



COUNCIL TAX 2015-2016

How much you pay...
How it's spent...

YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL

In 2015-2016 we will spend £663 million on public services for the 276,080 residents of Sunderland.

The majority of the council's income comes from government grants, with Council Tax providing just 12 per cent of our budgeted income.

Council Tax in Sunderland has not risen since 2010-2011 and once again, Sunderland's Council Tax will be the lowest in the North East and among the lowest in the country for Metropolitan Authorities.

Since 2010 the council has made savings of £171m. Next year we need to make £36m of savings with potentially a further £108m in the following four years.

Every year the way the council handles its finances is reviewed by an independent External Auditor. A letter from the most recent review, in October 2014 stated that "the council has managed its financial position well" and that the council has "proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources".

However, like most other local authorities across the country we face difficult decisions on where and how to spend the money which we do have in the future. It is clear that, as more cuts are required, our ability to protect frontline services is becoming increasingly difficult. We'll need to make more radical changes to direct the resources we do have to areas which need it most. We will continue to work with partners and communities across the city to achieve this.

We will also continue to invest in the city to help attract more development, businesses and jobs.

Recent work includes:

- City centre development including Keel Square and the Central Business District on the old Vaux site
- Continued improvements at the seafront following further funding from the Coastal Communities Fund
- Growing business at the Port of Sunderland - in the last year we have increased the amount of cargo handled from 593,000 to over 710,000 tonnes
- Together with funding from the European Regional Development Fund we opened the £6m Washington Business Centre
- The opening of a new Extra Care Scheme, Seafarers Way, in Hendon
- We continue to work with partners, including SAFC to bring high profile concerts to the city which attract thousands of visitors every year
- This summer we will open a new £11m leisure facility in Washington

Over the past three years we have helped 661 families to make positive changes to their lives through the family focus part of our Strengthening Families programme. We will continue to use the resources which we do have to look after the most vulnerable in our communities and where there is most need.



Dave Smith

Chief Executive,
Sunderland City Council



Cllr Paul Watson

Leader of Sunderland
City Council



Sonia Tognarelli

Director of Finance

WHAT YOU PAY

The amount of Council Tax you pay depends on the value of your home. More valuable properties pay more Council Tax. Each home is placed in a valuation band based on what your home was valued at in 1991. The Valuation Office Agency (not the council) has decided which Council Tax band your property has been placed in.

This table sets out the Council Tax levels for 2015-2016 for each valuation band. Your Council Tax bill states the band that applies to your property. It is important to note that residents in most of Sunderland will pay the Total Council Tax level in column 5. Residents of Hetton will pay the Total Council Tax level in column 7.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Valuation Band	City Council Tax level	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Tax level	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria Tax level	Total Council Tax level	Hetton residents only	
					Hetton Town Council Tax level	Total Council Tax level
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
A	790.64	49.75	58.89	899.28	8.74	908.02
B	922.41	58.04	68.70	1,049.15	10.20	1,059.35
C	1,054.19	66.33	78.52	1,199.04	11.65	1,210.69
D	1,185.96	74.62	88.33	1,348.91	13.11	1,362.02
E	1,449.51	91.20	107.96	1,648.67	16.02	1,664.69
F	1,713.05	107.78	127.59	1,948.42	18.94	1,967.36
G	1,976.60	124.37	147.22	2,248.19	21.85	2,270.04
H	2,371.92	149.24	176.66	2,697.82	26.22	2,724.04

YOUR COUNCIL TAX HELPS

Children's services



Providing services that help keep children safe and healthy and services for children, young people and families.

We are working with Northumbria Police and the NHS in a safeguarding hub to protect vulnerable children in the city.

Adult services



Looking after vulnerable people who need care and support to help them live as independent, healthy and active a life as possible.

Sunderland Care and Support is a trading company of Sunderland City Council. It provides social care services to more than 6000 adults across 16 different services – including supported living schemes, day centres and short break care services.

Recreation and leisure



Providing sport, leisure and wellness centres, museums, libraries, theatres and other visitor attractions and events.

