

The budget and local services

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

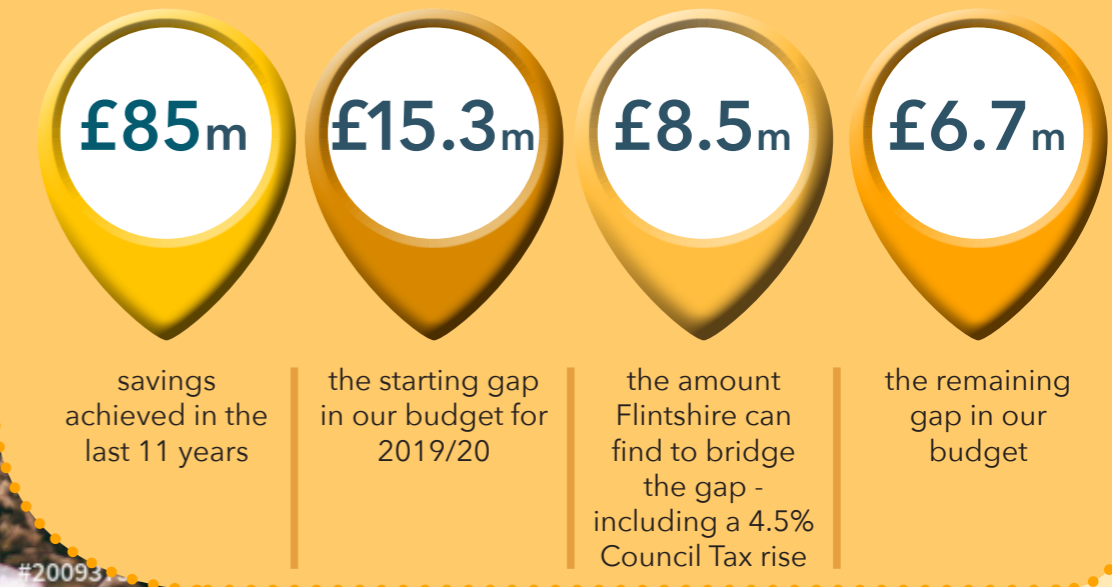
Every year councils have to set a budget which balances their resources with their spending needs. Flintshire, like all councils, has had reduced funding from governments year on year for close to a decade. Flintshire, as one of the lowest funded councils per head of population in Wales, is particularly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

- **Protect and make accessible** Flintshire's natural environment including our parks and footpath network
- Continue to **protect our residents and businesses** through our work in trading standards and food safety
- **Protect** homes and businesses from **flooding** - coastal, rivers and flash flooding during storms
- Continue to provide a **responsive and cost effective** planning development service for businesses and residents

Financial challenges facing Planning, Environment and the Economy in 2019/2020

Having the resources to oversee a **Local Development Plan (LDP)** to provide a framework for the future of the County.

Securing grant funding for opportunities for the Countryside Service to maintain and improve **Public Parks and Country Walks**

Taking on new **legal responsibilities** to prevent surface water flooding without any extra funding.

Risk of loss of Welsh Government grants for sustainable development and community safety which will put our environment and residents at risk.

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:-

#BacktheAsk

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

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.