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Parish Report March 2019

Budget 2019 **A £409m net revenue budget – representing the Council Tax income which contributes to running the council and its services**

- A 2.99 per cent rise in the county council's share of Council Tax – the maximum permitted by Government, without having to stage a referendum. The Council's share of band D bills will rise to £1,362.24 from April.
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- Examples of increased investment from April include £6m to address growing demand on adult social services, and £14.5m to tackle pressures on the looked-after children

Highways

NDR existing sections completed under budget

Norwich Western Link options consultation, which ran between November 2018 and January 2019 and sought people's opinions on four shortlisted route options for a new or improved road link between the A47 and the western end of Broadland Northway (formerly known as the NDR).

- The consultation website was viewed by 3,475 people and a total of 1,245 people came to 17 consultation events staffed by members of the Norwich Western Link project team.
- We received more than 1,900 responses in total, with 1,825 responding via the consultation survey available on the consultation website and 104 sending their responses by letter or email.
- Initial analysis of the responses to the consultation survey suggests there is strong agreement among respondents that there is a need for a Norwich Western Link road, with Option D ranking as the most popular solution, Option C the second most popular and Option A the least popular.

Option D Dual carriageway and a Viaduct over the Wensum valley

Childrens services

Finances

Social Work

Looked After Children :1200 children

Residential = 19.4m

Fostering = 28.4m

Semi-Independent = 5.3m

SGOs = 3.9m

Special educational needs

Education & Care for Children with SEN (HNB)