Sunderland City Council has partnered with Sports and Leisure Management (SLM) to create a new organisation which will run its sport and leisure facilities. The partnership will help improve the health of people in the city by encouraging and supporting more people to get active.

Summer 2015 will see the opening of the new Washington Leisure Centre. The completion of the £11m centre is the last phase of a programme of work to renew Sunderland's leisure facilities which has seen the council and its partners invest more than £60m since 2004.

Refuse collection, disposal and environmental health



PS PAY FOR ALL OF THIS

Collecting and recycling rubbish, street cleaning, maintaining parks and open spaces and everything that helps keep the city clean, green and attractive.

Sunderland City Council has been working with Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils to open an 'Energy from Waste' facility. This has reduced the amount of the city's waste going to landfill from 70% to less than 5%, reduced landfill gas emissions and is feeding 20.5MW of electricity into the national grid.



Highways

Maintaining over 750 miles of roads, 1,500 miles of footway and 48,000 street lights across the city.



Housing services

Making sure that everyone has the chance of a decent home and help, when needed, with Housing Benefit.



Economic development services

Economic development services help existing businesses to develop and grow and also help to attract new businesses into the city.

The Sunderland and South Tyneside City Deal will include the creation of an International Advanced Manufacturing Park, which is expected to attract up to £300 million of private sector investment and create up to five thousand new jobs.



Other services

These include the central services which keep the rest running, such as finance, human resources and governance services.



Contingencies

While all known spending pressures have been provided for within the budget, there is still uncertainty over some costs and it is important that we have sufficient contingencies to meet emergency funding requirements.



Levies

Sunderland City Council pays direct levies to the North East Combined Authority (NECA) to provide financial support to help fund public transport and to the Environment Agency to support flood defence works.



Precepts

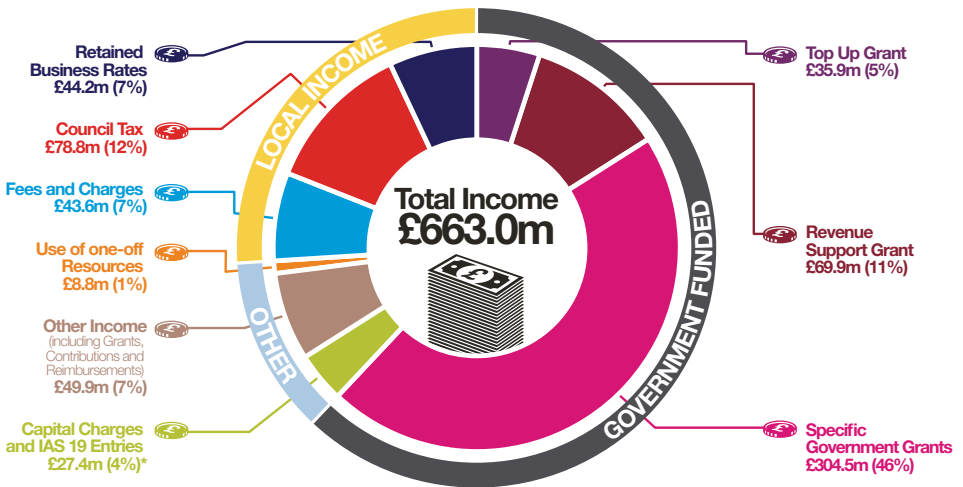
Sunderland City Council collects your contributions towards the cost of Police and Fire and Rescue services, based on the precepts which are set by them.

HOW RESIDENTS HELP SET THE BUDGET

We consult with residents all year round on a whole range of issues. It is only by speaking to residents that we can set the right priorities and make sure we're focusing on the things that really matter to people. At budget time we have additional consultation sessions.

WHERE THE MONEY WILL COME FROM IN 2015-2016

The council provides a wide range of services including schools, caring for the elderly, collecting rubbish and providing leisure facilities. The cost of running and maintaining the day-to-day services provided by the council is called Revenue Expenditure. The Council Tax you pay forms only part of the funding to pay for these services. The chart below shows that over half of the money comes from grants from the Government and the remainder from Council Tax, Retained Business Rates and income received from users of council services.

