

Your council tax

If you need help understanding this document please
contact Financial Services 01226 773221
Further details can be found at www.barnsley.gov.uk/budget

Nëse j'u nevojitet ndihmë për të kuptuar këtë dokument, j'u lutemi n'a kontaktoni.

若您需要幫助來理解本檔，請與我們聯繫。

यदि आप को इस दस्तावेज़ को समझने के लिए सहायता की आवश्यकता है तो कृपया हम से संपर्क करें

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ਜੇਕਰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਲਈ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਮਦਦ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ

Обратитесь к нам, если для того, чтобы понять этот документ, вам нужна помощь

اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے کیلئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم ہم سے رابطہ کریں



2014 - 2015

Helping deliver value for money
services now and in the future



BARNSELEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

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BARNSELEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

A year of challenge and opportunity

This year's budget has again been prepared against a continuing backdrop of reduced resources and represents the fourth successive year of budget reductions.

Since 2010 and the commencement of significant reductions in government funding, the Council has had to find savings of £59 million, including £13 million in the coming financial year. Moreover if current forecasts are correct, we will have to find another £27 million of savings by the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

Despite these financial challenges, we have managed to deliver savings in a planned and effective way, minimising as much as possible the effects on our residents whilst striving to achieve service improvements.

Our priorities are growing Barnsley's economy, helping people to achieve their potential and strengthening the relationship with our residents. The budget focuses on delivering these key priorities and will particularly seek to protect those people in our borough who need our help the most. We also need to ensure that we continue to meet our legal obligations and deliver a high quality service in high priority areas, such as providing bin collections and maintaining roads. This leaves increasing gaps in other areas that will become apparent over time, which we will need to take steps to overcome.

As a result, the council will begin trading more of its services - generating income to offset some of the budget reductions and increasing fees and charges for some services as a consequence.

We recognise the need to make sure that our lowest paid employees can afford to live. This is why this year's budget sees us committing to paying the Living Wage - a commitment that has been made by many other local authorities.

For the past four years, we have managed to freeze council tax at 2010/11 levels by accepting the government's freeze grants. However, these are not permanent resources and generally leave a budget deficit in future years. It is estimated, for example, that if we were to take the Council Tax freeze grant in

2014/15, we are likely to create a deficit in future years of around £800,000. This is a difficult decision but our budget can not continue to bridge this level of deficit bearing in mind the cuts that the Council still faces.

So for 2014/15, we propose that council tax is raised by 1.9 per cent. This is below the rate of inflation and below the government's threshold. It equates to a 44p per week increase for a Band D household for Barnsley's services.

This is likely to increase marginally when police and fire precepts are included. Another difficult decision is to phase out the Council Tax discount for the over 65s that we introduced five years ago. Unfortunately, the increasing budget costs and reductions in funding mean that this discount scheme is no longer sustainable and will be phased out gradually over five years. As such, some pensioners will see a gradual increase in their council tax payments.

We continue to be committed to improving our services and our economy. We have pledged £41 million of capital funding to redeveloping the town centre. This will be added to a £16 million investment in a new sixth form building by Barnsley College. This investment will reinvigorate the economy, boost local business and modernise a crucial gateway into the town centre.

Out in the communities, Area Councils will receive £100,000 per ward to address the priorities that are identified locally. This will allow local councillors and their communities to act on the issues they feel are most important to their areas. We are also committed to working with and enabling communities, partners, the voluntary sector, local businesses and social enterprises to help deliver some services within these wards.

In conclusion, this budget will deliver the required savings, protect services for the most vulnerable and enable a sustainable Future Council which will focus on growing our economy and helping residents to achieve their potential.

Further details can be found at www.barnsley.gov.uk/budget

Improving access to services

The council and its partners are committed to continually improving access to services, to make it easier for you to get the service you need. We recognise that customers often have complex issues that span many departments and agencies, and that this can cause frustration. As a result, the council has developed a number of ways for you to access the services you need, and make payments in a way that suits you best.

On the Internet

www.barnsley.gov.uk

There you can pay your council tax bill on-line via the 24 hour payment line, plus gain access to an A-Z of information and services available to you. You can also raise any issues you might have, on any aspect of the council's activities, by clicking 'Consultation' on the home page and scrolling down to 'Have your say'.

www.facebook.com/BarnsleyCouncil
Twitter @BarnsleyCouncil

By telephone

Barnsley Town Hall Switchboard	01226 770770
Council Tax Helpline	01226 774774
Dog Fouling	01226 772468
Graffiti	01226 775656
Refuse Collection	01226 772045
Road Repairs	01226 773555

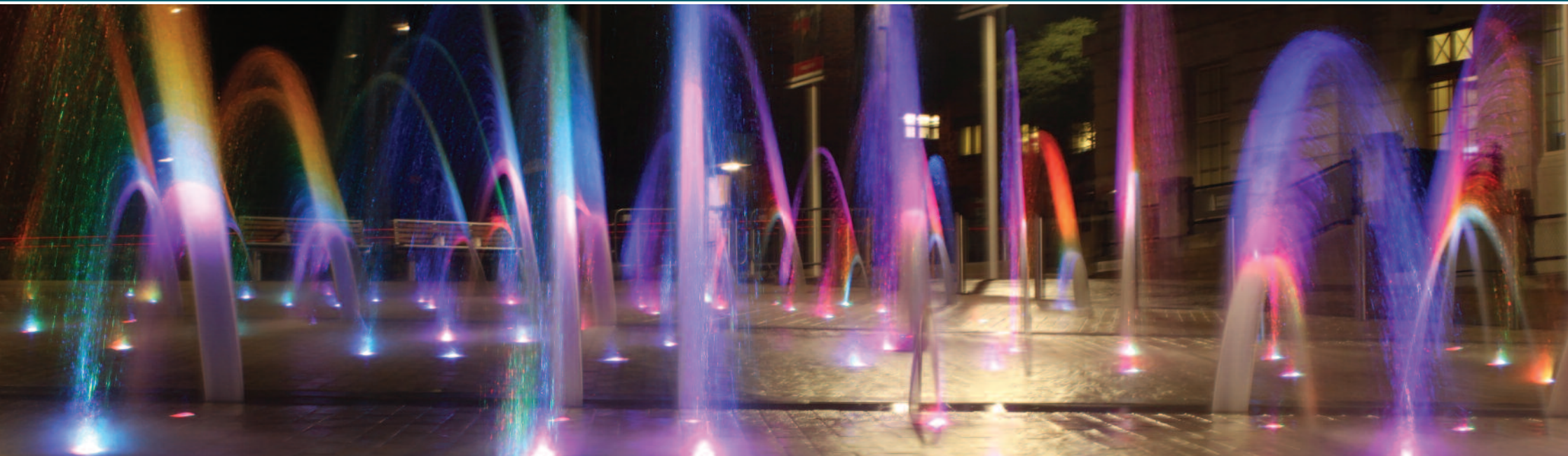
Make an appointment to see an advisor on 01226 787896

We aim to make your appointment within two days of you asking and in many cases resolve your enquiry over the phone.

Barnsley Connects Service Centres

Open Monday to Friday (Not available for payments). To find your local office go to www.barnsley.gov.uk or call 01226 787896.

Our spending plans for 2014/15



	Original anticipated spend 2013/14	Variance	What we anticipate spending in 2014/15			Explanation
	Net £000's	£000's	Spend £000's	Income £000's	Net £000's	
Adult Social Care	51,304	-3,748	68,855	-21,299	47,556	The reduction in expenditure generally relates to savings put forward to address the reduction in the council's funding for 2014/15 following the government's spending cuts. Every effort has been made to protect priority frontline areas. The key service priorities are shown below:
Central Services to the Public	11,560	2,977	23,677	-9,140	14,537	Safeguarding vulnerable adults, giving people choice and control, improved outcomes enabling people to regain independence
Children and Education Services	58,957	-1,095	266,643	-208,781	57,862	Elections, council tax & benefits. Substantial investment has been made in local area priorities as identified through Area Councils for 2014/15
Cultural and Related Services	9,333	85	11,025	-1,607	9,418	Safeguarding children, early intervention, schools performance and standards
Environment and Regulatory Services	18,735	-1,924	25,301	-8,490	16,811	Parks, open spaces, sport and recreation
Highways and Transport Services	27,108	-2,084	28,638	-3,614	25,024	Neighbourhoods, grounds maintenance, street cleaning and waste services
Housing Services	-4,019	-5,847	148,702	-158,568	-9,866	Highways maintenance
Planning Services	9,754	-1,266	15,703	-7,215	8,488	Maintaining the Barnsley Homes Standard
Public Health	2,174	-344	14,492	-12,662	1,830	Front line services including planning applications and building regulations
Net Cost of Services	184,906	-13,246	603,036	-431,376	171,660	Sexual health, obesity, smoking & tobacco, physical activity

