

# Investing in Reading



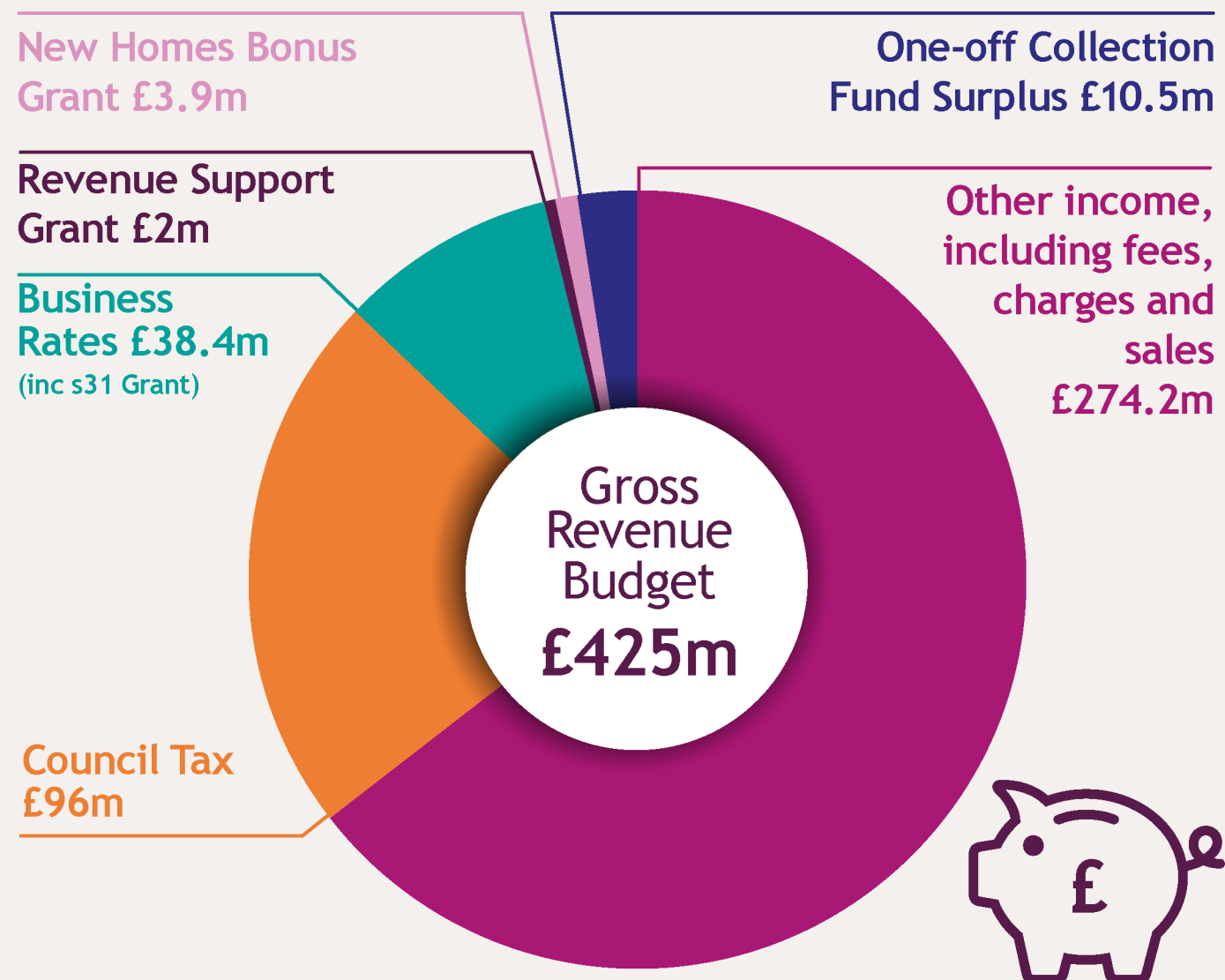
Your council, your services, your money  
Reading Borough Council's budget  
for 2020/21



**Reading**  
Borough Council  
Working better with you

# About the Budget

The Council's budget pays for day-to-day services such as waste and recycling, planning, transport, highways, street cleaning, parks, playgrounds, libraries, environmental health, children's services and adult social care. The Council has set a budget of £425 million for 2020/21. Council Tax raises £96 million - just under a quarter of the total. The rest is funded from a range of sources including Business Rates, income from fees and charges, and funding from grants. The Council also has a capital budget that is used to invest in the town to maintain and improve roads, parks, council homes, leisure facilities and community assets.



