

Keeping SURREY special

In setting Council Tax this year, Surrey County Council has faced growing demand for services for vulnerable people and more primary school places. At the same time the government is squeezing funding as a result of the recession.

Despite the most challenging financial conditions for generations, the council has honoured its pledge to keep the Council Tax rise to 2.5%, or about 50 pence a week extra for an average household in Band D.

The council's overall budget for 2010/11 is £680.4m. Again, Surrey residents have to shoulder more of the cost than people in other parts of England because Surrey receives the lowest government funding per resident.

Despite the difficulties, the county council and its partners (including the district and borough councils, Surrey Police and other agencies) are determined to find savings so they can do the things that make Surrey so special.



In an exciting development the council has also announced plans to save £3.5 million a year by boosting recycling (already at 47%) and reducing the waste going to landfill sites. It will also build an Eco Park with new technologies using waste to heat homes, and providing an opportunity for young people to learn about environmental issues.

The county council has already intensified its efficiency drive by undertaking public value reviews of all its services. It has also signed a new contract to upgrade the county's 89,000 streetlights, saving the council taxpayer £12 million and significantly reducing carbon emissions.

Becoming more efficient

The table shows what efficiency savings Surrey County Council and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service are forecast to achieve by the end of March 2010. The average forecast efficiencies per band D household for similar councils and fire authorities in England are £98 and £4.

| | Surrey County Council | Surrey Fire and Rescue |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Forecast efficiency savings | £29.4m | £2.4m |
| Forecast efficiency savings per average band D household | £60 | £5 |
| Efficiency savings for last year (2008-9) | £17.3m | £1.3m |

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If you have a question about your own Council Tax bill, contact your local district or borough council.

How Surrey County Council uses its Council Tax

| 2009/10 £Million | | 2010/11 £Million |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| 155.7* | Children and Young People - includes schools, children's social care and youth service | 154.7 |
| 240.7 | Adults Social Care - includes care and support for adults across a broad range of services | 239.8 |
| 168.3 | Services for Communities - includes roads, public transport, disposal of waste, trading standards, libraries and adult education | 166.9 |
| 93.8 | Change and Efficiency - includes finance, information management and technology, procurement, property and HR | 85.6 |
| 14.1 | Chief Executive's Office - includes performance management, communications and support to the voluntary sector | 18.2 |
| -11.1 | Central income and expenditure – includes capital financing, land drainage precept and contingency funding. This category now also includes £56.2m in government grants that were previously shown against services | 15.2 |
| 661.5 | Total spending | 680.4 |
| 661.5 | Budget requirement | 680.4 |
| -125.7 | Government grant plus business rates | -127.5 |
| -1.1 | Collection fund surplus | -1.5 |
| 534.7 | Surrey County Council Tax precept | 551.5 |

The figures below only represent Surrey County Council's portion of your Council Tax bill.

| Band | Council Tax |
|------|-------------|
| A | £744.24 |
| B | £868.28 |
| C | £992.32 |
| D | £1,116.36 |
| E | £1,364.44 |
| F | £1,612.52 |
| G | £1,860.60 |
| H | £2,232.72 |

* In addition to the budget shown on the left we receive £603.7m from the government to fund schools. Around £524.4m of this funding is passed directly on to our schools. About £22.9m is spent on nursery education for three and four year olds in the private sector and the remaining £56.4m is to support schools and pupils with special educational needs, education out of school and related services.