



# COUNCIL TAX 2016-2017

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

# YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL

In 2016-2017 we will spend £655m on public services for the 276,889 residents of Sunderland.

The majority of the council's income comes from government grants, with Council Tax providing just 13 per cent of our budgeted income.

This year we are increasing Council Tax for the first time since 2010-2011. The increase of four per cent includes a two per cent levy, suggested by the government, specifically to support adult social care. It's an increase of 61p a week for the majority of households in Sunderland who are in a band A property. For a Band D property it is 91p a week. Despite this increase, 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 £207m to meet government funding cuts and unfunded spending pressures. Next year we need to make £46.6m of savings with potentially £115m over the four year period to 2020.

Every year the way the council handles its finances is reviewed by an independent external auditor. A letter from the most recent review, in December 2015, stated that the council is "prioritising its resources within tighter budgets, for example by achieving cost reductions and by improving efficiency and productivity".

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.

Despite these cuts we are investing more in both Children's and Adult Social Care to ensure we meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in our city.

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

Recent work includes:

- City centre developments including Keel Square, High Street West improvements and the Central Business District on the former Vaux site
- The New Wear Crossing between Castletown and Pallion and wider Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor, a continuous dual carriageway from the A19 to the Port
- Continued improvements at the seafront, including restoration of Roker pier and lighthouse
- Along with South Tyneside Council, bringing forward an International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP), on land to the north of Nissan, expected to create more than 5,200 jobs
- Continuing to invest in the Port of Sunderland to sustain its recent growth
- Investing in leisure facilities through our Joint Venture with Everyone Active
- Supporting the development of Sunderland College's new city centre campus
- Assisting the MAC Trust with their plans to develop the old city centre fire station and surrounding area into a performing arts centre
- Progressing the redevelopment of the above ground elements of Sunderland Station, in conjunction with Nexus and Network Rail.

We've included information in this leaflet to show where the council's money will come from and how it will be spent over the next financial year.



**Cllr Paul Watson**  
Leader of Sunderland  
City Council



**Sonia Tognarelli**  
Interim Head of Paid Service  
and 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. This table sets out the Council Tax levels for 2016-2017 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
<b>A</b>	822.19	50.74	62.22	935.15	9.09	944.24
<b>B</b>	959.22	59.20	72.59	1,091.01	10.60	1,101.61
<b>C</b>	1,096.25	67.65	82.96	1,246.86	12.12	1,258.98
<b>D</b>	1,233.28	76.11	93.33	1,402.72	13.63	1,416.35
<b>E</b>	1,507.34	93.02	114.07	1,714.43	16.66	1,731.09
<b>F</b>	1,781.40	109.94	134.81	2,026.15	19.69	2,045.84
<b>G</b>	2,055.47	126.85	155.55	2,337.87	22.72	2,360.59
<b>H</b>	2,466.56	152.22	186.66	2,805.44	27.26	2,832.70

# YOUR COUNCIL TAX HEL

## Children's services



Providing services that help prevent and reduce the risk of harm to vulnerable children. Working to ensure the best possible education and outcomes for all our children, young people and families.

The city's innovative Work Discovery programme is designed to bring young people and businesses together. It is delivered by the Economic Leadership Board and the council is one of the partners on the board. Last year the project brought approximately 2,000 young people and 70 businesses together.

## Adult services



Supporting vulnerable people to help them live as independent, healthy and active a life as possible.

Sunderland Care and Support has been operating successfully as a trading company of Sunderland City Council for two years. It provides social care

services to more than 6,000 adults across 16 different services - including supported living schemes, day centres and short break care services.

## Culture and leisure



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

'Everyone Active' now run the city's leisure facilities on behalf of the council. The partnership is working to improve the health of people in the city by encouraging and supporting more people to get active. The new £11m Washington Leisure Centre opened in summer 2015.

## Responsive local services, refuse collection and disposal



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

# PS PAY FOR ALL OF THIS



## Public Health

Working to ensure that everyone is as healthy as they can be. Last year 3,601 people were given help and support to stop smoking through the city's Live Life Well service, which is commissioned by the council.



## 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.



## Planning and economic development

Helping to attract new businesses to the city and working with existing ones to help them grow.



## Other services

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



## Contingencies and strategic priorities

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. In addition, provision is made for a range of strategic priorities.



## Levies

Sunderland City Council pays direct levies to the North East Combined Authority to provide financial support to help fund public transport, the Environment Agency to support flood defence works and the North East Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority.



