## SCHOOLS

Admissions, term dates and holidays

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools)

## SUPPORT SERVICES

Find local support services at

Live Well Oxfordshire

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/livewell](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/livewell)

## STAY IN TOUCH



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## CONTACT US

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/contact-us](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contact-us)

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You can apply, book, find, report and pay for a range of services on the county council website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)