

Council focuses on schools and care services

The council has set an overall budget for 2014/15 of £1,647 million to continue investing in services that are important to Surrey people.

The council's grant from central government has dropped by £69 million since 2010, while at the same time the council is facing:

- a huge rise in pupil numbers
- a growing population of older people in need of support
- the pressing need to repair flood-damaged roads

As a result the council has agreed a 1.99% increase in council tax for 2014/15, or about 45 pence a week for a Band D household.



Council leader David Hodge said:

“This will enable us to focus on those key areas that will improve the lives of our residents, which is what they expect and deserve.”

“There is never going to be enough to do everything, especially as the financial position for councils remains very tight, and we have to deal with demographic pressures and the damage to our road network over successive winters.”

“Significant challenges remain, but we are committed to doing what is right for Surrey, including supporting the local economy and helping young people into the jobs market through apprenticeships.”



Savings

The council has achieved **annual savings of £200m** since 2010, but these have been offset by dwindling government grant and increasing demand for services. **The council has identified a further £200m of savings over the next four years while having to deal with the rising costs of:**

- **providing an additional 13,000 school places** (equivalent to 23 primary schools), **costing £327m** by 2019
- **supporting an additional 1,000 older people** over the next three years at a **cost of £25m**
- **multi-million pound repairs to flood-damaged roads**, on top of the £5m spent last year on repairing ice and snow damage

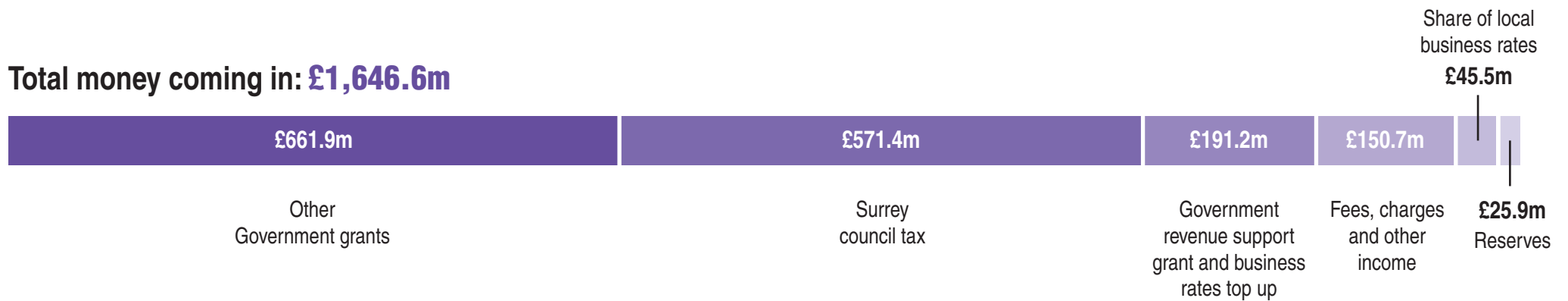
These figures represent Surrey County Council's portion of your council tax bill for 2014/15

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Council Tax	£797.22	£930.09	£1,062.96	£1,195.83	£1,461.57	£1,727.31	£1,993.05	£2,391.66

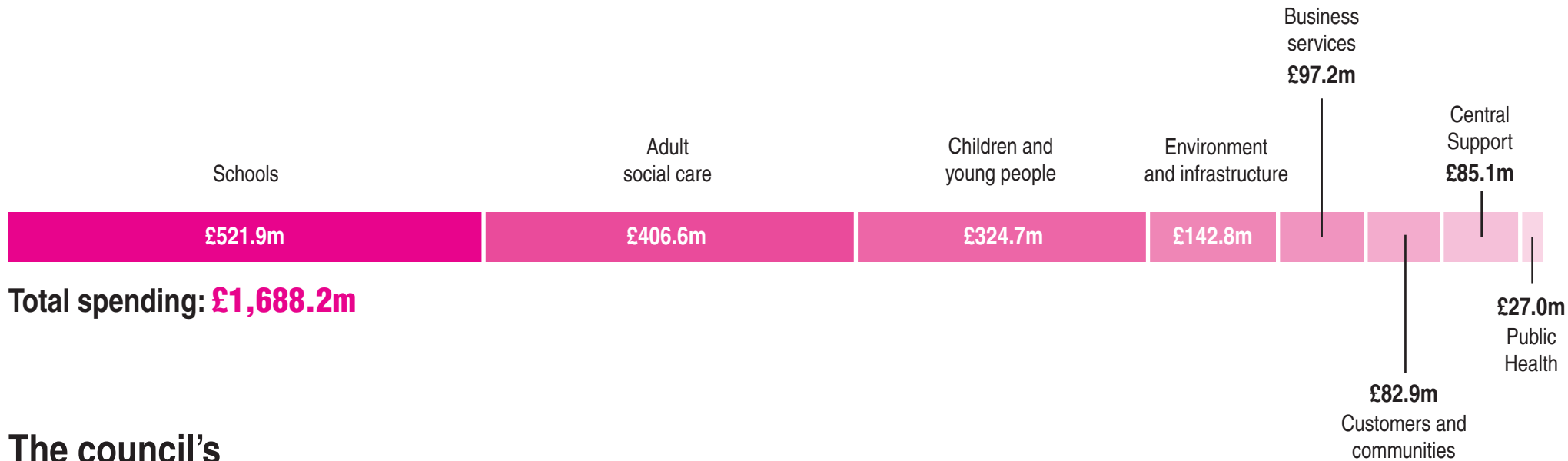


How the council will spend its budget 2014/15

Total money coming in: £1,646.6m



**The amount to schools has changed because money for pupil referral units is now included in the schools' budget, there is more grant funding to cover increased pupil numbers and funding has been taken away for 25 new academies in Surrey (bringing the total number of Surrey academies to 54).*



The council's budget for 2013/14

Total money coming in: £1,688.2m