## Precepts

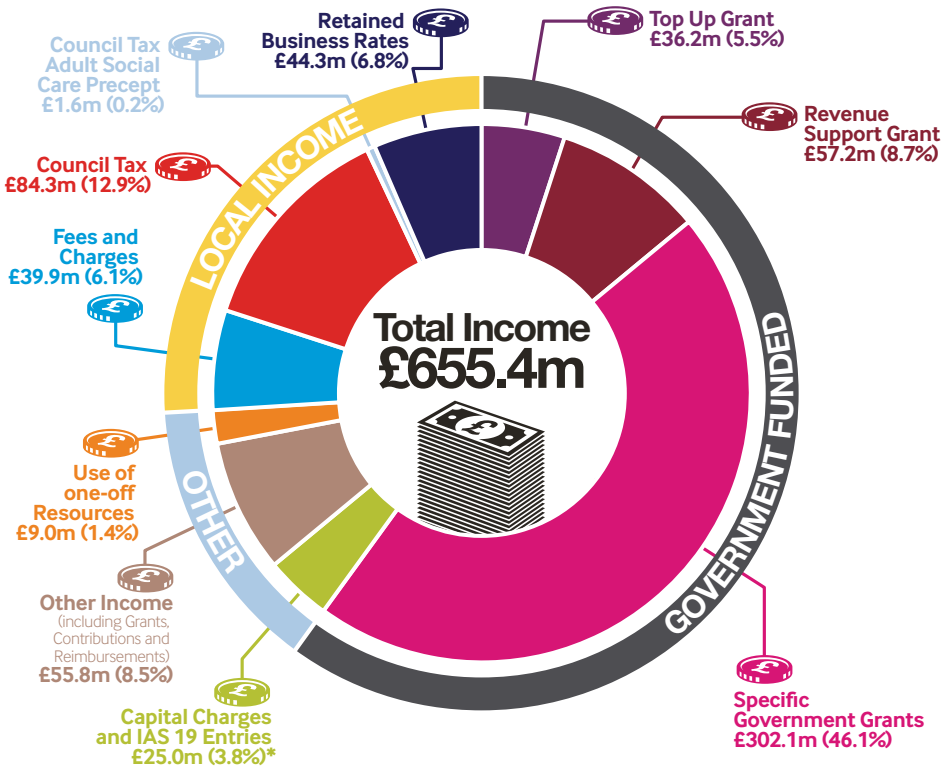
Sunderland City Council collects your contributions towards the cost of Police and Fire and Rescue services, based on the precepts which are set by them.

## HOW RESIDENTS HELP SET THE BUDGET

This year's budget consultation took place during November and December 2015. Residents, businesses and community and voluntary groups were encouraged to give their views through a series of workshops and a survey. Of the residents who took part in the survey, 78 per cent agreed that a Council Tax rise within the Government's referendum limit would be acceptable and all of the comments and opinions we received were used to help us make sure we are focussing our resources on the things that really matter to people.

# WHERE THE MONEY WILL COME FROM IN 2016-2017

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 £25m 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.

## STATEMENT CONCERNING ADULT SOCIAL CARE FUNDING

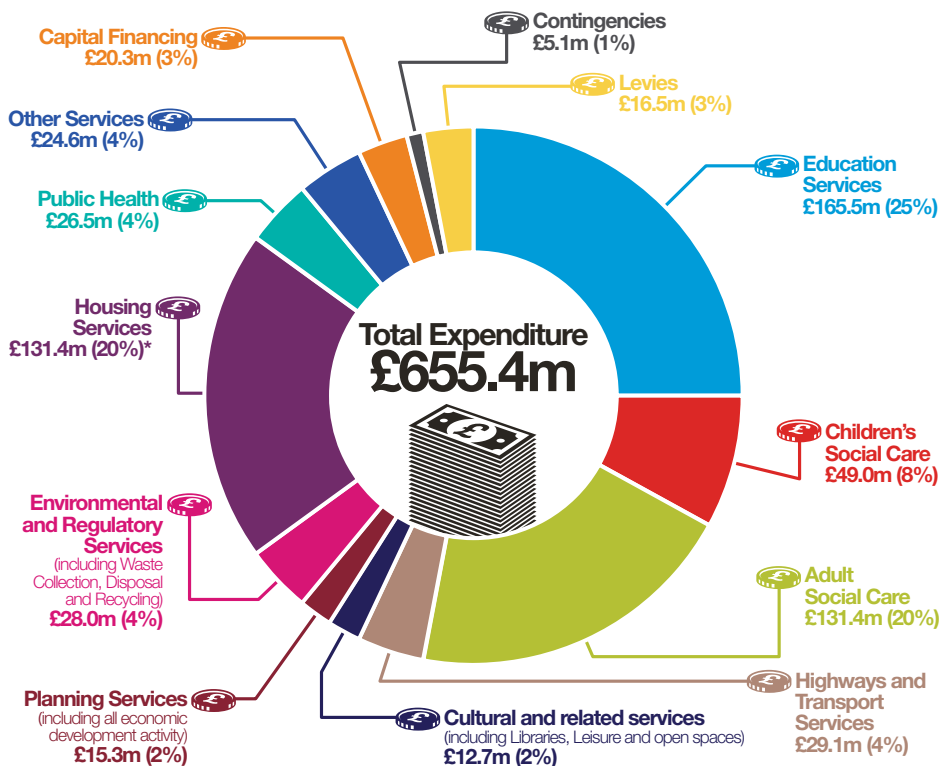
The following statement has been prescribed by government for inclusion with Council Tax Billing information. By applying the increase set out, the council will raise an additional £1.6m through council tax. This will partly meet the cost of demand pressures and the impact of the national living wage on service providers.

