

COUNCIL LEADER INTRODUCTION

Many councils – including ours – will face difficult budget decisions this year. We are still seeing legacy impacts from COVID, increasing demand for services, and inflation rates beyond our control, which means that delivering the services people rely on is increasingly expensive.

Since 2010, we have had to make savings in our Revenue Budget of £205m since 2010 – the equivalent of almost £2,155 per household. Throughout this period, we have done our utmost to protect our most vulnerable people across the borough, support our local business and the services that you value most.

Despite our decision to increase council tax this year – which the vast majority of councils have had to do – it is worth remembering that Warrington is one of the lowest-funded unitary authorities outside London, and your council tax remains one of the lowest in the North West. We don't make decisions to increase council tax lightly, but the reality is we have no alternative if we are to keep providing the services people want and need.

Importantly, your council tax helps us to keep looking after elderly and frail people, and vulnerable children and families who need additional support, on top of the common day-to-day services that many people see, like emptying bins and maintaining our parks.

Despite the ongoing pressures that we face, Warrington is already a place to be proud of, and together we can make it even better.

Councillor Russ Bowden

Leader, Warrington Borough Council