

EPHING FOREST DC BUDGET 2021/22

PLAIN ENGLISH VERSION

Spending and Charges Explained

The Epping Forest District Council element of the Council Tax has been frozen again this year and therefore remains at £152.46 for a Band D property (the equivalent of £2.93 per week). The table below shows the district element of the Council Tax by property band.

Property Band	District Council Tax 2021/22
	£'s
A	101.64
B	118.58
C	135.52
D	152.46
E	186.34
F	220.22
G	254.10
H	304.92

The 2021/22 budget sets out the financial resources that the Council has available to deliver its Corporate Plan. A high-level summary of financial resources within the budget is included in the table below.

Summary of Financial Resources 2021/22	
Description	£000's
Gross Expenditure	70,101
Income	(53,411)
Net Expenditure	16,690
<i>Paid for by:</i>	
Council Tax	(8,236)
Business Rates	(5,162)
Collection Fund Deficit	337
Government Grants	(2,279)

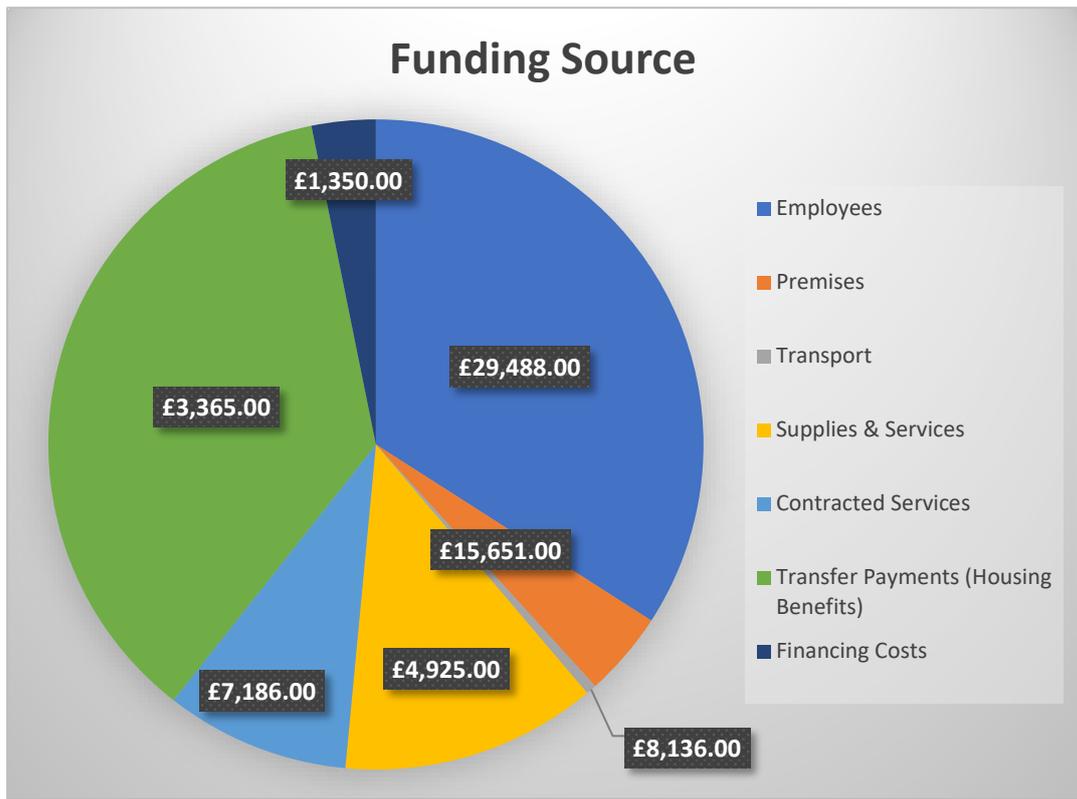
Council Reserves	(1,350)
Total Funding	16,690

Funding for Services

The largest funding source for the Council is Government Grants and Contributions at £29.488 million (with Housing Benefit Subsidy being the single largest element). The rest of the funding comes primarily from local taxpayers at £13.061 million*, whether through Council Tax (£8.136 million*) or Business Rates (£4.925 million*).