"The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly)

# WHERE THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT ON SERVICES FOR 2016-2017

The chart below shows what the council plans to spend on its services in 2016-2017.

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 offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge a "precept" of up to 2% on its council tax for the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this "precept" in relation to each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.

In relation to the financial year beginning in 2016 the Secretary of State has determined (and the House of Commons has approved) a referendum principle of 4% (comprising 2% for expenditure on adult social care and 2% for other expenditure), for adult social care authorities. These authorities may therefore set council tax up to this percentage in 2016 without holding a referendum."

# THE MAJOR ISSUES IN SETTING THE 2016-2017 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.

During the budget process, the council has used balances of £9m in order to address spending pressures.

## 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 2016-2017 and how the Council Tax for Band D is built up.

Last Year 2015-2016 £m	Summary net cost of services	This Year 2016-2017 £m	Band D Council Tax £ p
78.317	City Council (including Levies)	83.363	1,233.28
4.925	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	5.142	76.11
5.830	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	6.305	93.33
<b>89.072</b>		<b>94.810</b>	<b>1,402.72</b>

In addition Hetton Town Council will levy a precept of £47,037 in 2016-2017, equivalent to a Band D charge of £13.63 (£13.11 in 2015-2016) 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 Business Rates.

	Total Net Budget Requirement £	Government Funding* £	Retained Business Rates £	Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit £	Council Tax Requirement £
City Council	807.48	(337.60)	(159.95)	(9.03)	300.90
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	43.65	(21.11)	(3.83)	0.03	18.74
Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	182.02	(157.29)	0.00	(0.37)	24.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,033.15</b>	<b>(516.00)</b>	<b>(163.78)</b>	<b>(9.37)</b>	<b>344.00</b>

\*Reflects Revenue Support Grant and Top Up Grant



# BUDGET INFORMATION

## SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL BUDGET INFORMATION

The council needs to collect £5.1m more from council tax payers in 2016-2017 than it did in 2015-2016. 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	15.0
Spending Pressures (including one-off)	31.6
Planned Budget Savings	(39.3)
Movement in Reserves/Collection Fund Surplus	(2.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.1</b>

Last Year 2015-2016				This Year 2016-2017		
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
117.3	55.2	62.1	Adult Social Care	131.4	58.4	73.0
42.5	2.1	40.4	Children's Social Care	49.0	2.2	46.8
172.1	147.8	24.3	Education Services	165.5	143.2	22.3
23.4	5.7	17.7	Cultural and Related Services	12.7	1.0	11.7
30.8	7.2	23.6	Environmental and Regulatory Services	28.0	7.0	21.0
28.7	11.2	17.5	Highways and Transport Services	29.1	11.4	17.7
130.9	124.2	6.7	Housing Services (non council housing costs)	131.4	125.7	5.7
15.1	7.6	7.5	Planning Services	15.3	8.0	7.3
23.8	23.8	0.0	Public Health	26.5	26.5	0.0
24.5	4.6	19.9	Other Services	23.2	6.2	17.0
0.0	7.3	(7.3)	Other Core Grants	0.0	6.9	(6.9)
27.4	0.0	27.4	Capital Financing Costs	20.3	0.0	20.3
<b>636.5</b>	<b>396.7</b>	<b>239.8</b>		<b>632.4</b>	<b>396.5</b>	<b>235.9</b>
8.0	0.0	8.0	Provision for contingencies and strategic priorities	5.1	0.0	5.1
0.0	1.3	(1.3)	Interest on Balances	0.0	1.3	(1.3)
0.0	8.8	(8.8)	Use of Balances	0.0	5.6	(5.6)
1.4	0.0	1.4	Movement on Safety Net Reserve	1.4	3.4	(2.0)
0.0	27.4	(27.4)	Capital Charges and IAS 19 entries	0.0	25.0	(25.0)
<b>645.9</b>	<b>434.2</b>	<b>211.7</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>638.9</b>	<b>431.8</b>	<b>207.1</b>
			<b>Levies and Precepts</b>			
		16.7	North East Combined Authority			16.1
		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
		<b>228.8</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>			<b>223.6</b>
		69.9	Less Revenue Support Grant			57.2
		44.2	Retained Business Rates			44.3
		35.9	Top Up Grant			36.2
		0.5	Collection Fund Surplus			2.5
		<b>78.3</b>	<b>COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT</b>			<b>83.4</b>