Special Schools = £31.5m

Complex needs schools = £20m

Alternative provision = £4.9m

Home to School Transport

SEN = £13.1m

Mainstream = £11.6m

Post 16 = £3.1m

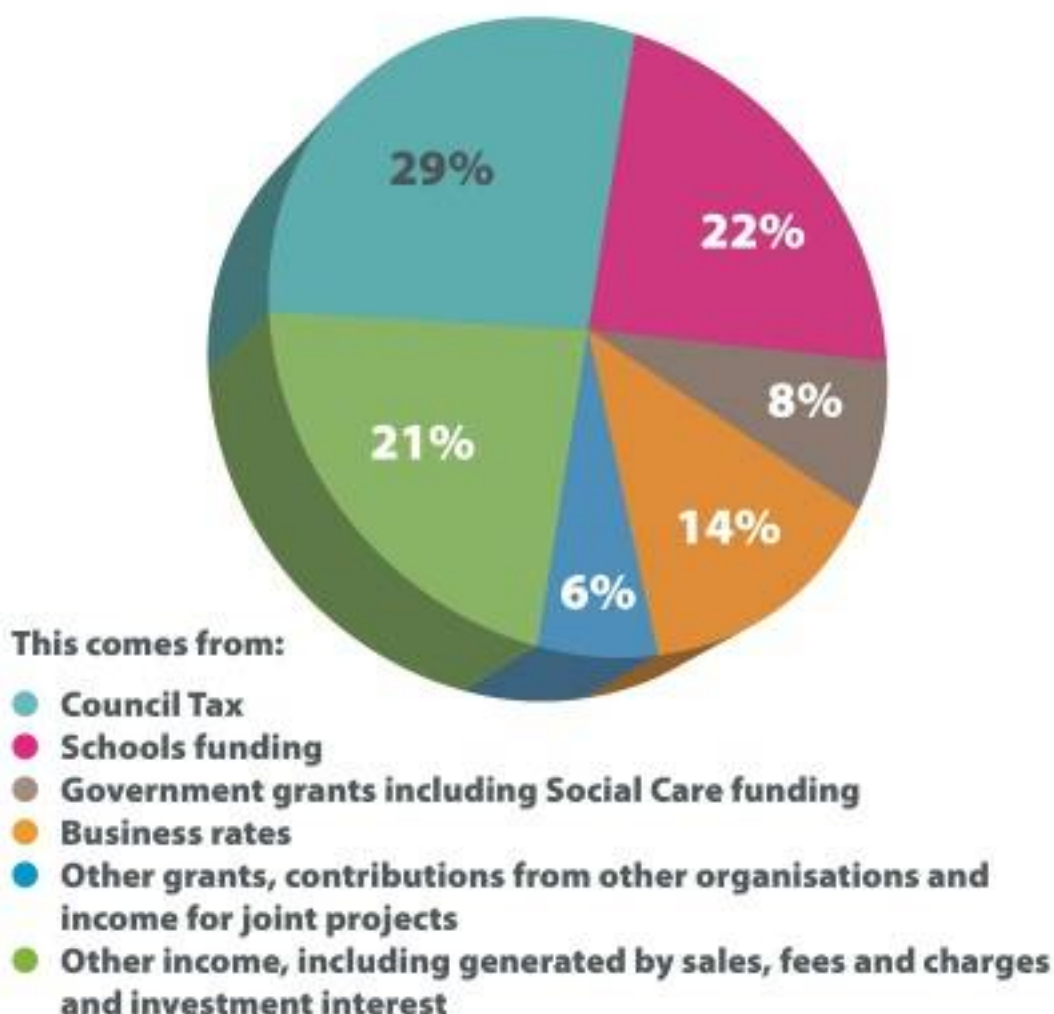


Examples: 3000 children in special needs and complex needs school in Norfolk

- A child in a standard foster placement = £39,000 per year
- A child in a residential placement = 150k+ per year
- A child with complex disabilities can be around £500k per year.
- A child attending a complex needs school = £48,000 per year
- A child in a Norfolk special school = £25,000 per year
- A child attending a specialist resource base = £11,000 per year
- Typical cost of transport for a child travelling to a specialist education setting = £35,000 per year

Where the money comes from 2019-20

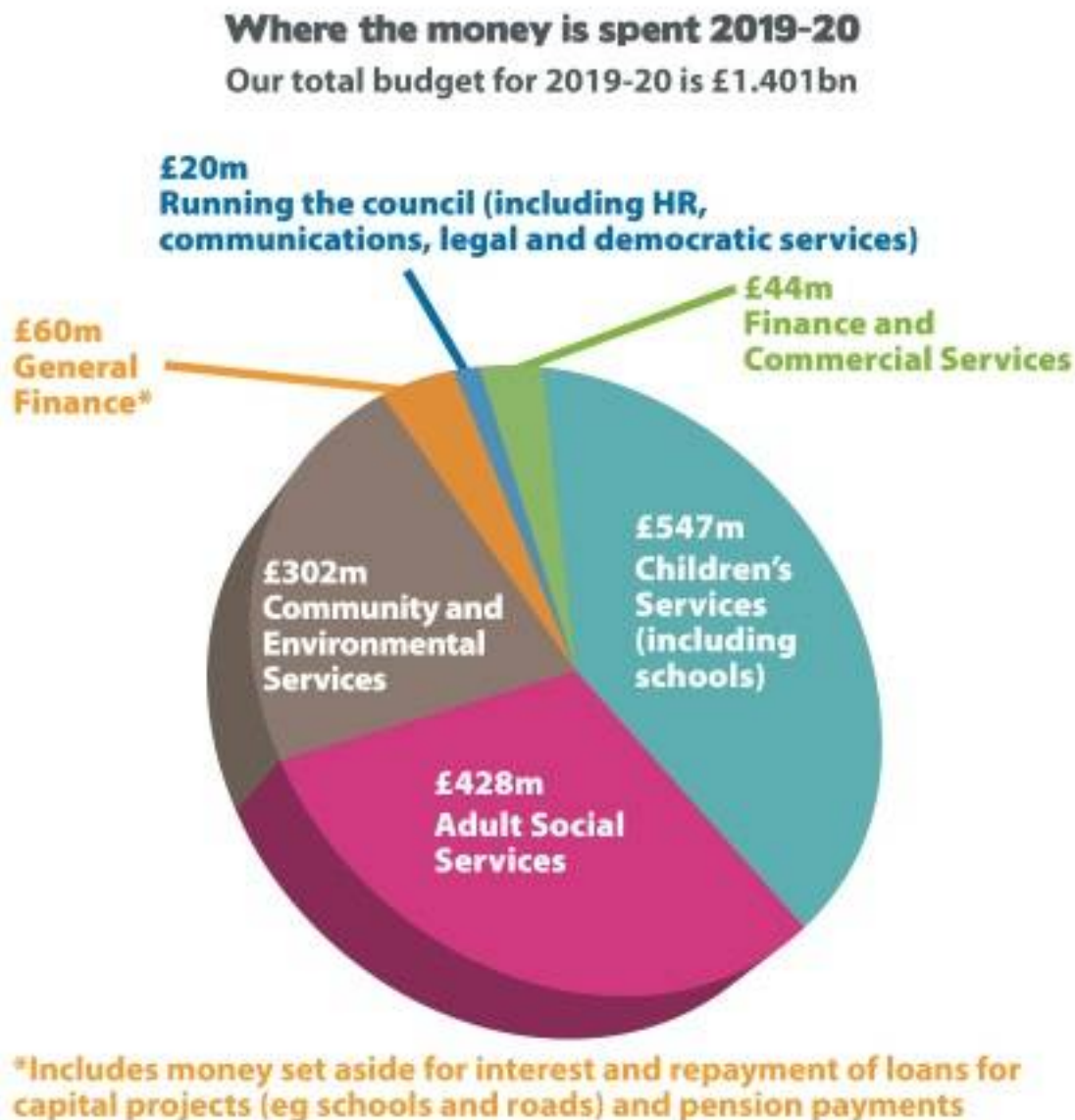
Our total income for 2019-20 is £1.401bn



