

# Help us plan our future

## Budget consultation 2020-21



**We work hard to provide the services that are important to residents and businesses, but we continue to face very difficult funding decisions.**

Over the last decade we have faced significant financial challenges. Most council spending is funded by central Government grants; which means we are limited in how we spend it.

With our core Government funding halved since 2010, and only 15 per cent of our overall council budget raised from Council Tax, our finances have been hit hard.

This has left us no option but to focus on providing the most essential services and make savings to balance the budget. Like many other councils we are dealing with increasing demands for adults' and children's social care, whilst the cost of these services continues to rise. But we continue to invest in you and our city.

Since 2010 we will have had to save £315 million by improving our use of technology, reducing back office and senior management posts, streamlining services and getting the best possible value from the services we contract.

The Government recently announced its spending plans for next financial year, which has provided additional funding for councils. However, their assumption is that councils will increase Council Tax by four per cent (core Council Tax by two per cent and a further two per cent social care levy). For Sunderland this would generate £4million.

This would mean an increase of 72 pence a week for a Band A property. If Council Tax doesn't increase we will not be able to deliver as many of the services you have told us are important. This includes services such as cleaning our city, maintaining our roads and investing in our schools.

Rolling our plans forward for a further three years indicates that we also need to save a further £24 million by 2024.



**Patrick Melia**  
Chief Executive,  
Sunderland City Council



**Cllr Graeme Miller**  
Leader,  
Sunderland City Council

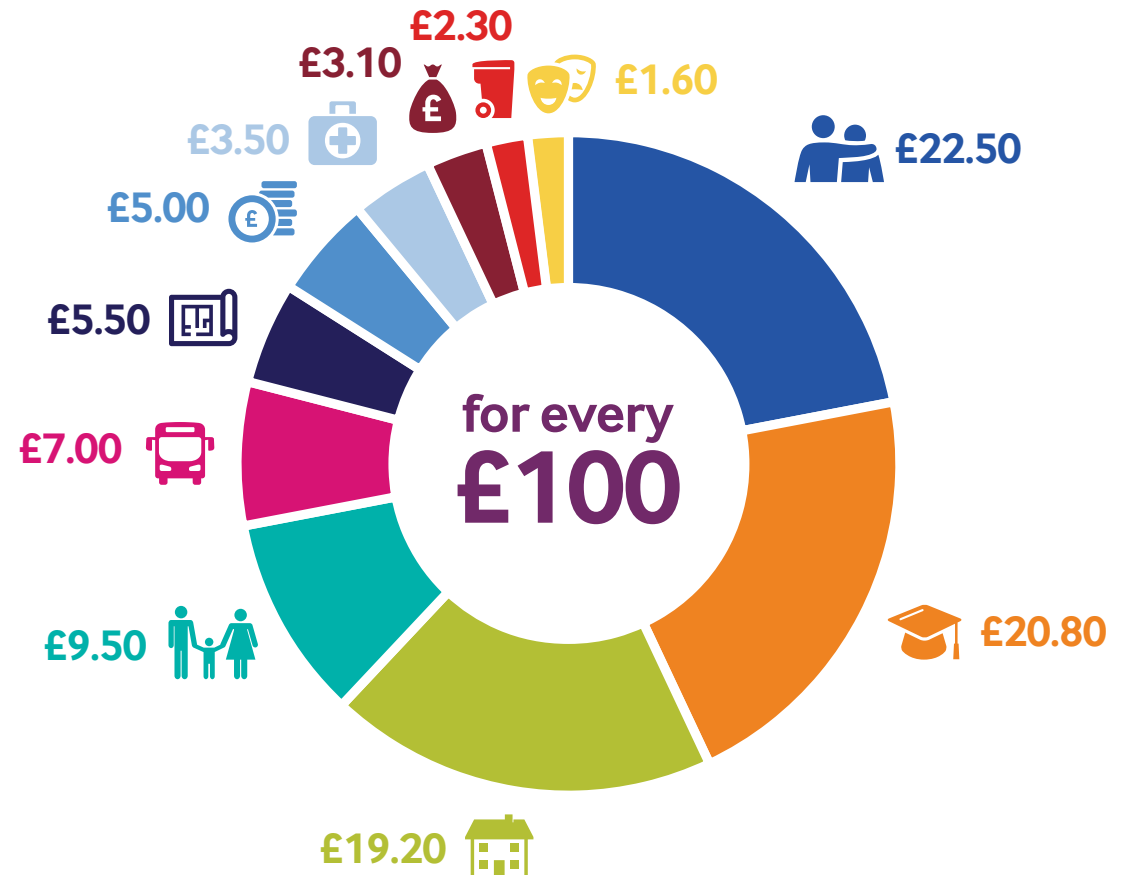
# Where the money is spent

**This year we will spend £651.4 million on public services in Sunderland. That's over 600 services to residents and businesses.**

