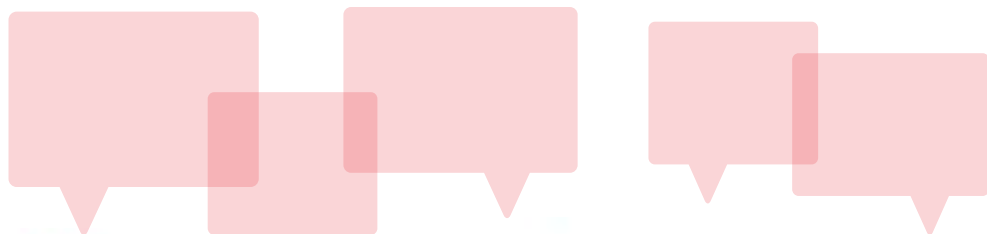


# TAKE PART

HELP SHAPE YOUR  
HARROW OF THE FUTURE



**HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HARROW**



The next four years will bring unprecedented challenges that will be imposed on Harrow and our residents.

The most severe challenge is that the Government is cutting the money it gives us. Government cuts mean we will need to remove £75 million from our budgets over the next four years. That cannot be done without a severe impact on the services we deliver.

This booklet sets out our 'Take Part' engagement, a major conversation between the Council and Harrow residents about what the Local Authority does in Harrow.

We want to start an ongoing discussion with you, Harrow's residents, about the impact that these

proposed cuts will have, which areas are a priority for you and what you would like us to concentrate on as we shape Harrow for the future.

In the initial 8 weeks, we will be talking with residents about the first round of proposed cuts. You will see in these savings that money will need to be taken from every Council department.

As we face the budget challenges of the next 4 years we want to work closely with the community to identify new and innovative solutions to running services, despite these cuts. In a world where the Council does less, Harrow's residents will need to take a more active role in shaping the services that the Council has traditionally delivered in the past.

**“Harrow Council needs to save £75 million in the next four years because of Government cuts imposed on us.”**

Your views drove how we wrote our election manifesto, and the Council has already started work to make sure we take our promises forward. These include investing £1 million in tackling domestic violence and supporting carers, as well as announcing plans to build more Council homes.

We are also working with new developers to bring major schemes forward and create more businesses and jobs in the borough. The Council is being innovative to reduce our costs and to protect front line services.

However, the reality is that protecting the services you prioritise in the coming consultation will mean other areas may lose out. For example, more money spent on people in need could mean less for road cleaning or parks. It is that simple.

Your input is vital in helping us make the right decisions, so please read this booklet and let us know how you can 'Take Part'. Whilst hard decisions need to be made, we are determined to work with residents to build a Harrow that we can all be proud of.

Kind Regards

**Cllr David Perry  
Leader of the Council**

**WHAT'S AT STAKE?**

**The Government is cutting the grant we receive. This means we are having to cut very significant sums from the money we spend on services like parks and children's centres.**

Cutting £75 million over 4 years will not be a simple task.

