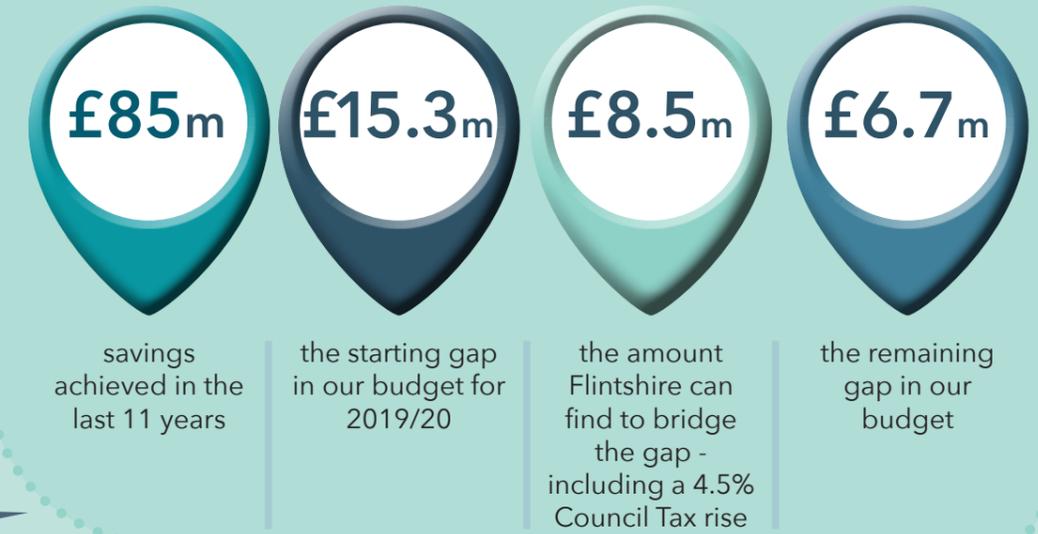# The budget and local services

SCHOOLS

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

£85m savings achieved in the last 11 years

£15.3m the starting gap in our budget for 2019/20

£8.5m the amount Flintshire can find to bridge the gap - including a 4.5% Council Tax rise

£6.7m the remaining gap in our budget

We need fair funding to:

- Maintain our position as a high performing education service for our **22,500** pupils and students
- Pay for the care and repair of our **77** schools
- Meet the costs of hard earned annual pay awards for our **2900** teachers and support assistants
- Meet the special needs of our more vulnerable pupils and students
- Protect our highly valued youth services out in communities

Financial challenges facing schools in 2019/2020

Raising our spend per pupil which, at a £4,671 average, is well below the Welsh average of £4,776

Stopping our schools going into a financial deficit - 6 of our 11 secondary schools are running at a combined deficit of **£1.6m**

Paying for the backlog of school building repairs which stand at **£19m**

Paying for the national teachers' pay award – which is not being fully funded by governments – with the Council and schools having to take the strain of **£1.3m**

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.

What would make a difference?

#BacktheAsk

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

For information about how the budget affects other services go to www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurFlintshire19-20

CYNGOR Sir y Fflint Flintshire COUNTY COUNCIL