Your Council Tax helps to pay for services delivered by Reading Borough Council, Thames Valley Police and the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue service. In 2020/21 the Council's element of Council Tax will increase by 3.99%, an increase of approximately £1.25 per week for a Band D property.

The change is made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 2% increase to help fund social care. This Adult Social Care Precept has been created by the Government and allows Councils that provide social care to adults to increase their share of Council Tax to help fund the rising costs of that care. For 2020/21 the Government has allowed an Adult Social Care Precept of up to an additional 2%, which will raise an extra £1.8 million, equivalent to 935 hours of homecare and 1030 hours of supported living a week for vulnerable adults in Reading.



The table shows the Council Tax bands and the contribution to each service

Council Tax Band	Reading Borough Council	Thames Valley Police Authority	Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service	Total
A	£1,128.11	£144.19	£45.07	£1,317.37
B	£1,316.12	£168.22	£52.58	£1,536.92
C	£1,504.14	£192.25	£60.09	£1,756.48
D	£1,692.16	£216.28	£67.60	£1,976.04
E	£2,068.20	£264.34	£82.62	£2,415.16
F	£2,444.23	£312.40	£97.64	£2,854.27
G	£2,820.27	£360.47	£112.67	£3,293.41
H	£3,384.32	£432.56	£135.20	£3,952.08

The bands are set by a government body which is part of HM Revenue and Customs. If you feel that your property has been placed in the wrong band you should call the Valuation Office Agency on 03000 501 501 or visit [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk)

# How we use your money

We run services for residents, businesses and visitors in Reading and over the last year we have...

## Emptied...

96,000



household bins each week

## Recycled, re-used or composted...



18,500

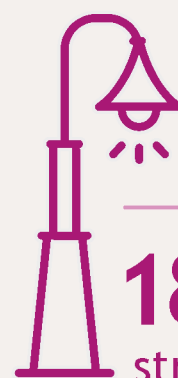
tonnes of your household waste

## Maintained...

404km of roads



70 parks & gardens



18,500 streetlights



800km paths and pavements



fixed 3863 potholes

## Built...

57 new council homes



## Maintained...



5,770 council properties

## Run...

7 libraries



486,832 items borrowed

## Provided...



33,410

homecare hours per week for vulnerable adults



## Put on...



513 productions, in our theatres

## Given...



167 Tours of the Abbey ruins led by volunteers

## Welcomed...



165,694 visitors to the town hall and museum

# Investing in Reading

Over the next three years we're investing in the areas you've told us matter most to you.

What you've said

We're investing £9m to repair more roads, potholes and pavements

Reading's roads and pavements need improving

Reading is too congested, I want to be able to get about more easily and use public transport more often

We're investing £12.3m towards a new station at Green Park and £3.4m to refurbish Reading West Station, and inviting your input into our new transport strategy

We're investing an extra £250,000 to clean up the town centre, £145,000 to tackle issues like fly tipping and £150,000 to plant new trees

Reading should be a cleaner, greener town

It's important to fund services for vulnerable adults

We're investing £7m to improve adult social care services and £3.2m for Disabled Facilities Grants

We're investing more than £40m to modernise Reading's leisure facilities, and building two new swimming pools

Reading needs better sports and leisure facilities

We need to support children in Reading

We're investing £1m extra in children's services and building a brand new secondary school at Riverside

We're investing £1.5m to increase recycling rates and introduce weekly food waste collections, £250,000 in electric vehicle charging points and £7m in initiatives to tackle climate change such as renewable energy infrastructure

It's vital to look after the environment and do more to tackle climate change

The Council needs to run efficiently and get best value for money

We're making £19.5m of savings by doing things more efficiently, without cutting front line services and investing £2.5m to improve our website and access to services online so we can serve you better

# Let's Wise Up To Waste



## Weekly food waste collections start during 2020

In Reading we recycle 35% of our household waste, our aim is to recycle at least 50%.

Reading Borough Council is introducing weekly food waste collections and also replacing grey wheeled bins with smaller 140 litre black wheeled bins for most properties during 2020

For more information about the changes visit:  
[reading.gov.uk/wastechanges](https://reading.gov.uk/wastechanges)