

Dear Resident,

With this letter you will find your council tax bill for 2019/20.

Council tax helps pay for essential services provided by your city council, the police and crime commissioner, and the fire authority.

The city council is increasing its tax by 3%.

Residents often ask why services are being cut when their council tax keeps rising.

There are **five** reasons:

[1] The government is cutting the city's funding. We have had to increase council tax to replace grant we used to get from the government.

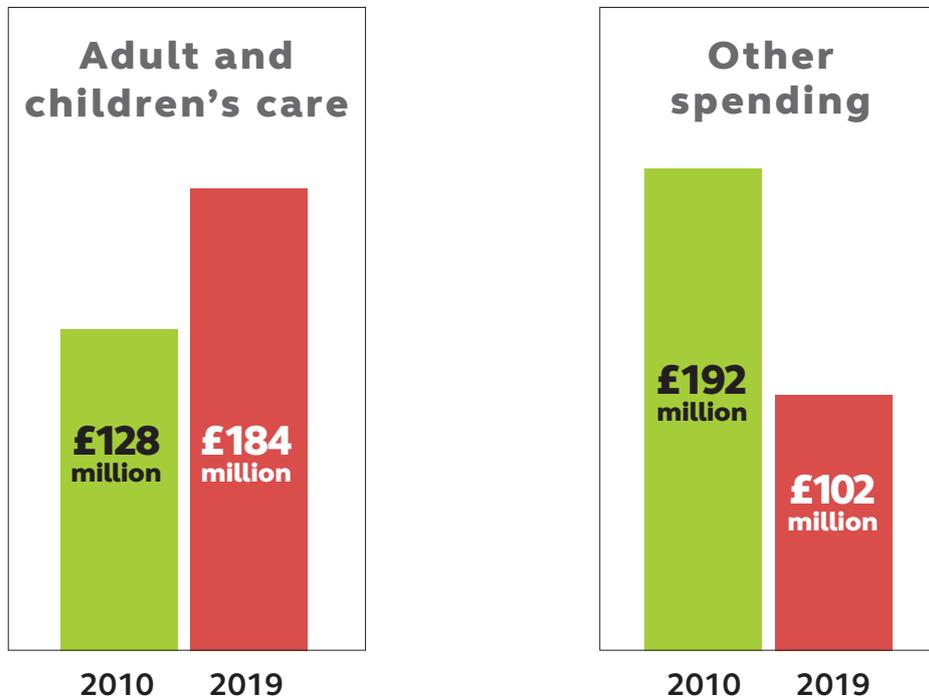
How government grant funding to Leicester has been cut



[2] Even though we have increased council tax, this doesn't raise enough to replace everything we've lost. This means we can't afford all the services we used to provide.

[3] Social care is costing us more than it used to. There are more elderly people who need care, more adults with complex disabilities, and more children who could be at risk of harm. This means we have had to make very big cuts to spending on our other services, such as street cleaning, libraries, children’s centres, parks, sports centres, museums and footpath maintenance.

How social care spending has replaced spending on other services



[4] The government tells us how much we can increase council tax by. If we increase tax by less than this, we have to make even more cuts. This year’s tax increase will provide us with £3m to keep some services running.

[5] It is accepted that the way social care is paid for needs review. However, the government has been asking councils to increase taxes instead. We did this in the last three years. It has made our council tax 7% higher than it would have been.

The fire authority is increasing its share of tax by 3%, and the police commissioner is increasing his share by 12%. This means total tax will increase by 4%.

You can find out more about council tax online at leicester.gov.uk/counciltax

If you are worried that you might struggle to pay your council tax, please contact the council as soon as possible – email council.tax@leicester.gov.uk or telephone 0116 454 1005.

Yours faithfully

Sir Peter Soulsby | CITY MAYOR