Funding Source	£000's
Government Grants and Contributions	(29,488)
Fees and Charges	(15,651)
Council Tax*	(8,136)
Business Rates*	(4,925)
Other Contributions and Recharges	(7,186)
Council Trading Company	(3,365)
Council Reserves	(1,350)
Total Funding	(70,101)

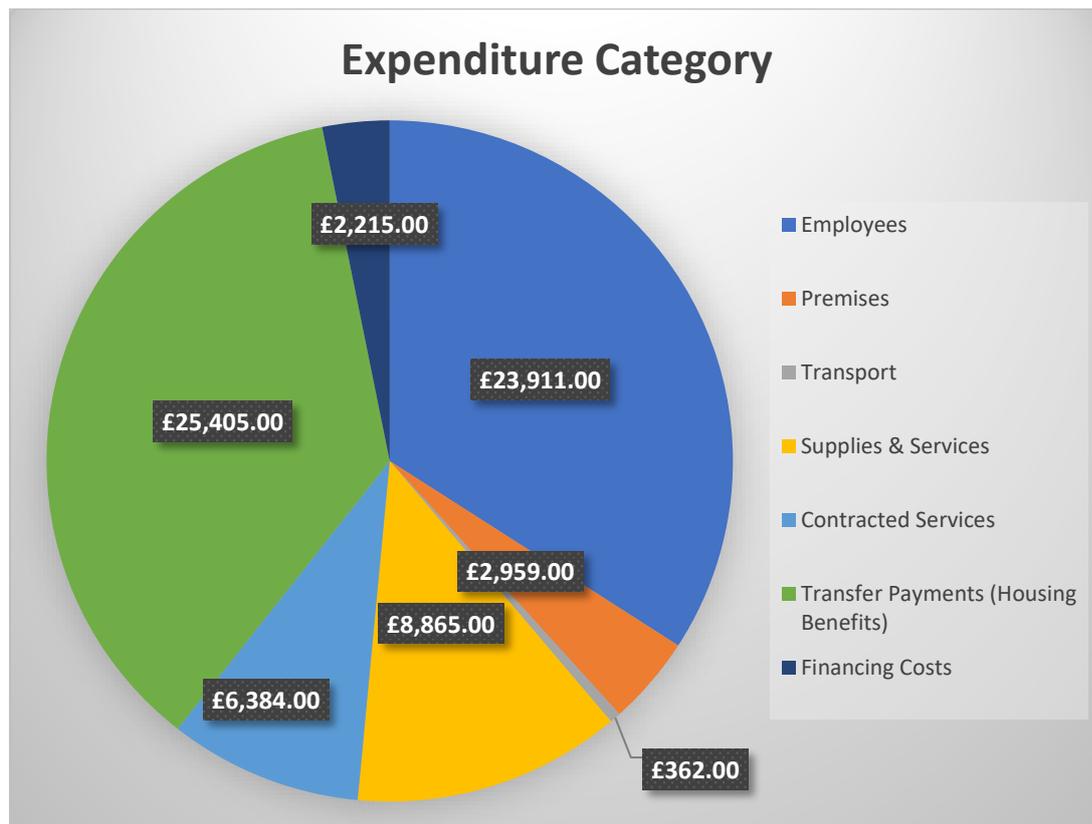
*Net of Collection Fund adjustments



Expenditure by Type

Around 70% of Council expenditure is incurred on Employees (£23.911 million) and Housing Benefits paid to the public (£25.405 million).

Expenditure Category	£000's
Employees	23,911
Premises	2,959
Transport	362
Supplies & Services	8,865
Contracted Services	6,384
Transfer Payments (Housing Benefits)	25,405
Financing Costs	2,215
Total Gross Expenditure	70,101



Expenditure by Service

Major Council spending areas include the provision and maintenance of Council buildings and depots, the costs associated with providing Housing Benefits and the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates, as well as the 'cost of democracy' and Customer Services provided to the public. Some examples of the wide range of frontline services that the Council provides include:

• Planning	-	£2.795 million
• Recycling	-	£3.267 million
• Refuse Collection	-	£1.469 million
• Street Cleansing	-	£1.432 million
• Cultural and Community Services	-	£1.124 million
• Grounds Maintenance	-	£1.099 million
• Homelessness	-	£0.443 million.

Capital Investment

In addition to the revenue costs of running the Council and providing frontline services, substantial investment is made in capital schemes both internally and externally across the district. Planned capital investment in 2021/22 includes £2.021 million towards ICT systems to further improve efficiency and enhance customer service, and in the community, the Council is investing £1.540 million in a new Museum and Library joint facility in Waltham Abbey (scheduled for completion in 2022/23). Looking further ahead, the Council is investing £25.0 million in a new Leisure Facility for Epping (scheduled for completion in 2023/24).

Affordable Housing

The Council currently owns 6,400 Homes and 2,300 Garages across the district, which are let to tenants and leaseholders. The rent that the Council receives goes towards maintaining and investing in the stock, with all income and expenditure recorded in a ring-fenced account (the "Housing Revenue Account"). This ensures that Council housing does not subsidise, nor is itself subsidised by, other local services. The table below shows that the Council generates a revenue surplus on housing, which allows for capital investment.

2021/22 Budget Description	£000's
Income	(36,608)
Expenditure	28,142
Net Costs of Services	(8,466)

Capital works on the current housing stock of £11.970 million are planned on windows, doors, roofing, kitchens and bathrooms etc. in 2021/22. In addition, the Council is investing £113.974 million over the next four years in developing around 417 new homes to help address the housing shortage in the district.