

SHAPING OUR FUTURE



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our second Budget Briefing which outlines how much East Renfrewshire Council is spending on services during the current year, 2022/23.

In October we published our first Budget Briefing to highlight the unprecedented funding challenges faced by the Council over the next three years. The money we receive from government to provide vital frontline services is expected to stay at the same cash level as this year for the next three years.

That means a significant cut in funding in real terms, as we are facing the same challenges as everyone else in terms of inflation and rising energy costs. Current estimates show we could face a funding shortfall of more than £30m between 2023 and 2026 just to provide the same levels of service as we currently do.

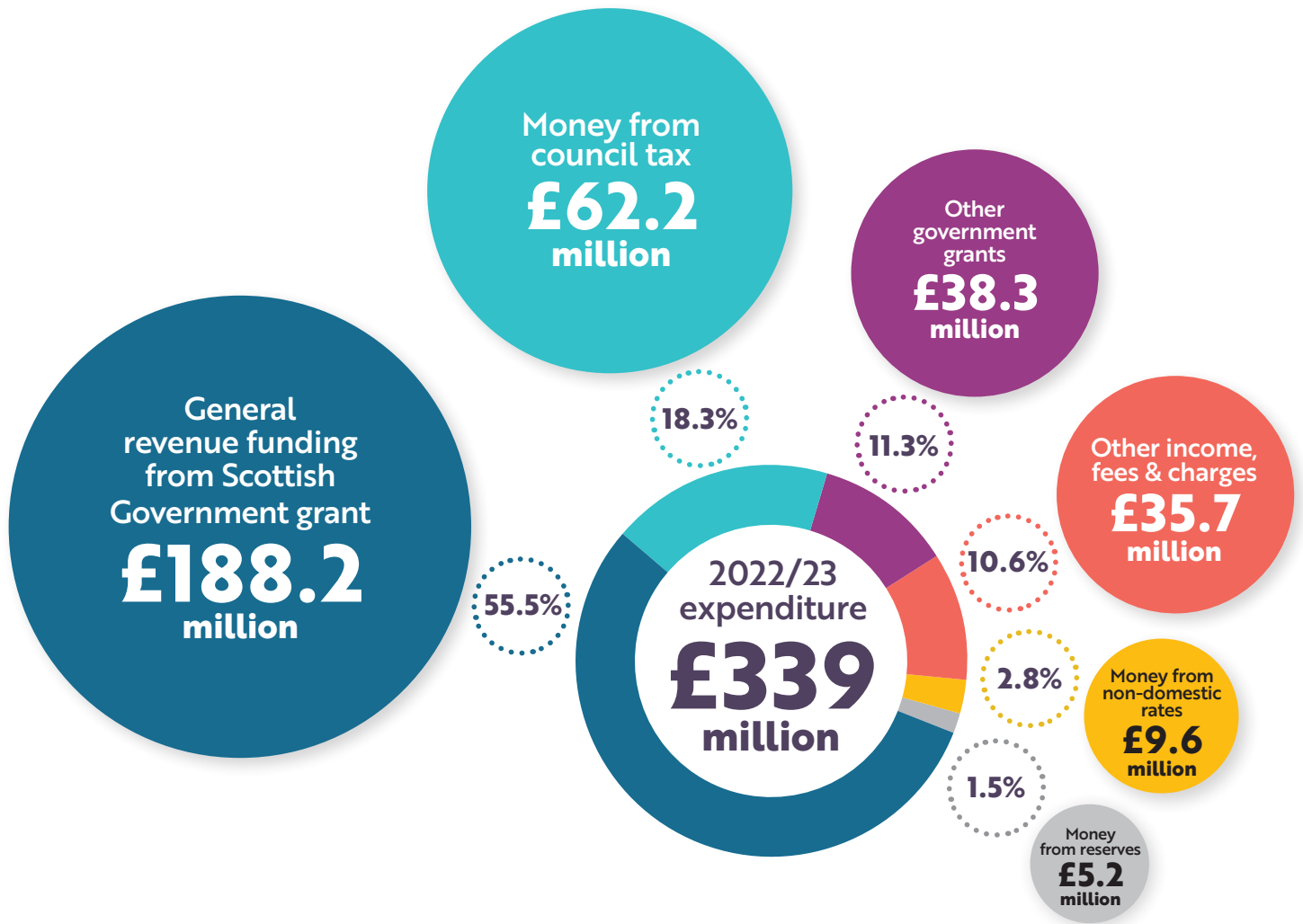
We've already had to make savings of more than £80m since 2015-16, so now have no option but to consider cutting services and jobs and increasing charges including council tax. We are being upfront with local residents about the scale of this challenge and these briefings are part of a major public engagement exercise where you will be able to have your say on our plans.

This year East Renfrewshire Council will spend more than £339m on services aimed at improving the lives of residents across East Renfrewshire. This spending covers a wide range of services and in this Briefing we want to give you an idea of how much it costs to deliver each service. We can't cover every service in detail but we hope by presenting this information to you in a way that tries to avoid jargon, you can get a feel for the cost of delivering our services.

