

Ipswich Borough Council

COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION 2021/22



Message from Cllr David Ellesmere, Leader of Ipswich Borough Council:

The last year has been dominated by Covid-19. It's been a tough year for everyone - and that includes Ipswich Borough Council.

I am very proud of what the Council has achieved this year – the services we have kept delivering for local people throughout this horrible pandemic, and the support we have been able to provide thousands of residents and local businesses. We have delivered over a thousand food parcels and taken over 2,000 calls from people seeking our support via the local Home, But Not Alone service. We have paid out more than £31m of business grants to support over 2,000 local businesses. Our fabulous parks have been a lifeline to many people during lockdown.

But the financial situation for most councils is very tough and especially for councils such as Ipswich Borough because we earn so much of our income from services we provide locally such as Crown Pools, the Regent Theatre and our car parks. Unsurprisingly, for many of these services the income we have received over the last year has been a fraction of what we would normally expect.

We estimate that Covid-19 will cost the Council over £16m. At the start of the pandemic the Government promised that councils would be fully compensated but we are currently expecting to receive just £10m from the Government leaving a gap of £6m to make up.

Because we took the tough but necessary decisions to plug this gap early - with two emergency budgets in July and November - there is currently no need for any further cuts to services over the next year.

This means that important services will be retained - such as free brown bins, the young persons' free Summer iCard, the Council's out-of-hours noise nuisance service and support for bus routes. We will also continue building new council houses and installing solar PV on existing council houses.

We will always try to keep your council tax bill as low as possible.

Ipswich Borough Council's increase in council tax of just 11p a week - for most residents - only forms a small part of the increase you will see in your bill this year.

In contrast Suffolk County Council are increasing their share of the average bill by 80p a week and Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner by 22p a week.



Find out more at: www.ipswich.gov.uk/council-tax

Message from Cllr Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council



In anticipation of the challenges that lie ahead in 2021, it is important for us all to first reflect on the exceptionally difficult year 2020 has proved to be for Suffolk.

For many in our county, there has been the heartache of losing loved ones to the virus. Yet despite this, so many of us have shown true community spirit and neighbourly support. We have all adjusted to new ways of living, communicating and working and Suffolk County Council has been at the heart of supporting every community, working closely with local councils, healthcare and police partners to help the people that need it most.

Whilst responding to Covid-19 absolutely remains our focus at present, I look forward to turning our attention towards Suffolk's recovery in time. We will continue to adapt services and provide value for money. Your council tax contribution this year will help us strengthen the support we provide to our communities as we work together to overcome the challenges we face in rebuilding our local economy, reducing the impact we have on the environment and taking care of our most vulnerable residents.

In 2020 our services and staff established support networks for residents struggling with loneliness, access to food and financial hardship as a result of Covid. We re-deployed staff to help supply our care homes and emergency staff with essential supplies of protective equipment and co-ordinated delivery of food parcels to those in need. At the same time, we have maintained county council services: innovating and adapting to meet customer needs; developing a successful booking system for our recycling centres; making significant progress towards building the 'Gull Wing' bridge in Lowestoft; opening new specialist school places for young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities; and surpassing our commitment to resurface over 1000 miles of road network.

As we continue to support the national NHS vaccination programme, we stand a great chance of putting the threat of Covid-19 behind us, if we continue to follow the guidance and advice, and taking every opportunity to get vaccinated.

We have taken the difficult decision to increase council tax by 1.99 per cent in the year 2021/22. This is an increase of £26.68 for a Band D property, from £1,224.70 in

2020, to £1,251.38. To support our most vulnerable residents we are also raising the Social Care Precept by two per cent. Overall, a Band D property will see a total rise of £53.55, from £1,343.61 in 2020-21 to £1,397.16 in 2021-22 for Suffolk County Council's element of the Council Tax bill.

Together we have achieved so much, but there is a great deal more to do. My priorities for the year ahead will focus on reducing inequalities as we work to strengthen Suffolk's economy, protect and enhance our environment and continue to deliver value for money to all taxpayers as we protect our vulnerable residents.

Around two thirds of our budget pays to care for our younger and older residents who need it most. Much like the rest of the UK, as costs continue to rise, demand for our services increases as we live longer, often with more complex needs. Every pound of your council tax goes to support families, friends and neighbours, maintaining our communities for all our future benefit.

I hope you all have a safe and healthy year.

Thank you.



Find out more at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/counciltax

Message from Tim Passmore, Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk



As your Police and Crime Commissioner, setting the budget is one of my most important responsibilities. I must ensure that the Chief Constable has the resources he needs to provide an efficient and effective police service for the people of Suffolk.

This year the Policing Minister gave PCCs the ability to raise the policing element of the precept by up to £15 a year for a Band D property. I opted for this maximum increase and my decision was supported by the Police and Crime Panel, the scrutiny body which holds me to account.

I really do appreciate how difficult this past year has been for everyone, especially those whose livelihoods have been affected by the

pandemic. However, this pandemic has also shown just how important policing is to us all. I take no pleasure at all in increasing the policing element of the precept but if we are to continue to improve policing in the county it really is absolutely necessary.

I have worked closely with the Chief Constable to agree how this additional funding will be allocated. The Chief Constable's plan will focus the precept investment in three key areas: Investigations and protecting vulnerable people, to keep us safe and ensure criminals are brought to justice; modernisation and transformation, to enable better agile working and ensure the Constabulary is equipped to deal with the challenges it faces and public engagement, making it easier to contact the police and have a say in policing across Suffolk.

Suffolk is a relatively small force and the fourth lowest funded, per head of population. This increased investment in policing will deliver 25 additional officers

and 27 police staff, which with the additional officers from the government's Operation Uplift, will increase police numbers in Suffolk to over 1,300, the highest number for over ten years. This will be instrumental in ensuring the Constabulary continues to be efficient and effective, and able to deal with modern day policing challenges.

Last year's extra money for policing from the council tax was used wisely and the increased focus on organised crime groups, violence and county lines and illegal drug use has produced some impressive results. There is a page on my website which sets out exactly how last year's precept was allocated and the impact that it has had. I will be doing the same this year to show you exactly how your money will be spent in this coming financial year.



Find out more at: www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk