

# Our Flintshire, Our Future 2019 - 2020

## The budget and local services

### HOUSING

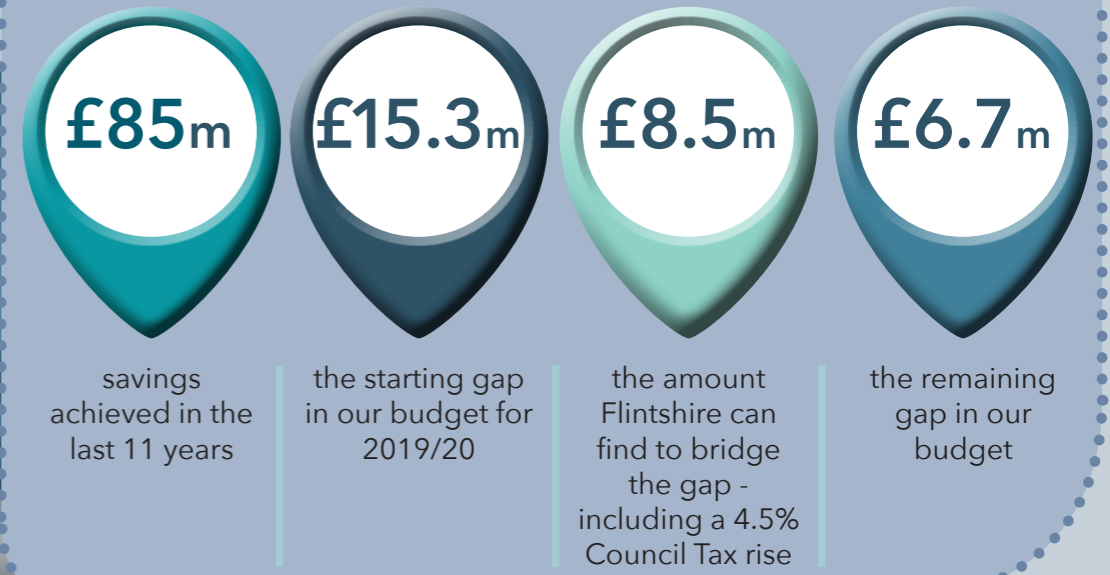
Every year councils have to set a budget which balances their resources with their spending needs. Flintshire, like all councils, has had reduced funding from governments year on year for close to a decade. Flintshire, as one of the lowest funded councils per head of population in Wales, is particularly exposed to the effects of austerity.

Even during these austere times, our council has remained ambitious and by being innovative and planning ahead, has continued to protect and invest in local services.

Each year it gets harder and harder to make any more savings and to protect services; at times hard budget choices have had to be made.



### The financial challenges facing the Council for 2019/2020



### We need fair funding to:

- Stay on track to achieve the Welsh Housing Quality Standard for all council homes by **2021**
- Complete our house building programme of **500** new council houses by 2021
- Keep up with the increasing demand for affordable houses - **230** new homes are needed every year
- Prevent people from becoming homeless - **1700** at risk every year
- Support and protect around **1000** local people who are dependent on Universal Credit

### Bridging the gap for 2019 / 2020

If our 'ask' is backed by Welsh Government in full then we can protect local services and keep Council Tax down.

- Even with the 'ask' we could be looking at a **Council Tax rise of 7%**.
- If we are given **nothing** then we would either have to close local services or ask the public to foot a far higher Council Tax bill.
- Who should pay** for local services - Governments or Council Tax payers?
- Governments are very aware that by reducing their funding to councils the responsibility for paying for local services is being shifted to **the local tax payer**.

If you **#BacktheAsk** you will be helping our council to get its fair share of national funds and be protecting your own pocket.

### Financial challenges facing the housing service in 2019/2020

Reversing the trend of increasing rent arrears amongst Council tenants - currently running at

**£2.2m**

Helping over **2000**

more people at risk through benefit changes who need intensive support.

Keeping council house rents and service charges at levels people can afford to pay.

Being able to access enough affordable borrowing, and government grant, to fund our house building programmes.

### What would make a difference?

Welsh Government is holding some large funds which it could pass out to councils now to ease the chronic financial situation. Together Welsh councils have made a compelling case for this money which we call our 'ask'

Our 'ask' is for:-

An extra **£13m** so that no council will face a reduction in their government grant - Flintshire is one of the councils at the bottom of the Welsh funding table and stands to lose **£1.9m** (1%) of its grant

The extra **£30m** being held back for social care in Wales to be paid out to councils - this is worth **£1.3m** for Flintshire

The extra **£15m** being held back for schools to be paid out to councils - this is worth **£800,000** for Flintshire schools

The extra **£33m** Wales has been given in the recent Chancellor's budget to be paid out to councils as promised by the First Minister - this is worth **£1.6m** for Flintshire

We are asking Welsh Government to **#BacktheAsk** for **£5.6m** more funding for Flintshire

### #BacktheAsk

For information about how the budget affects other services go to [www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurFlintshire19-20](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurFlintshire19-20)