



Staffordshire County Council provides you with vital services including schools, libraries, social services, trading standards, waste disposal and highways.

**M**aking sure we take the best possible care of your money is at the heart of every decision we make and in the current climate we're committed to making everything we do customer-focused, affordable and fair for all. We will protect the vulnerable and limit the impact on our residents wherever possible and we are in a strong position to face the challenges that lie ahead.

We are showing our commitment to value for money with a zero percent tax rise for 2011/12 to help protect families from rising costs.

We work closely with the other organisations in this booklet, as well as with charities, the voluntary sector, the private sector and health authorities to make Staffordshire a better place.

As well as providing the services that are essential to every day life for you, your family and friends, we also want to encourage a sense of pride in our county and make the most of Staffordshire's unique position at the heart of the country. We are here for families, for communities and for a prosperous Staffordshire.





## Our achievements

Working with our partners, we have been able to deliver some real successes over the past year, giving you quality and value for money for your Council Tax.

These successes include:

- A new county council general enquiries number which makes it easier for people to access their services at a time that is convenient for them. Call your county council on 0300 111 800.
- Showing that Staffordshire Means Business with a range of different initiatives to support local enterprise, trade and employment.
- Helping more people live independently in their own homes.
- Saving energy with the use of new smart metering technology in our schools and social services properties, and saving around £1.2 million per year in gas and electricity costs.

- Supporting our young people through the Staffordshire Apprenticeship scheme.
- Working with our partners to reduce the fear of anti-social behaviour.
- Working with our communities to encourage and celebrate volunteering throughout Staffordshire.
- Working across the county with our partners to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Staffordshire.



## Our plans

We're planning for our future, based on the needs of our communities.

We have set a good and balanced budget which means we can deliver on our key priorities and provide quality services, whilst keeping Council Tax as low as possible.

	2011/12 charge £
<b>Band A</b>	685.87
<b>Band B</b>	800.19
<b>Band C</b>	914.50
<b>Band D</b>	1028.81
<b>Band E</b>	1257.43
<b>Band F</b>	1486.06
<b>Band G</b>	1714.68
<b>Band H</b>	2057.62

Staffordshire's charge will remain one of the lowest county council charges nationally.

## How can you get involved?

We want to hear your views on what we're doing and how we're working for Staffordshire.

Why not have your say:

- Join the Staffordshire People's Panel.
- Take part in public consultations.
- Tell us your thoughts about the services we are providing.

Find out more at

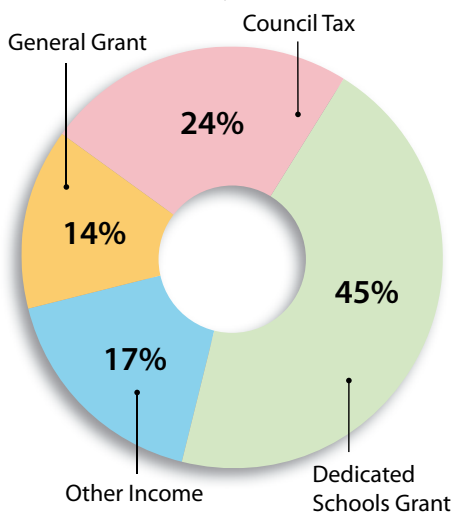
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/doitonline/haveyoursay](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/doitonline/haveyoursay)  
or by contacting **0300 111 8000**

This year, you've told us that your top three priorities are supporting vulnerable people to live independent and safe lives, increasing the number and quality of jobs in Staffordshire and improving people's skills and qualifications to help them get employment.

We know that these areas are hugely important to you and we take these into account when developing our future budget plans.

We have been driving through improvements to the way we work in preparation for last year's local government spending review and we remain committed to delivering savings through innovative ways of working, promoting enterprise and through better collaboration. We are working more closely with all public sector services both behind the scenes and in delivering services on countywide issues. Through working together we are all achieving better value for your pound.

This has allowed us to set a zero percent Council Tax increase for 2011/12, charging one of the lowest rates amongst county councils in the country.



Our total income £1,217.60 million

## How we will spend the money?

The table below shows how much we will spend on each of our services.



	2010/11 £ millions		2011/12 £ millions	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
*Schools	573.8	0.0	585.5	0.0
# Other education services	154.9	48.8	84.7	53.4
Libraries and museums	15.4	13.2	13.3	11.7
Childrens and families services	67.7	60.2	67.1	64.7
Services for vulnerable adults	253.1	177.7	269.5	197.0
Community services	11.0	8.0	14.0	7.5
Highways and transportation	60.5	35.9	49.5	37.1
Waste management	26.7	23.5	26.1	23.7
Planning and regeneration	16.2	11.8	24.5	19.4
Other services	28.3	27.4	31.0	30.4
Capital Financing	58.2	46.0	50.4	45.7
Contingency	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>1268.0</b>	<b>454.7</b>	<b>1217.6</b>	<b>492.6</b>
Contribution from reserves	-3.2	-3.2	-12.6	-12.6
<b>Budget Requirement</b>	<b>1264.8</b>	<b>451.5</b>	<b>1205.0</b>	<b>480.0</b>

\* Dedicated Schools Grant, which funds school budgets and associated costs, it is a provisional allocation which will be adjusted once final pupil numbers are known.

# The authority is no longer responsible for funding 16 -19 education in colleges, resulting in a reduction in grants.

**Other services include the budgeted charge for the Environment agency of £0.3 million.**

### How do we decide where our spending priorities are?

The county council is committed to making sure Staffordshire communities are places where people are involved in decision making to help shape the delivery of public services. Over the previous twelve months the county council has undertaken a variety of consultations relating to different elements of service delivery and this customer knowledge was brought together into a single report as an evidence base to inform future policy and decision making. For further information about the consultations we undertake and opportunities to have your say about the county council and the services we provide please see the 'Have your say' pages on the county council website.

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/doitonline/haveyoursay/](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/doitonline/haveyoursay/)

### Find out more

Visit our website at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk), write to, St Chad's Place, Stafford, ST16 2LR, email to [budget.enquiries@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:budget.enquiries@staffordshire.gov.uk) or phone 0300 111 8000.