

Thinking ahead

Will the 2015 general election make a difference?

We expect that any change to central government would make only a small difference to the scale of funding reductions.

Is economic growth in the city the answer?

It will make a small contribution. Council tax should increase by 250 properties a year. We expect business rates to grow but much of our growth is from small businesses that pay low business rates. In the long term major developments will be important but won't provide a quick fix.

What does this mean for council services?

Our future council will be significantly smaller. Many services will no longer be delivered directly by the council, some will change or stop altogether. We are committed to engaging our workforce and trade unions and will support staff through the impact of any reduction in jobs.

What's next?

We are working on our corporate plan for 2015-2019 alongside our budget and medium term financial strategy. Although funding is reduced, national policies are giving more power to individuals and communities. We're talking to staff, partners, residents and businesses about their priorities for the city while making sure we continue to:

- safeguard the vulnerable
- improve educational achievement
- generate investment to support jobs, infrastructure and housing
- protect our heritage, seafront and natural environment
- use technology to improve customer service and reduce costs

5212 Brighton & Hove City Council Communications Team

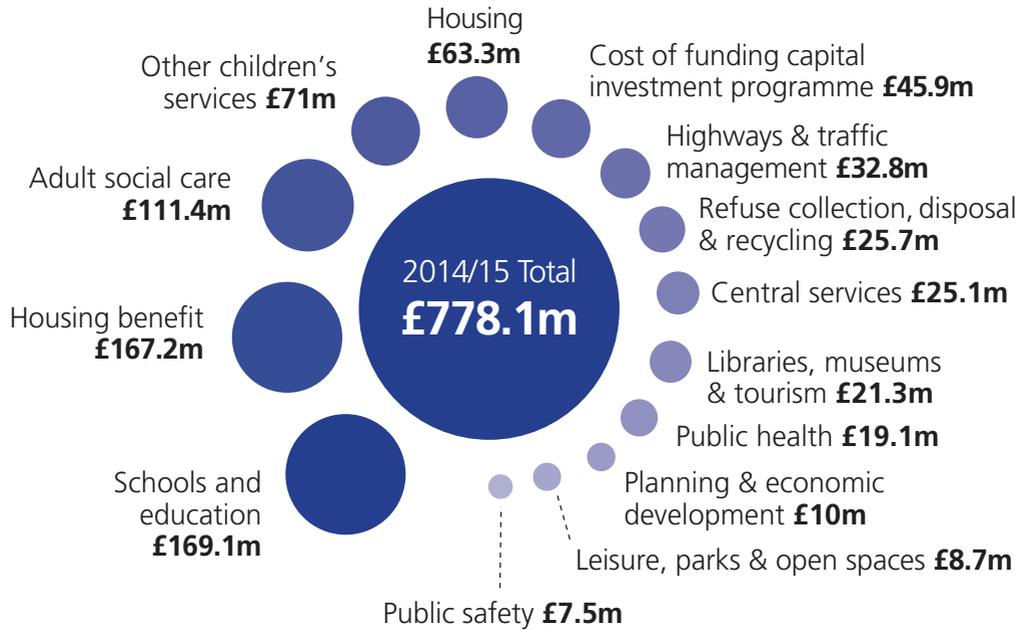
For more information go to www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/bhbudget or join the conversation on Twitter @BrightonHoveCC #bhbudget

Planning for our future



Our budget over the next five years will be challenging. Costs will increase due to inflation, population change and rising demand for services. Funding from central government will also be severely reduced. This will result in a funding gap.

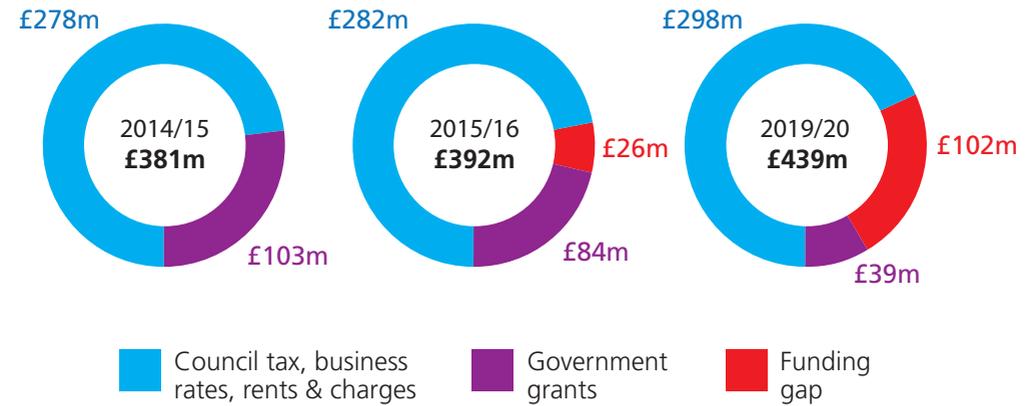
How much does the council spend?



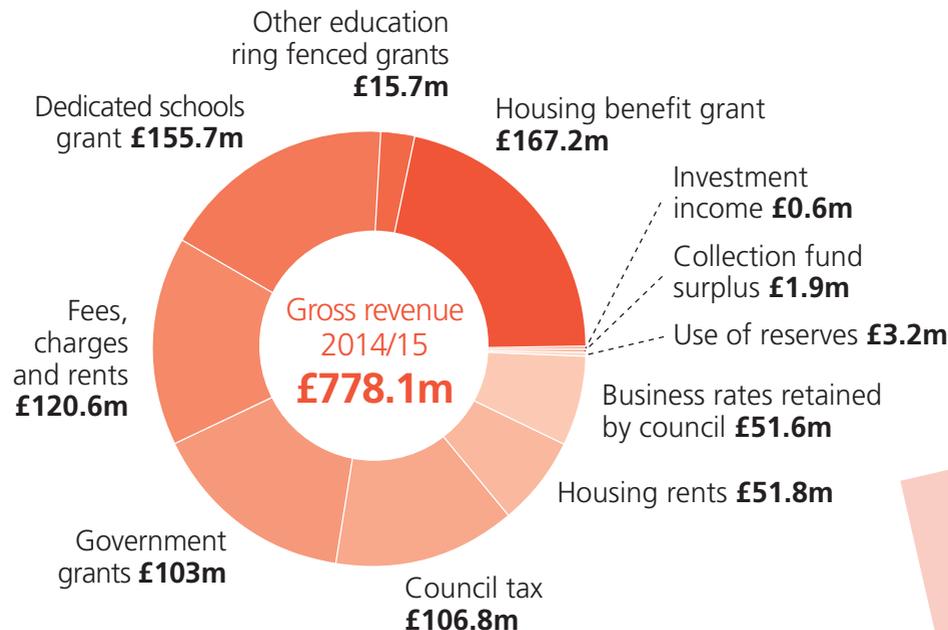
The funding gap

Out of our budget, 51% is ring-fenced for education, housing benefit and council housing.

Our biggest challenge in 2015/16 is the remaining 49%, or £392million, which is funded by council tax, business rates, government grants and fees and charges. This is spent on services like social care for vulnerable children and adults, libraries and transport.



Where do we get our money from?



We expect that these rising costs and reduced funding will result in a budget gap of £102.4m by 2019/20 assuming there is no increase in council tax. In 2015/16 alone we are losing £18 million of grant funding, which together with increased costs, leaves a gap of £26.3 million.

