

# budget for Birmingham

- £24 million more, above inflation, for schools and social care
- Council tax rise of 1.5% for services the city council provides – compared to 4.4% last year
- A further £14 million to improve and ease pressure on services

# 2004

اذا عندكم اي سؤال عن الاستعلامات مسجلة في هذه الاستمارة  
نرجو اتصال كتابة الى عنوان تحت .

এই প্রচারপত্রের প্রকৃত্ত তথ্যাদি সম্পর্কে আপনার কোন  
প্রশ্ন থাকলে অনুগ্রহপূর্বক নিম্নের ঠিকানায় লিখুন:

如閣下對本單張有任何疑問，請去信以下  
地址查詢：

जे तमाहे आ परित्रायां आपेली माहिती विषे कोठ प्रश्न  
पूछ्या होय तो कृपा करी नीचे आपेला सरनामे लपो:

इस पुस्तिका में सूचना के विषय में अगर आप ने कोई प्रश्न पूछने  
हों तो कृपया इन को लिखें ।

ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਬਾਰੇ ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਕੋਈ ਪੁੱਛ-ਗਿੱਛ ਬਰਨੀ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ  
ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲਿਖੋ:

اگر آپ کو اس لیفلٹ میں دی گئی معلومات کے بارے میں دریافت کرنا ہے تو  
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ ذیل کو لکھیں:-

Nếu bạn có bất cứ những câu hỏi gì về bản  
thông tin này, xin viết thư đến:

## More information

help and advice:

Enquiries about your Council Tax Bill?

Write to: Birmingham City Council, Revenues and Payments,  
PO Box 5, Birmingham, B4 7AB. Or call 303 1113

Enquiries about Council Tax benefit?

Call in at any Neighbourhood Office. Or telephone 303 1111

Enquiries about National Non-Domestic Rating demands (business rates)?

Write to: Birmingham City Council, Revenues and Payments,  
PO Box 6637, Birmingham, B4 7AB. Or call 303 5510/5509/5511

If you have any queries about the information in this leaflet please write to: **The Strategic Director of Resources, The Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BB**  
[www.birmingham.gov.uk/budget](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/budget)

## SPENDING AND COUNCIL TAX

	'03/'04 £m	'04/'05 £m		'03/'04	'04/'05	% Change
<b>Total spending</b>	<b>2,382.6</b>	<b>2,483.0</b>	Charge to council taxpayers	£272.972m	£274.923m	+0.7
Less: income	-1,098.1	-1,121.5	Divided by the taxbase (Band D property equivalents)	280,991	278,818	-0.8
Net spending	1,284.5	1,361.5	<b>Council tax for City Council services (Band D)</b>	<b>£971.46</b>	<b>£986.03</b>	<b>+1.5</b>
Contribution to general balances	1.7	1.5	Fire & Civil Defence Authority precept	£36.49	£39.32	+7.8
Contribution from specific resources	-4.1	-2.8	Police Authority precept	£71.16	£80.08	+12.5
<b>City Council budget requirement</b>	<b>1,282.1</b>	<b>1,360.2</b>	<b>Gives a total council tax (Band D)</b>	<b>£1,079.11</b>	<b>£1,105.43</b>	<b>+2.4</b>
Less: revenue support grant	-723.2	-809.2				
Less: business rates	-285.8	-276.6				
Collection fund surplus(-)/deficit(+)	-0.1	0.5				
<b>TO BE FINANCED BY COUNCIL TAX</b>	<b>273.0</b>	<b>274.9</b>				

Frankley Parish Council is levying a precept for 2004/05. Its charge will be made only to council taxpayers in the Frankley Parish and amounts to £31,689, equivalent to £15.10 per property in Band D.