National Debt

Put very simply: The reason Government has reduced the funding for County Councils is primarily because as a country we spent more than we earned in tax revenue between 1997 -2010. It was at a time when it was cheap to borrow money and too many people and companies did just that until the bubble burst. People could get mortgages very cheaply at level in excess of 5 times their annual income because it was so cheap to borrow that people were buying to let as borrowing money was so easy. Then from 2010 the markets tumbled, borrowing became more expensive, people then found their circumstances changed and they could not afford to pay back their loans. We had to bail out the Banks so they didn't go bust, The country went into recession and austerity started and continues.

2018, UK debt amounted to £1.78 trillion, or 86.58% of total GDP, at which time the annual cost of servicing (paying the interest) the public debt amounted to around £48 billion (which is roughly 4% of GDP or 8% of UK government tax income).



Business and Property We are increasingly having to re evaluate the buildings and property we own to ensure that if we need the buildings, what goes on inside them either works at capacity providing services or creates income to subsidise other services. Income generation has become essential in order to maintain our essential services

Adult social services

We spend about £1 million a day on adult social care in Norfolk

- On any given day, we will be securing services to around 14,000 people
- We begin intensive reablement to help 14 people a day get back on their feet after a crisis
- Every day we receive new calls, new enquiries: equivalent to almost 200 a day
- Last year 20,205 people received short term or long term adult social care packages
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Parish Partnerships:

We continue to offer some matched funding for Highways schemes such as Speed Activated Monitoring SAMs and other highways furniture like Gateway structures as you enter Villages. There is also a much larger sum available but competitive, and/or shared within my Division of Clavering equating to £6,000. Go online to view at Norfolk County Council website

Recent Disruption at County Council meeting

You may have seen in the press or on television that meetings have been disrupted by groups of people protesting about a variety of issues. Our last Full council meeting, where the Budget was delivered and discussed, was prevented from commencing for four and a half hours, effectively stopping the democratic function of our County Council. Our Council meetings are held in public but are NOT public meetings. Security has been increased significantly since then and anyone entering County Hall will have to go through much closer scrutiny before they will be allowed in to the building. 4 people were arrested. We welcome people attending but insist that they do not disrupt the process

Please contact me if you have any issues which you would like addressed and I will help in anyway I can.

Margaret