# 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 2015-2016			This Year 2016-2017				
		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	
Flood Defence	24.5	22.3	2.2	20.4	18.2	2.2	Programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	0.0
<b>Levy</b>			<b>2.2</b>			<b>2.2</b>		<b>0.0</b>
							Sunderland's proportion of the Environment Agency levy is £0.215m in 2016-2017 (2015-2016 £0.210m).	

Levy: North East Combined Authority							Change in levy (Total Budget Requirement) between years is attributable to:	£m
	Last Year 2015-2016			This Year 2016-2017				
		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	
Tyne Tunnels	28.9	27.5	1.4	30.0	29.7	0.3	Inflation and other cost pressures	5.4
ITA	2.8	0.0	2.8	2.7	0.0	2.7	Increased income	(4.0)
Grant to Nexus	95.0	0.0	95.0	92.0	0.0	92.0	Budget reductions	(5.9)
Grant to Durham and Northumberland	22.0	0.0	22.0	21.8	0.0	21.8	Contribution from reserves	0.6
	<b>148.7</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>121.2</b>	<b>146.5</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>116.8</b>		<b>(3.9)</b>
Transfer to Reserves			(4.6)			(4.1)		
<b>Total Budget Requirement</b>			<b>116.6</b>			<b>112.7</b>		
Less Rail Grants and Miscellaneous Grants			(27.4)			(25.8)		
<b>Levy</b>			<b>89.2</b>			<b>86.9</b>		
							Sunderland's proportion of the North East Combined Authority levy is £16.118m in 2016-2017 (2015-2016 £16.660m).	

# BUDGET INFORMATION

Precept: Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria						
	Last Year 2015-2016			This Year 2016-2017		
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Police General	281.0	21.2	259.8	276.8	15.7	261.1
<b>Total Budget Requirement</b>			<b>259.8</b>			<b>261.1</b>
Less: Formula Grant			218.7			217.5
Legacy Council Tax Grant			1.3			1.3
Council Tax Support Grant			6.9			6.9
Collection Fund Surplus			0.3			0.5
<b>Precept</b>			<b>32.6</b>			<b>34.9</b>

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

	£m
Inflation and Budget pressures	12.9
Reduction in Government Funding	1.2
Budget Savings	(15.3)
Change in use of Reserves	3.5

**2.3**

Sunderland's proportion of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria's precept is £6.305m in 2016-2017 (2015-2016 £5.830m).

This represents £93.33 of the Band D Council Tax and equates to a council tax increase of 5.66%.

Council Tax represents 12.6% of Gross Expenditure (2015-2016 11.6%). This increases the reliance on Council Tax as a funding stream.

Precept: Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority						
	Last Year 2015-2016			This Year 2016-2017		
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Fire Service	55.3	6.5	48.8	53.7	6.0	47.7
			<b>48.8</b>			<b>47.7</b>
Contingencies			1.2			1.3
Interest on Balances			(0.2)			(0.2)
<b>Total Budget Requirement</b>			<b>49.8</b>			<b>48.8</b>
Less Revenue Support Grant			14.9			13.2
Collection Fund Surplus			0.1			0.0
Top up Grant			10.0			10.0
Business Rate Share			4.2			4.3
SFA Adjustment			0.2			0.2
Section 31 Grant			0.1			0.1
<b>Precept</b>			<b>20.3</b>			<b>21.0</b>

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

	£m
Cost pressures	1.8
Reduction in Government funding	1.7
IRMP Savings	(1.2)
Budget Efficiencies	(1.3)
Increase in Business Rates Local Share	(0.1)
Contribution from earmarked reserves	(0.3)
Reduction in Collection Fund Net Surplus	0.1

**0.7**

Sunderland's proportion of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority precept is £5.142m in 2016-2017 (2015-2016 £4.925m).

This represents £76.11 of the Band D Council Tax and equates to a council tax increase of 1.9968%.

Council Tax represents 37.9% of Gross Expenditure (2015-2016 35.8%). 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](http://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](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk)