

# Ipswich Borough Council

## COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION 2020/21



### Message from Councillor David Ellesmere, Leader, Ipswich Borough Council:

Ipswich Borough Council will continue to provide a wide range of quality services to the people of Ipswich despite the threat of major cuts in government funding.

We are currently predicting that the Government will cut the amount of money it gives to Ipswich by £6m over the next four years. If the Government continues to cut the council's funding at this rate it will be impossible to protect all council services in the future.

However, due to our approach of finding innovative ways of making savings and increasing income – for example by investing in commercial property – we do not anticipate the need to make any significant cuts to frontline services over the coming year.

This means that brown bin collections will remain free of charge unlike everywhere else in Suffolk. We will keep the free summer iCard for young people and continue to support bus services in Ipswich. We will maintain our ambitious council house building programme and we will not cut funding to community organisations such as Citizens Advice.

We will continue to provide events in Ipswich such as Music Day and the Maritime Festival. The council's skills in putting on these large scale events enabled us to bring the Ed Sheeran concerts to Chantry Park and ensure they ran smoothly.

We also plan to make a number of investments over the coming year in new electric vehicles, home insulation and solar panels which will both save money and reduce carbon emissions.

We will take forward plans to regenerate Princes Street and the entrance to the Waterfront at Stoke Bridge. We will also bring forward plans to improve Arras Square in the town centre.

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

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

In contrast, Suffolk County Council are increasing their share of bills by 77p a week and the Police & Crime Commissioner by 15p a week for most residents.



Find out more at: [www.ipswich.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.ipswich.gov.uk/council-tax)

# Message from Cllr Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council



At the start of a new decade, 2020 offers us all a lot to look forward to. I am excited to launch and champion a 'Big Suffolk Conversation'

this year. This means starting a conversation amongst residents of all ages, that will encompass as many voices and ideas as possible from across all areas of Suffolk. This has the aim of creating a long-term picture for our county, led by you. What do we want Suffolk to look like, feel like and be like in 2050? Where should our communities be? How should older residents be cared for? What kind of future do we want for our children? And how will we pay for it? These questions cannot be answered in isolation, but require joined-up thinking, planning and vision. I am excited to see where this conversation leads us and I look forward to your valued contributions.

During the last twelve months we have achieved a great deal and we continue to focus on council services that support our most vulnerable communities.

I am very proud that our Children's Services are now rated 'Outstanding' and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, which is part of the council's services is rated 'Good'. Whilst there remain many challenges and pressures within some of our most complex services such as Special Education Needs and Adult Care, achievements such as these demonstrate that we have the focus and the right people in place to continue making positive progress.

The county council's budget for 2020/2021 reflects the fact that we have received a 12 month funding figure from government, as opposed to our usual 3 or 4 year funding settlement. I am pleased to say this means that our budget for 2020/2021 will see no change to current service levels over and above those planned through our ongoing transformation programmes. However, as we lack the longer term certainty needed when dealing with such large departmental budgets that cover long term care, we have had to take the measured decision to raise council tax by 1.98 per cent and implement a 2 per cent rise in the Adult Social Care Precept which is ring-fenced for use within our highest demand services.

I am proud to say that Suffolk remains in a stronger position due to the way we plan and manage our finances. Nationally and locally there remains an increasing demand in statutory services for adult care as well as looked after children. Our adult and children's services now account for around 75% of Suffolk County Council's total budget so every other service must find ways to adapt as they draw from an increasingly smaller pot of what's left in the remaining 25% of our budget.

Since becoming Leader of Suffolk County Council in May 2018, I have enjoyed meeting lots of you during our We Are Listening events. You have shared your views on where you want to see us focus our budget and the areas where you want us to take action. Thank you for all that you do as we work together towards delivering real change and real benefit for everyone who lives and works in Suffolk. I hope you will join me in approaching 2020 with a sense of ambition and optimism.

Find out more at: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/counciltax)

# Message from Tim Passmore, Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk



A major part of my role as Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner is to distribute the policing grant from government and set the policing part of your council tax. This means I am responsible for setting the budget, which includes how much you will be asked to pay through your council tax for policing our county.

This year the Policing Minister gave PCCs the ability to raise the policing element of the precept by up to £7.77 per annum for a Band B property which is 15p per week and I have opted for this maximum increase. This means the policing budget will increase to £143.82m in 2020/21 from £133.7m in 2019/20.

The increase will allow the Chief Constable to improve the standards of police investigations to bring more offenders to justice; enhance the Constabulary's capacity and capability to tackle serious and organised crime, county lines and knife crime; make Suffolk's roads safer and enhance the Constabulary's ability to prevent crime happening in the first place. It will see 20 extra police officers working across the county in areas such as serious crime disruption, roads policing and rural crime. This is in addition to the 54 new officers which will be added to the establishment by March 2021 from the government uplift.

Seven of these additional officers will form a new, pro-active neighbourhood policing team, which will be deployable to any part of the county to deal with operational threats and challenges. This team will comprise highly-visible, uniformed officers tasked to deal with violent crime, burglary, robbery and drugs. The remaining 13 officers will be deployed in an additional

serious crime disruption team, the rural policing team, the outcome resolution team, a new domestic abuse perpetrator scheme and a new commercial vehicle enforcement unit.

The precept will also fund six additional civilian investigators and ten police staff working in areas including modern slavery, domestic abuse and digital support.

Last year's extra money from the council tax increased the focus on organised crime groups, violence and county lines and illegal drug use. It has produced some stellar results. There is a page on my website which sets out exactly how last year's precept was allocated and the impact 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. Full details are on our website.

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Find out more at: [www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk)