

A budget to invest in Warrington's success



**Councillor Russ Bowden,
Executive Board Member,
Corporate Finance**

Setting this year's budget has continued the fundamental shift towards self-sufficiency and a better dialogue and discussion with the people of Warrington about what the council is here to do, and how every

resident can play their part in making Warrington a great place to live, work and visit.

We will need to continue to have some challenging conversations about the transformation of the council over the next few years. We are talking about more integration with other public bodies so that we use our collective resources and make the best use of 'the Warrington pound'.

The key challenge for the council is that there is very little funding now within the revenue budget, so we must continue to focus on delivering good outcomes for people, particularly the most vulnerable. With this in mind, we have increased council tax by 1.98% plus an additional 2% central government 'social care precept' to be spent on adult social care services. This decision has not been taken lightly, but the demand pressure in adult social care is rising faster than our income to deliver those vital services. We will also continue to use capital funding to invest in Warrington, supporting our ambitious regeneration projects which bring benefits for the town, and help to secure our future financial stability.



**Councillor Terry O'Neill,
Leader of the Council**

Councils have taken the biggest cuts in funding across the public sector. The decisions get harder each year and no one wants to be in the position we are in today – having to find another £19.2 million in savings from the 2016/17 budget and a

council tax increase of 1.98% plus an additional increase of 2% for the 'social care precept'. But, we have a responsibility to set a legal budget and we are making excellent progress with our plans for our town and the people of Warrington.

My ambition is for us to become masters of our own destiny and invest in our success. We could become a self-contained city, retaining our receipts from growth and investing these back into Warrington. Central government propose to start consultation in 2016 on council's retaining 100% of business rates collected. We cannot rely on the Government in London to provide financial support now or in the future. I look forward to us in Warrington not only contributing to but also helping to shape the devolution debate.

Thank you to everyone who has made suggestions to help inform our budget setting this year. We have had a very positive response both in terms of numbers and quality of questions and ideas coming forward. We will continue to keep residents informed and involved every step of the way.

For more information about the budget, where the money goes, the difference between capital and revenue funding and your opportunity to make suggestions for future innovations, please visit our website www.warrington.gov.uk/strongwarrington, email: strongwarrington@warrington.gov.uk or find us on social media #strongwarrington.

Key facts

- The council tax paid by the people of Warrington remains one of the lowest rates in the North West.
- In 2016/17, the average (Band D) council tax level in Warrington will be £1,253.48 which is a rise of £47.98 (£23.87 from the 1.98% increase and £24.11 from the 2% 'social care precept' increase).
- Warrington is one of the lowest funded of the 91 unitary and metropolitan authorities (outside London) and the 2nd lowest funded in the North West.
- To balance the 2016/17 budget we have had to find £19.2 million of cuts. This is in addition to the £92 million already cut from our services since April 2010. This equates to a cut of £1,396 per Warrington household since 2010.

More information

Visit www.warrington.gov.uk/counciltax for further information about where our funding comes from, and details of the services we provide with the money we receive.

As usual this council tax bill also includes precepts for Cheshire Fire and Rescue, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire and your parish council (if applicable).

The Fire and Rescue budget is enclosed with your bill and the Police and Crime Commissioner's budget can be viewed at: www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/Transparency/Finance.aspx