

Swindon Borough Council – Annual report and Council Tax 2018/19

Council budget for 2018/19

Introduction

Total spending by Swindon Borough Council will be approximately £482.1m in 2018/19, offset by income of £341.9m. This means the Council's net expenditure in 2018/19 will be £140.2m.

The Council uses this budget to provide hundreds of different services to benefit residents of the borough, some of which are obvious such as waste collection and road maintenance. Other services often go unseen, such as providing foster carers for children in crisis, providing care for older people, carrying out food hygiene inspections and providing education for children with special needs. The Council can choose whether to provide some of these services or not, whereas others are statutory and must be provided by law.

During the last decade the areas where the Council spends its money have changed dramatically. As demand for children's and adults' services, which are mostly statutory, has increased significantly, the Council's budget has reduced, meaning a lot less can be spent on many of the services residents are used to.

The Council also provides a council housing service which is funded from rents and service charges from tenants. This is completely separate from the services funded from Council Tax income.

The finances are broken down into different service areas in the table below. This shows the total amounts being spent on each service and the income that offsets some of the costs:

Service area	Total amount of money the Council will spend	2018-19 Income (from rent, fees & charges, specific grants etc.)	Amount of money spent by the Council minus income
	£000	£000	£000
Education (DSG and Pupil Premium)	179,665	(179,655)	0
Children and Young People	17,198	(12,182)	5,016
Corporate and Support	45,921	(39,943)	5,978
Revenues and Benefits	53,356	(51,293)	2,063
Culture, Leisure and Libraries	6,525	(3,295))	3,230
Environmental and Regulatory	23,643	(6,989)	16,654
Highways and Transport	9,787	(10,252)	(465)
Housing	7,671	(5,025)	2,646
Planning and Development	5,802	(10,109)	(4,307)
Public Health	12,697	(1,148)	11,549
Social Care - Adults	81,756	(13,152)	68,604
Social Care - Children	38,100	(8,844)	29,256
TOTAL	482,111	(341,887)	140,224

General reserves

The Council puts aside a certain amount of money to cover any unforeseen costs. The Council plans to hold £6m in general reserves in 2018/19.