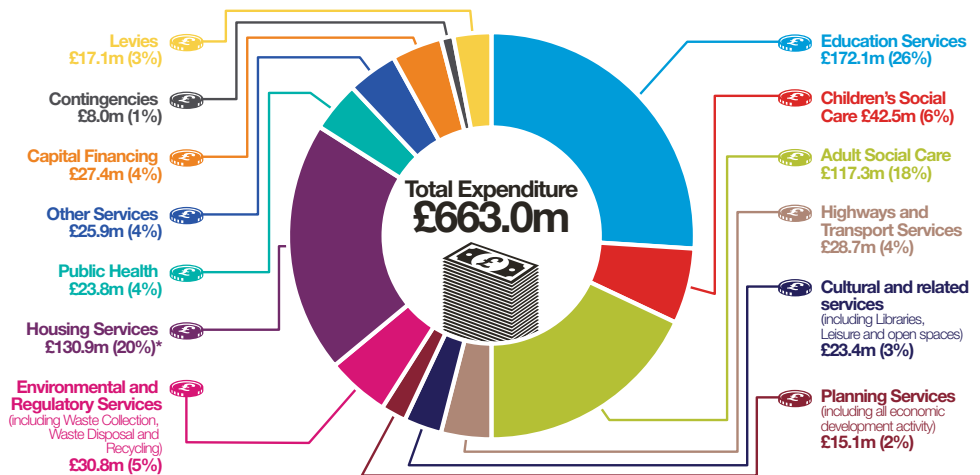


*Capital charges and IAS19 amounting to £27.4m are included in gross expenditure and income in accordance with the Service Reporting Code of Practice. This has no impact on the level of Council Tax.

WHERE THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT ON SERVICES FOR 2015-2016

The chart below shows what the council plans to spend on its services in 2015-2016.

Total or gross expenditure is the total revenue costs of running council services before any income from grants, fees and charges are taken into account.



*This excludes council housing costs as the council does not hold a social housing stock. This expenditure mainly relates to Housing Benefit payments.

THE MAJOR ISSUES IN SETTING THE 2015-2016 BUDGET

The budget for the next financial year has been prepared taking account of the continued significant grant reductions from central government and the increase in costs to provide council services, specifically around demand pressures within social care.

During the budget process, the council has used balances of £8.8m in order to enable some non-recurring spending pressures to be addressed.

The cost of services

In addition to services provided by the council, other bodies including the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority also provide services which the council must take into account. This table gives a summary of the net cost of these services for 2015-2016 and how the Council Tax for Band D is built up.

Last Year 2014-2015 £m	Summary net cost of services	This Year 2015-2016 £m	Band D Council Tax £ p
76.564	City Council (including Levies)	78.317	1,185.96
4.723	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	4.925	74.62
5.591	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	5.830	88.33
86.878		89.072	1,348.91

In addition Hetton Town Council will levy a precept of £43,276 in 2015-2016, equivalent to a Band D charge of £13.11 (£13.11 in 2014-2015) but this is only paid by the residents of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.

Cost per head of population

The table below shows the total cost to each person in Sunderland of services provided by the council and Precepting Authorities, after taking account of the income received from Revenue Support Grant and Retained Business Rates.

	Total Net Budget Requirement £	Government Funding* £	Retained Business Rates £	Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit £	Council Tax Requirement £
City Council	828.87	(383.38)	(160.16)	(1.81)	283.52
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	44.72	(22.67)	(3.79)	(0.06)	18.20
Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	181.77	(158.75)	0.00	(0.20)	22.82
Total	1,055.36	(564.80)	(163.95)	(2.07)	324.54

*Includes mainly Revenue Support Grant and Top Up Grant

BUDGET INFORMATION

SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL BUDGET INFORMATION

The council needs to collect £1.7m more from council tax payers in 2015-2016 than it did in 2014-2015. This is because of a reduction in government funding and an increase in spending pressures. Details are shown in the table opposite.

