

The £90m questi

With further Government funding cuts on the horizon, the council needs to make more savings – and it wants your views on the best way forward

Since 2011, the council has found savings of around £150m by changing the way it delivers some services, making each pound of taxpayers' money go further.

Now, in the light of further reductions in its Government funding and rising demand for services, the authority needs to save an additional £90m annually by 2019.

The council's budget (excluding schools) will then have been almost halved over the decade.

The scale of this challenge means the council must again review its priorities to decide which services should be most protected and which should be provided differently, at a reduced level or not at all.

Cllr Martin Hill, leader of Lincolnshire County Council, said: "Over the next few years, our income will continue to be reduced significantly, and we're going to have to cut back on our spending accordingly.

"We've already started to reduce our operating costs by making efficiency savings wherever possible.

"Our senior management team has already been cut back even further, saving us an additional £2m each year.

"And we've brought in private-sector firm Serco to deliver our support and customer services, cutting costs by an extra £14m over the next few years. However, we cannot find this additional £90m each year through efficiency savings alone.

"We need to decide which services we believe are essential and which, while desirable, could be reduced, delivered in a different way, or even stopped."

The services we provide

This year, we will be spending £654m on services that make a difference to the lives of everyone in the county:

Children's services

We protect children's welfare and provide social care, support for young carers, fostering and adoption services, and schools transport.

Protecting vulnerable adults

Often called social care, this involves looking after Lincolnshire's growing population of older residents and other people in need of support.

Public Health

We make sure everyone can get the vaccinations and screenings they need to protect against disease, as well as help to achieve a healthier lifestyle.

Roads and transport

We maintain Lincolnshire's cycleways, footpaths and 5,500 miles of roads. During bad weather we grit 1,917 miles of highways to keep England's fourth largest county moving.

Economic regeneration

We attract new businesses to Lincolnshire and help start-up enterprises to encourage job creation. We invest in maintaining and refurbishing heritage sites such as Lincoln Castle, encouraging people to visit the county.



Libraries

The council runs libraries, including mobile and online services, and has been consulting on the best way forward for a sustainable future.

Waste management

Last year we opened a £145m Energy from Waste plant, which powers 15,000 homes by burning rubbish collected in Lincolnshire. We also run household waste recycling centres.

Keeping you safe

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue and Trading Standards work tirelessly to keep residents safe. We contribute towards Lincolnshire's Police Community Support Officers. We also work with partner organisations to plan for emergencies, including flooding, and to tackle ongoing problems such as domestic abuse.

Registrations and celebrations

Births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships – we register the key moments in the lives of Lincolnshire residents.

Investing for the future

The council also makes capital investments in things like roads and schools.