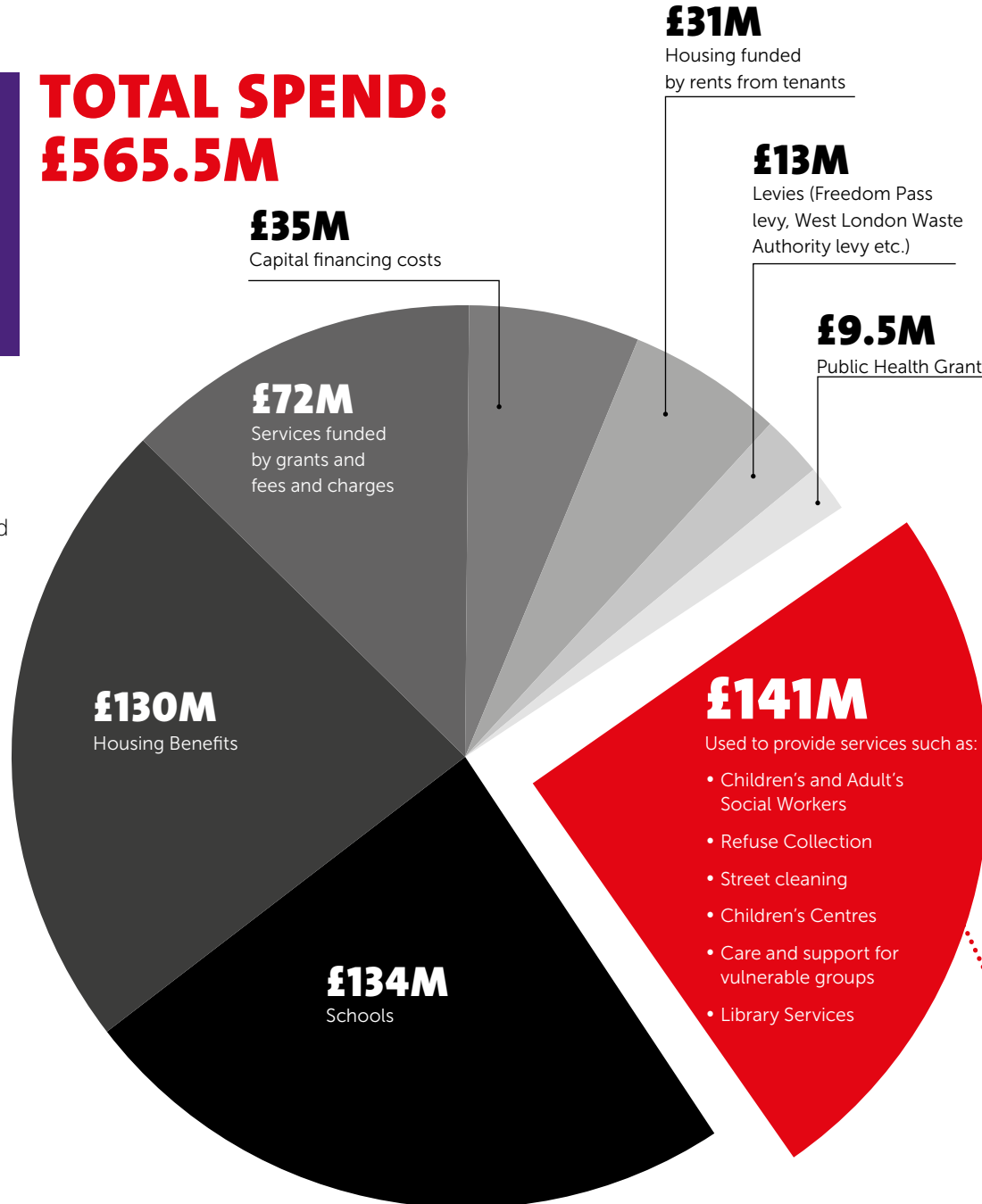
£75 million is the equivalent to £850 per household in the borough.

Each year, the Council spends around £565.5 million on everything from schools to cleaning streets, providing children services, libraries, emptying bins and looking after those in need.

Of this, around £424 million is either allocated to services not directly controlled by the Council or must be spent on specific areas as they are funded by grants we have received; for example Housing Benefit and teachers' salaries.

**This leaves a budget of £141 million from which the Council needs to save £75 million over four years, a saving of 53%**

**TOTAL SPEND: £565.5M**



Each year, due to an increase in population, the demand for services is growing whilst Central Government funding is reduced.

What this means is that the Council simply cannot keep running services the way we have in the past.

All Council departments will need to spend less money and some services may have to close or be scaled back.

The Council has already taken measures to minimise administration costs, cut red tape and increase efficiency with the way we work as a Council, and we promise to continue to do so.

We are reviewing all of our buildings and facilities to see what we can do to cut costs.

However, our room for manoeuvre on where we make cuts is vanishing rapidly.

**53% OF THE £141M, 53% NEEDS TO BE CUT FROM THE BUDGET IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS**

All Council services are likely to be affected. This means we are going to face some stark decisions such as:

If you want us to prioritise looking after those in need, we will need to spend less money on looking after your parks.



If you want us to prioritise providing arts and leisure programmes, we will need to spend less on our children's services.



If you want us to prioritise care of the elderly, then your street may get cleaned less often.