	£m
Government Funding Changes	26.7
Spending Pressures (including one-off)	19.6
Planned Budget Savings	(36.6)
Movement in Reserves/balances and other changes	(8.0)
Total	1.7

Last Year 2014-2015				This Year 2015-2016		
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
115.8	41.9	73.9	Adult Social Care	117.3	55.2	62.1
38.1	1.7	36.4	Children's Social Care	42.5	2.1	40.4
181.1	152.5	28.6	Education Services	172.1	147.8	24.3
27.5	6.7	20.8	Cultural and Related Services	23.4	5.7	17.7
31.6	8.2	23.4	Environmental and Regulatory Services	30.8	7.2	23.6
28.4	10.4	18.0	Highways and Transport Services	28.7	11.2	17.5
129.6	123.3	6.3	Housing Services (non council housing costs)	130.9	124.2	6.7
20.5	10.4	10.1	Planning Services	15.1	7.6	7.5
21.2	21.2	0.0	Public Health	23.8	23.8	0.0
30.0	12.6	17.4	Other Services	24.5	4.6	19.9
0.0	4.3	(4.3)	Other Core Grants	0.0	7.3	(7.3)
24.9	0.0	24.9	Capital Financing Costs	27.4	0.0	27.4
648.7	393.2	255.5		636.5	396.7	239.8
7.9	0.0	7.9	Provision for contingencies	8.0	0.0	8.0
0.0	1.3	(1.3)	Interest on Balances	0.0	1.3	(1.3)
0.0	0.5	(0.5)	Use of Balances	0.0	8.8	(8.8)
4.8	1.5	3.3	Movement on Safety Net Reserve	1.4	0.0	1.4
0.0	35.8	(35.8)	Capital Charges and IAS 19 entries	0.0	27.4	(27.4)
661.4	432.3	229.1	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	645.9	434.2	211.7
			Levies and Precepts			
		17.0	North East Combined Authority			16.7
		0.2	Environment Agency - Flood Defence			0.2
		0.1	NE Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority			0.1
		0.1	Hetton Town Council Precept			0.1
		246.5	TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT			228.8
		(94.0)	Less Revenue Support Grant			69.9
		(40.1)	Retained Business Rates			44.2
		(35.3)	Top Up Grant			35.9
		(0.5)	Collection Fund Surplus			0.5
		76.6	COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT			78.3

BUDGET INFORMATION

LEVIES AND PRECEPTS

Your Council Tax bill is made up of a number of elements besides the council's Council Tax Requirement. These include levies and precepts that the council is legally required to collect on behalf of other organisations. For Sunderland City Council, these organisations are:

Levy: Environment Agency							Change in levy (Total Budget Requirement) between years is attributable to: £m
	Last Year 2014-2015			This Year 2015-2016			
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	
Flood Defence	22.0	19.9	2.1	24.5	22.3	2.2	Impact of the Government Spending Review and national prioritisation of projects 0.1
Levy			2.1			2.2	0.1
							Sunderland's proportion of the Environment Agency levy is £0.210m in 2015-2016 (2014-2015 £0.204m)

Levy: North East Combined Authority							Change in levy (Total Budget Requirement) between years is attributable to: £m
	Last Year 2014-2015			This Year 2015-2016			
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	
Tyne Tunnels	25.1	24.7	0.4	28.9	27.5	1.4	Inflation and other cost pressures 3.8
ITA	3.3	0.0	3.3	2.8	0.0	2.8	Increased income (11.5)
Grant to Nexus	103.7	0.0	103.7	95.0	0.0	95.0	Budget reductions (0.5)
Grant to Durham and Northumberland	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.0	0.0	22.0	Contribution from reserves 1.2
	132.1	24.7	107.4	148.7	27.5	121.2	New areas of activity 22.0
Transfer to Reserves			(5.8)			(4.6)	15.0
Total Budget Requirement			101.6			116.6	Sunderland's proportion of the North East Combined Authority levy is £16.660m in 2015-2016 (2014-2015 £16.971m to Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority).
Less Rail Grants and Miscellaneous Grants			(33.4)			(27.4)	
Levy			68.2			89.2	