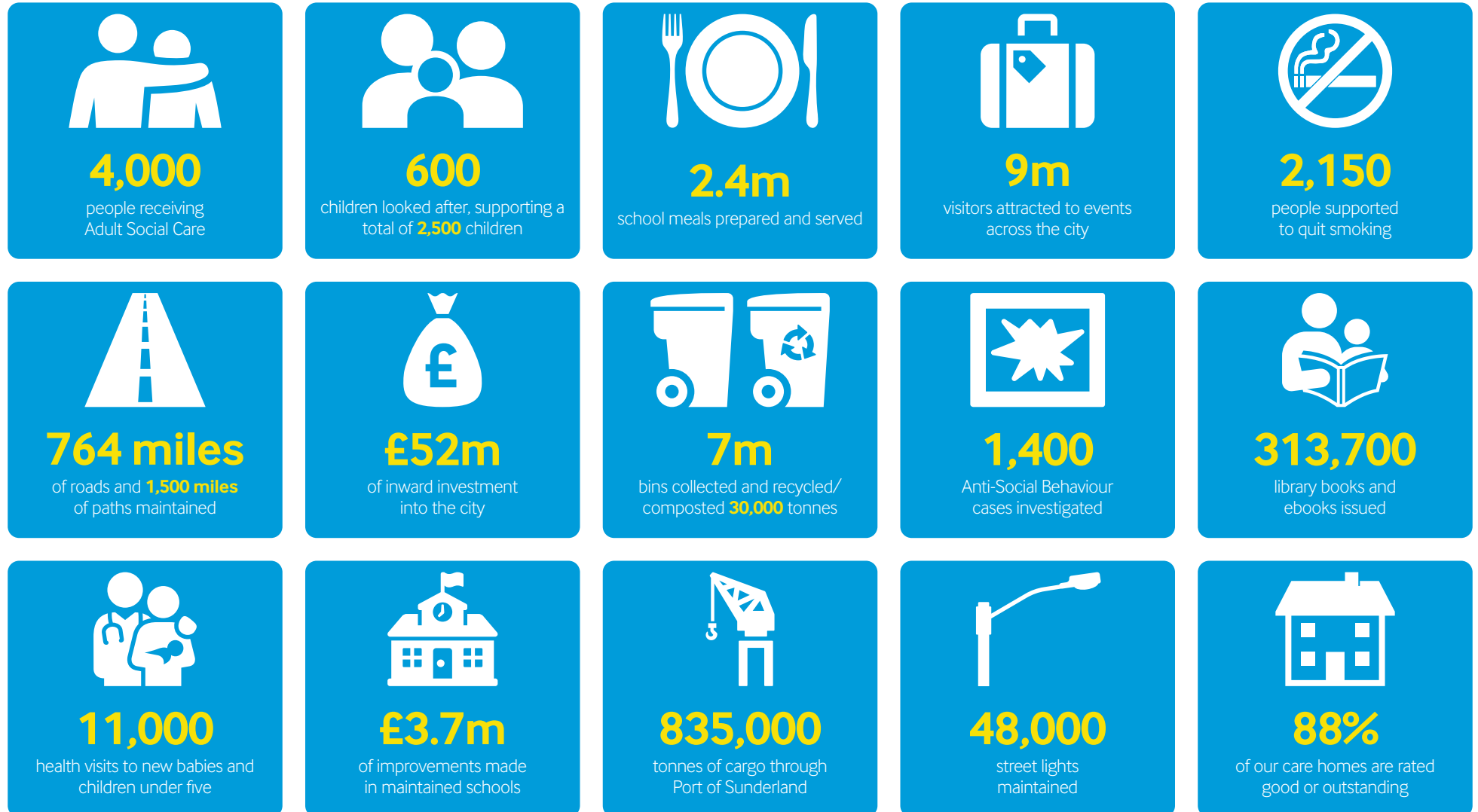
A large proportion of our money is spent on looking after children and vulnerable adults, providing education and housing benefit payments.

More than £72 in every £100 we spend is spent on these services. For example, if the budget was £100 this is how it would be spent.