There is also the option of raising Council Tax. Nobody wants bigger bills, but the extra money raised from Council Tax would allow us to lessen some of the impact of Government cuts. Raising Council Tax by up to 2% would equate to 41p on average per week for each household.

**UP TO 2 % COUNCIL TAX INCREASE GIVES THE COUNCIL APPROXIMATELY £2 MILLION EACH YEAR. EQUIVALENT\* TO:**

**22 YOUTH WORKERS**



**REPAIR APPROXIMATELY 33,000 POT-HOLES OF AROUND 1M<sup>2</sup>**

**17 SOCIAL WORKERS**



**16 PLANNING OFFICERS**



**28 CHILDREN'S CENTRE WORKERS**



**24**

**STAFF TO ANSWER PHONES IN ACCESS HARROW**



\* Based on the amount of Council Tax left following deductions.

## WHO WILL BE AFFECTED?

**Harrow receives a disproportionately small Government grant despite having areas of deprivation and other issues seen in inner London boroughs. The Council has long argued that this is unfair and we are going to take that argument to the heart of Government to defend our services for residents.**

Everyone in the community is likely to be affected in some form.

Budget cuts mean that the Harrow of the future will look very different to the past.

Cuts could impact on everything from street cleaning to waste collection, school crossing patrols and car parking prices.

But with the Government cuts and the growing population, which puts pressure on services, there is a £75 million funding gap.

We are proposing innovative ways to make savings of £25 million in the first round of cuts, however there will be more budget reductions to come in future years.

As much as possible, cuts will be made in ways that do not affect residents, for example cuts to Council management.

### Options for the first round of cuts include:

- Reduce grass cutting in public spaces.
- Cut the number of senior managers in the Council.
- Closure of Emergency Relief Scheme due to removal of Government grant.
- Negotiate with suppliers to cut what they charge the Council.
- Cut funding provided to the voluntary sector.
- Switch off some street lights, or reduce the hours that they are on for.
- Reduce the number of staff answering the main switchboard. This means the average waiting time will increase.
- Removal of the Friday and Saturday night Environment Health noise nuisance response service and a reduction in the size of the team (maintaining minimum service levels for Environmental Health).
- Close the Harrow Arts Centre and look for an alternative space for it to continue from 2016 onwards.
- Cut the number of Council committees.
- Close or reduce some of the Council's early support services to families, including Children's Centres.
- Close the Harrow Museum.
- Don't provide as many short respite breaks to children and carers as we do now.
- Remove additional road/pavement sweeping near shopping parades.
- Introduce a separate weekly food waste collection and charging for a fortnightly collection of garden waste.
- Stop locking park gates, increase biodiversity in parks and cut the number of times litter is picked up. Move to community management of parks.
- Close some of Harrow's libraries.
- Cut the costs of maintaining Council buildings.
- Cut some support provided to older and disabled people in Harrow under the Supporting People Programme.
- Review Fees and Charges charged by the Council, including parking charges.
- Do more online and by email to cut the costs of postage.
- Stop funding community festivals.
- Share Council services with other boroughs.

We will be talking to users and residents, and seeking to discuss these changes with everyone. You can find more information about both the cuts and consultations at [www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart).

### IMPROVING HARROW

There are many positive things the Council will be doing to make Harrow a better place to live.

- We continue to bid successfully for funding to allow us to improve the town centre and build more affordable homes.
- We have identified land for 6,000 new homes across the borough and have begun working with residents on the Grange Farm Estate about regeneration plans.
- We have begun work to expand our schools to provide an additional 5,000 places for our children.
- Major developers have invested in and are progressing the development at sites such as the old Post Office (near Harrow-on-the-Hill station) and Lyon Road (near Debenhams).
- These developments will help deliver the 3,000 new jobs and 500 new apprenticeships we have committed to providing for our residents.
- We are working hard to bring together health and social care services so the public can have a better experience, and we are implementing programmes that encourage residents to get more active.



## TAKE PART: TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We are calling on all residents to 'Take Part' and join the conversation about the kind of Harrow we are shaping.

Your feedback is important, as what you tell us will determine how we prepare for future budget cuts.

We will strive to ensure that each and every resident has the opportunity to be involved in decisions about the future of Harrow.

### THE FIRST STEP

We will be speaking with you from Thursday 11th September through to Saturday 8th November about how the first round of spending cuts will affect you.

The Council needs to make a decision about the budget for 2015-16 by February 2015 and has outlined a list of proposed cuts, which it will speak with residents about in the first instance.

We will be asking you to indicate how savings measures will affect you and the community, and how you can take a more proactive role in helping us to deliver these services.

Along side to this, the Council will be working more closely with specific service users, and interested parties, about savings proposals. The Council wants to understand on a deeper level how the cuts will affect the direct users of the services, and work with them to find a way to deliver the cuts with minimal impact.



#### Online:

Share your thoughts on the budget by completing our online survey at [www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart)



#### In writing:

Visit **Harrow Council, Civic 1, Station Road HA1 2XY**, or any of the Harrow Libraries to pick up a paper copy of the survey. To find your closest library, visit [www.harrow.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/libraries) Email [takepart@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:takepart@harrow.gov.uk) or call **020 8416 8733** to get a copy of the survey sent to you.



#### By video:

Record your thoughts and send them in to [takepart@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:takepart@harrow.gov.uk) or tag us on facebook [www.facebook.com/lbharrow](http://www.facebook.com/lbharrow) or twitter [@harrow\\_council](https://twitter.com/harrow_council). For more information about how these videos will be used and to view some submissions visit [www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart)



#### In person:

Drop by one of the Council's 'Take Part' sessions where you can meet with Councillors and senior officers to discuss the cuts face to face.

#### Wednesday 17th September

10am-2pm, Queensbury (Queensbury Circle)

#### Sunday 21st September

12-6pm, Under One Sky, Byron Park, Wealdstone

#### Saturday 27th September

12-4pm, Rayners Lane (Near to Rayners Lane station)

#### Saturday 4th October

12-4pm, South Harrow (Corner of Northolt Road and Eastcote Lane)

#### Thursday 9th October

12-4pm, Stanmore (Bernays Memorial Hall)

#### Saturday 18th October

10am-4pm, Harrow Town Centre (Near to St Georges)

#### Saturday 25th October

12-4pm, Pinner (Corner of Love Lane and Bridge Street)

The Council will also be holding a number of drop in sessions around other locations in the borough. For more information on these sessions visit [www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart)

For some of the proposals, more detailed discussions will take place with specific users and interested parties.

For more information on these consultations visit [www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart)

### THE SECOND STEP

For the next four years, we are going to be coming to you regularly asking where your priority areas for spending are. Should the emphasis be on the vulnerable? Street lighting? Or do you want to see more money go into affordable housing and regeneration proposals to bring more jobs to Harrow?

#### What we will do with your feedback:

Any feedback you give us is important and will help us shape the decisions we make in coming years. Your submissions will be reflected in a report which will inform the decisions we take.

**The Government is massively cutting the grant we receive which means our budget is £75 million short. Help us make the right decisions.**

# TAKE PART

HELP SHAPE YOUR  
HARROW OF THE FUTURE

It will be down to all of us to play more of a part in shaping the Harrow we want. The more people who volunteer, the more services we can deliver together.

## Are you involved with a voluntary or community group?

We want to talk to you about how we can run some services together.

## Can you volunteer your time?

We will be encouraging volunteering as much as possible – for example looking after areas of public land, or supporting your neighbours. Is this something you could help with?

## Do you have a skill that would support the Council in some way?

We are also considering asking local people to do some jobs themselves, with Council support – for example gritting some side roads in winter. Would you consider this kind of role? Is this a reasonable thing for the Council to ask? What else might residents be prepared to do?

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

🌐 [harrow.gov.uk/takepart](http://harrow.gov.uk/takepart)  
@ [takepart@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:takepart@harrow.gov.uk)  
☎ 020 8416 8733



A copy of this booklet will be made available in an easy to read format. It can be downloaded from [www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/takepart) or phone **020 8416 8733** to request to have a copy posted to you. For a translated version or a copy in an alternate format email [takepart@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:takepart@harrow.gov.uk) or phone **020 8416 8733**.