BUDGET INFORMATION

Precept: Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria						
	Last Year 2014-2015			This Year 2015-2016		
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Police General	288.6	17.4	271.2	281.0	21.2	259.8
Less: Specific grants			0.7			0.0
Formula Grant			230.5			218.7
Legacy Council Tax Grant			1.3			1.3
Council Tax Support Grant			6.9			6.9
Collection Fund Surplus			0.3			0.3
Precept			31.5			32.6

Change in Precept (Council Tax Requirement) between years is attributable to:

	£m
Inflation and Budget pressures	8.3
Reduction in Government Funding	11.8
Budget Savings	(16.2)
Change in use of Reserves	(2.8)
Total	1.1

Sunderland's proportion of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria's precept is £5.830m in 2015-2016 (2014-2015 £5.591m).

This represents £88.33 of the Band D Council Tax and equates to a council tax increase of 1.99%.

Council Tax represents 11.6% of Gross Expenditure (2014-2015 10.9%). This increases the reliance on Council Tax as a funding stream.

Precept: Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority						
	Last Year 2014-2015			This Year 2015-2016		
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Fire Service	56.2	5.2	51.0	55.3	6.5	48.8
Contingencies			1.0			1.2
Interest on Balances			(0.2)			(0.2)
Total Budget Requirement			51.8			49.8
Less Revenue Support Grant			17.8			14.9
Collection Fund Surplus			0.1			0.1
Top up Grant			9.8			10.0
Business Rate Share			4.1			4.2
Council Tax Freeze Grant			0.2			0.0
SFA Adjustment			0.1			0.2
Section 31 Grant			0.2			0.1
Precept			19.5			20.3

Change in Precept (Council Tax Requirement) between years is attributable to:

	£m
Cost pressures	1.1
Reduction in Government funding	2.9
IRMP Savings	(1.7)
Budget Efficiencies	(1.4)
Changes to Business Rates and Council Tax Scheme	(0.1)
Total	0.8

Sunderland's proportion of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority precept is £4.925m in 2015-2016 (2014-2015 £4.723m).

This represents £74.62 of the Band D Council Tax and equates to a council tax increase of 1.9956%.

Council Tax represents 35.8% of Gross Expenditure (2014-2015 34.1%). This increases the reliance on Council Tax as a funding stream.

Contact us...

Our lines are open from 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday

In the event of an emergency you can contact us 24/7 using the telephone numbers below



City & Neighbourhood 0191 520 5550

Here to help with enquiries such as; waste and recycling, parks, highways, parking, licensing, pest control, community safety, elections and visitor information



Life, Family & Learning 0191 520 5553

Here to help with enquiries such as; libraries, education, families information, fostering and adoption, youth services, births, deaths and marriages



Home & Money 0191 520 5551

Here to help with enquiries such as; council tax, housing and housing advice, planning and building control and welfare rights



Business Services 0191 520 5554

Here to help with enquiries such as; business rates and business investment and advice



Health & Wellbeing 0191 520 5552

Here to help with enquiries such as; social care and concern for welfare, disabled parking badges, concessionary travel passes and sports and leisure



Council Switchboard 0191 520 5555

Please use our Switchboard service if you know the name of the person you wish to speak to or visit us online at www.sunderland.gov.uk
You can also use our minicom on 0191 525 0075 or Typetalk



Do it online...

- Report missed refuse collections or damaged/missing bins
- Arrange a bulky waste collection
- Request maintenance of grass, trees and water features
- Report fly tipping
- Request a copy of a birth, death or marriage certificate
- Book an appointment to register a birth or death
- Book an appointment to give notice of a marriage or civil partnership
- Report litter
- Report anti-social behaviour and hate crimes
- Report an issue with street lighting
- Sign up to garden waste collections

...and much more at www.sunderland.gov.uk