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**Adult social care**  
 Supporting independent living, residential and nursing care, safeguarding vulnerable adults
- 
**Schools and education**  
 Maintaining schools, pupil services, teacher salaries
- 
**Housing benefit payments**
- 
**Children's social care**  
 Fostering and adoption, safeguarding children, additional educational needs
- 
**Highways and transport**  
 Port, parking, winter maintenance, crossing patrols, maintaining roads, signage
- 
**Planning, economic development, regulatory and environmental services**  
 Crematorium, flood defence, pest control, taxi licensing, inward investment
- 
**Other services**  
 Elections, coroners, registrars, Council Tax, Business Rate Administration
- 
**Public health**  
 Health initiatives, research, infrastructure
- 
**Investment**  
 Investing in the city, infrastructure, school improvements, new housing
- 
**Waste collection, disposal and recycling**  
 Collecting household bins, running recycling centres
- 
**Cultural and leisure services**  
 Libraries, illuminations, museums, resorts, parks



# The scale of what we do



# A big ambition for the city

**Over the past year we have been listening to your views about living in Sunderland and have worked with other organisations in the city to develop a City Plan.**

The City Plan sets out what we intend to do to make Sunderland a dynamic, vibrant and healthy city with more and better jobs and housing; a stronger city centre with more businesses, housing and cultural opportunities; and more people better equipped with skills and qualifications they need.

Despite our financial challenges, we have big ambitions for Sunderland. Our city has many things going for it, including great people. Working with you, we can fulfil our ambitions for Sunderland.

Through delivery of the City Plan Sunderland will be:



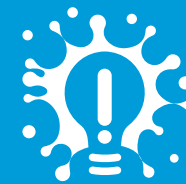
## **A DYNAMIC CITY by 2030 we will have:**

- more and better jobs
- more and better housing
- more local people with better qualifications and skills to enable them to participate in and benefit from a stronger economy
- a stronger city centre with more businesses, housing and cultural opportunities
- a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all



## **A HEALTHY CITY by 2030 we will have:**

- access to the same opportunities and life chances
- more people living healthier longer lives
- people enjoy independent lives
- cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods
- a city with great transport and travel links



## **A VIBRANT CITY by 2030 we will have:**

- more creative and cultural businesses
- more residents participating in their communities
- more visitors visiting Sunderland and more residents participating in cultural events and activities
- more people feel safe in their neighbourhoods and homes
- more resilient people

# What you've told us

## Your views are essential in shaping how we spend our budget and plan for our city's future.

We gather the views of residents, businesses and organisations along with analysing a range of data, to understand the key challenges in neighbourhoods and across the city.

We get feedback when people access services, through resident surveys and through neighbourhood working.

Our budget reflects these priorities.

**Clean neighbourhoods with extra enforcement for litter dropping and fly tipping**

**Appropriate support is provided for children in need and looked after children**

**58% of residents in employment work within the city**

**Residents have the skills and qualifications to access employment opportunities in the city**

**Health and wellbeing is improved for everyone**

**Two-thirds of residents are satisfied with their local area**

Your views matter and that's why we are investing in services important to our residents.

In the 2020/21 budget we will continue to invest in our city:

- Further investment of £400,000 to enhance the cleanliness of neighbourhoods the city centre
- Additional £1 million to support children in need and looked after children
- Increased investment and regeneration of the city centre to grow the city and create jobs
- New and updated school facilities to support the education and development of our children
- Further funding to support the vulnerable and older people in our city
- Additional £400,000 to improve housing standards and enforcement in the private rented sector
- Saving £140,000 on Councillors' allowances

# Have your say on our budget proposals

**We are planning to save an extra £24.35 million by 2023-24 by continuing to shape our services on the following key principles:**

- Targeting spending on front-line services you've said are important like caring for our older residents, street cleaning and public health activities
- Focussing on the customer - understanding our residents' needs
- Redesigning services so they are as efficient as possible
- Involving the community to ensure best outcomes for the city

Based on the Government's spending proposals, our budget forecasts assume a four per cent increase in Council Tax (core Council Tax by two per cent and a further two per cent social care levy). For Sunderland this would generate £4million.

This would mean an increase of 72 pence a week for a band A property. If Council Tax doesn't increase, we will need to find a way to save this £4million which will further impact on the services we deliver.

## Have your say

We would like your views on a Council Tax increase and our plans for the city. You can give us your views by completing a quick survey:

[www.sunderland.gov.uk/budgetconsultation](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/budgetconsultation)

The survey closes on 15 December 2019.

It helps us save money if you complete the survey online but if you need a paper copy of the survey please contact us on 0191 561 1614 or e-mail: [consultation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@sunderland.gov.uk)

For more information watch our video or test your knowledge with a quick quiz.

Look out for the **Let's Talk Sunderland** campaign for further opportunities to give your views.