## HOW SPENDING HAS CHANGED

	£m
<b>CITY COUNCIL BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2003/04 WAS:</b>	<b>1,282.1</b>
<b>Change of responsibilities and funding</b>	<b>+3.2</b>
<b>Inflation (non schools)</b>	<b>+25.3</b>
<b>Schools' funding</b>	<b>+36.4</b>
<b>Efficiency savings</b>	<b>-8.0</b>
<b>Budget pressures and service changes</b>	<b>+5.5</b>
<b>Service Improvements and Developments</b>	<b>+15.7</b>
<b>CITY COUNCIL BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2004/05 IS:</b>	<b>1,360.2</b>

## ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

### DETAILS OF THE MIDLANDS REGION FLOOD DEFENCE COMMITTEE'S FINANCES:

	2003/04	2004/05
Gross spending (£'000)	41,434	42,858
Net spending (£'000)	31,899	2,558
Levies required (£'000)	32,328	2,688
Council Tax base (Band D equivalent properties)	2,724,404	2,721,619

### CHANGES IN LEVIES REQUIREMENTS DUE TO:

	2003/04 TO 2004/05	£'000
Inflation (inc. economies and efficiency savings)		+830
Changes in quality/quantity of service		+594
Funding capital from revenue		0
Differences in income received or expected by way of grants, fees and charges (inc. contributions from Internal Drainage Boards and government grants)		-30,765
Changes in net expenditure		-29,341
Transfers from balances		-299
Changes in levy requirements		-29,640

## OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2004/05

We want Birmingham to develop as a city of flourishing neighbourhoods – clean and safe with thriving communities – and to improve our housing services and services for vulnerable children and older people. After listening to Birmingham people, reviewing our progress, assessing our services and looking at the city and how it is changing, we are now focused on:

- **Going Local** – bringing services closer to the people who use them
- **Making neighbourhoods clean and safe**
- **Investing in our children and young people**
- **Preparing our city for the future**
- **Closing the gaps: tackling inequality**
- **Putting our citizens and customers at the heart of everything we do**
- **Our social care services for children, families and older people**
- **Improving housing services**

## KEY POINTS OF THE 2004/05 BUDGET

- **A focus on council priorities and improving the performance of key services**
  - **£7million more for children's and older people's services, including improving foster care and investing in independent care home provision**
  - **All of the government's extra spending increase for schools will go to schools, paying for inflation and giving real growth of £17 million**
  - **An extra £1.1 million for youth services**
  - **£3.7 million for 'You Are Your City' to support our priority of flourishing neighbourhoods; most of this money will be controlled by constituency committees to improve the local environment and safety**
- **Council tax for our own services will increase by 1.5%. When we add in the fire and police service precepts, the total council tax increase is 2.4%**
- **Allows for general pay inflation of 3.5% and price rises of 2.0%**
- **Savings of £8 million from efficiencies and extra income will help to fund investment in services**

## HOW WE DID IN 2003/04

### An Audit Commission review of our performance at the end of 2003 found that...

Our education service is very strong – half of all pupils taking GCSEs gained 5 A\* to C grade passes in 2003.

- The benefits service has improved significantly, particularly in the speed and accuracy of paying benefits claims
- We continue to manage our finances effectively
- We continue to improve the city centre. The new Bullring opened in September 2003, bringing more than 5,500 new jobs to the city

- We need to continue our work to improve social care services, particularly for children
- We need to make significant improvements to our services for council tenants
- We have improved the way we work and are addressing areas where we need to improve

The Audit Commission's assessment did not cover all the areas that we know are important to the people of Birmingham. For example:

- **Clean neighbourhoods** – we are acting to combat fly tipping and in the last 2 months of 2003 removed over 1,600 tonnes of refuse from 449 city sites

## REVENUE SPENDING 2004/05 FIGURES FOR 2003/2004 ARE IN BRACKETS

### EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING £890 million (£835 million)

The council has increased its total schools budget (i.e. budgets delegated to schools and some centrally retained activities provided to schools) by £36.4million in line with government requirements and expectations. As well as funding pay awards and price inflation the money will pay for the increase in the minimum per pupil funding guarantee.

New funding has also been identified for services facing key pressures by a combination of recycling savings and generating extra income within education and the council as a whole.

### SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH £390 million (£376 million)

We will honour our commitment of extra funding to stabilise the residential and nursing home market. We will also be investing in better promotion of our services to make them more accessible to those who need them. There will continue to be improvements in our children's services. Extra money will go into foster care fees, children's social worker recruitment, training and retention and to replace and modernise children's homes. It will also help to bring about improved performance in children's services.

### LEISURE, SPORT AND CULTURE £104 million (£103 million)

We are providing extra money for books and longer opening hours in some libraries. There will be a new free swimming initiative for children at key stage 1 who live in Birmingham and a new sports festival aimed at encouraging more young people to exercise regularly. We will continue to support major arts organisations, community groups and play schemes and have allocated extra money to help us bring more national and international events to Birmingham.

Investment in our buildings will continue with the refurbishment of the Town Hall and several community libraries and we will continue to develop plans for the new Library of Birmingham.

### COUNCIL HOUSING £220 million (£353 million)

Council housing services which include expenditure on repairs, local/estate management, support services and debt costs are funded by income from rent and government grant. The budget for 2004/05 includes money to pay for improvements identified by the Audit Commission such as a reduction in long term voids and a fully funded day-to-day repairs service based on projected demand. It will also include £160.8 million (including £15 million extra borrowing) for repairs and investment such as providing house improvements and thermal comfort to the Decent Homes standard. The figures reflect the transfer of rent rebates to the General fund in 2004/05.

### TRANSPORTATION AND STREET SERVICES £165 million (£166 million)

We have made extra money available to help unlock major investment in roads and footpaths. Investment in cemeteries and crematoria will continue with a new cemetery at Kings Norton, opening in Autumn 2004. We will continue to give high priority to making Birmingham a cleaner and safer city. Recycling initiatives will be continued and extended and there will be extra money to significantly increase the number of locally decided ward-based street lighting improvements. The Local Transport Plan has provided extra money for highways and public transport improvements.

### REGENERATION £69 million (£68 million)

Through its continuing regeneration, Birmingham will grow as a major European city while creating opportunities to benefit local communities.

In Eastside, there will be progress on the new City Park and there will be city centre improvements. An updated planning framework will assist investment.

Key developments such as the A38 Technology Corridor will continue and there are major proposals for the East and West Regeneration Zones. Support will be given to creative industries and tourism.

Area regeneration programmes for Aston, North West Birmingham, Kings Norton and Housing Market Renewal Areas will benefit neighbourhoods and include local centres.

We will make the best use of council-owned property and help people into work in communities facing the highest unemployment, particularly people with disabilities. We will deliver better value in the council's construction projects through new partnering arrangements.

### LEVIES AND BENEFITS £378 million (£253 million)

A £46.9 million levy will be paid to the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority for the cost of concessionary travel fares, subsidised bus services, local rail services, Midland Metro and other local public transport spending. £0.3 million will also be paid to the Environment Agency – significantly less than in 2003/04 (£3.3m) as a result of a change in the way the agency is funded. The budget also includes housing and council tax benefits of £209 million which are mainly grant funded and paid out to over 125,000 claimants. This year's budget also includes £122 million of rent rebates, paid to council tenants, which were formerly included in the Housing Revenue Account. This is as a result of legislation changes.

### OTHER SERVICES £267 million (£229 million)

We will continue to support private sector housing through regeneration and adaptation schemes, along with our enforcement function.

For 2004/05, we will put further emphasis on strategy and grant-funded programmes for homelessness and rough-sleepers. We will also improve the speed with which we determine major planning applications. £1 million of resources will be provided to improve the effectiveness of IT services as they support our business.

Other items here include: the neighbourhood office and advice network; community safety initiatives; neighbourhood renewal fund activities; the NEC Group; markets; public protection; licensing; central support; central contingency and money held centrally for You are Your City and youth initiatives which will be subject to local decisions.

## TOTAL COUNCIL SPENDING

**£2,483 MILLION**  
**(£2,383 MILLION)**