The implications of the 2014/15 spending plans for council tax payers

In order to work out how much council tax we need to raise to pay for the net cost of services, we have to:

- take into account other items of corporate expenditure such as interest payments;
- add in the grants that the government will give us to meet our spending commitments;
- add on the amounts that we will raise on behalf of the South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner and the South Yorkshire Fire Authority.

Band D Council tax equivalent 2013/2014		2014/2015	Band D Council tax equivalent 2014/2015
£		£000s	£
3,172.06	Budgeted net cost of services	171,660	2,921.79
1.73	Precepts and levies	101	1.72
187.36	Other operating expenditure/capital financing	15,501	263.84
-	Contributions from balances/reserves and provisions		
3,361.15	Amount to be met from government grant and local taxpayers	187,262	3,187.35
	Income from:		
-2,134.85	Revenue Support Grant & NNDR	-114,235	-1,944.37
-11.16	Collection fund surplus	-1,151	-19.59
-14.56	Council Tax Freeze Grant (11/12 & 12/13)	-	-
1,200.58	Funds required by Barnsley Council	71,876	1,223.39
142.55	Funds Required by SY Police & Crime Commissioner	8,539	145.33
63.78	Funds Required by SY Fire Authority	3,821	65.04
1,406.91	Amount to be raised from council tax	84,236	1,433.76

Parish precepts

An additional charge will apply for those areas with parish councils. Any such charge will be clearly set out on the individual council tax bills.

Help is available if you are having trouble paying your council tax bill. If you are on a low income you may be entitled to council tax benefit. Please ring the benefits helpline on 774743 between 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am to 4.30pm on Friday.

Council tax discounts and exemptions are also available which may help to reduce your bill. Please ring the council tax helpline on 774774 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am to 4.30pm on Friday.

For more information about your council tax please read the explanatory notes which are included with your bill. Alternatively log on to the website at www.barnsley.gov.uk where you can use the online benefits calculator and access the online facilities.

The Council Tax requirement for Barnsley Council for 2014/15 is £71.876 million. This represents an increase of 1.9% in Band D equivalent Council Tax for the Council's services compared to 2013/14. The Council Tax requirements for the South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner and the South Yorkshire Fire Authority are £8.539 million and £3.821 million, equating to increases of 1.95% and 1.98% respectively.

	Council Tax 2013/14	Council Tax 2014/15
Band A-	781.61	796.53
Band A	937.94	955.84
Band B	1,094.26	1,115.15
Band C	1,250.58	1,274.45
Band D	1,406.91	1,433.76
Band E	1,719.56	1,752.37
Band F	2,032.21	2,070.99
Band G	2,344.85	2,389.60
Band H	2,813.82	2,867.52

Capital investment

In addition to the day to day expenditure summarised in the sections below, the Council also undertakes a wide range of capital investment including such schemes as improvements to existing council houses and schools. The major capital schemes due to commence or continue from 2014/15 onwards include:

- Economic Plan (including Town Centre Improvements);
- Maintaining the Barnsley Homes Standard;
- Highways Maintenance.

The Council's capital investment over the three year period to 2016/17 is estimated at £280 million.

The chart below shows how this investment will be funded.

- Borrowing funded from council resources
- Capital grants from government
- Other contributions from government (incl major repairs reserve)
- Capital receipts from sale of assets
- Reserves