The next few years are not going to be easy. We expect budgets will be reduced in real terms and there is a growing demand for many of our services due to an increasing population. In particular, we expect a large increase in the number of older people living here. Life expectancy in East Renfrewshire is amongst the highest in Scotland which means we have many people over 85 who need support to live independently.

We hope you find this information useful and will use it when commenting on our budget proposals for future years.

WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM



Most of our funding comes directly from the Scottish Government in our annual grant settlement, with just 18% raised from what residents pay in council tax. On a like for like basis our grant settlement has not increased in line with inflation for many years and we have had to look for savings every year to balance our budget.

Our total expenditure for the current year is just over £339m and here is more information on how that is broken down.

General Revenue Funding: This is the funding we receive from the Scottish Government to help run our services and makes up the biggest part of our budget.

Money from Council Tax: Council Tax is the system of local taxation used in Scotland to part fund the services provided by local government. Residents are often rightly concerned about what their council tax is spent on but - as the graphic on our funding shows - the money raised from council tax only accounts for about 18% of our total funding.

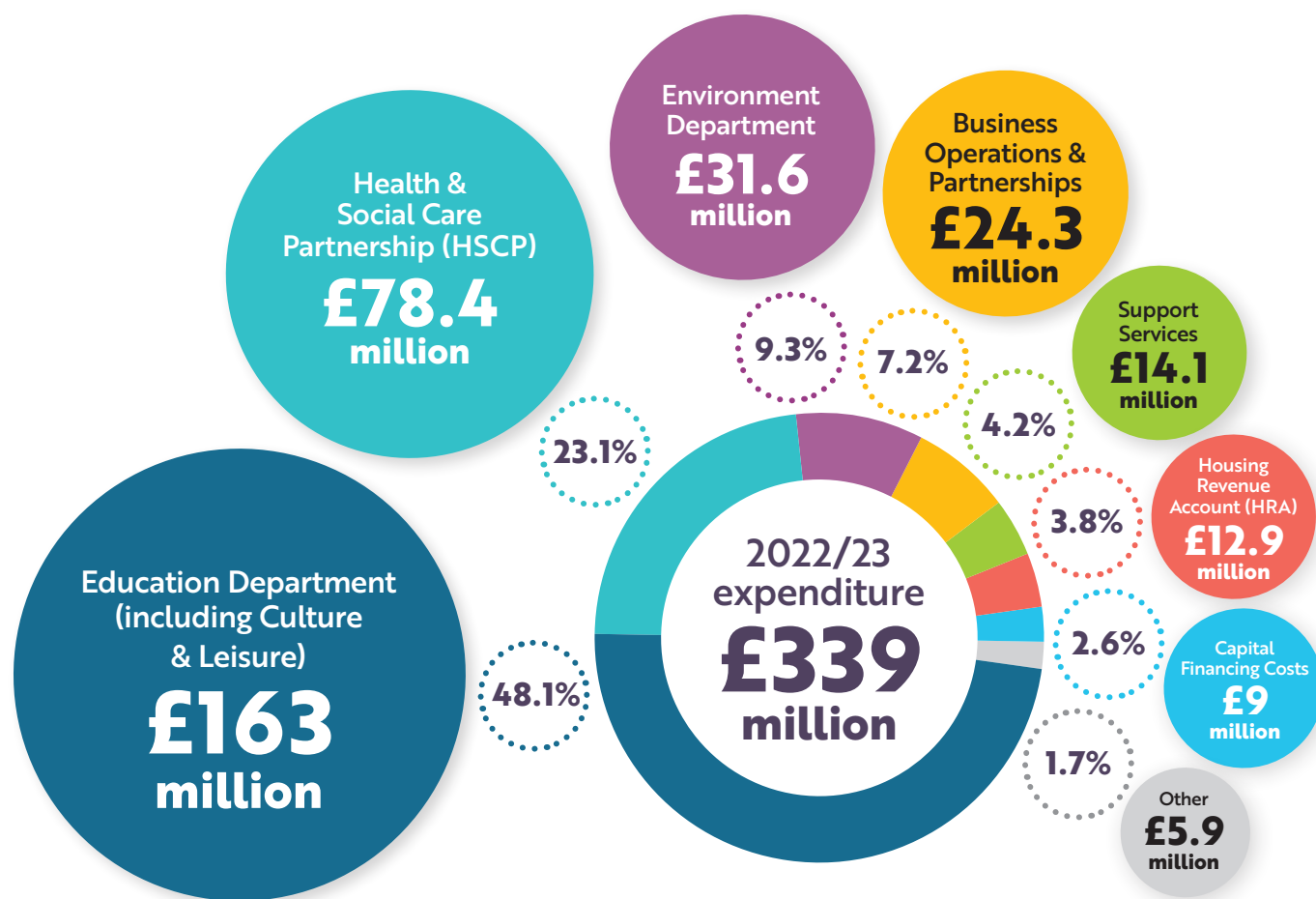
Government Grants: This is the funding we receive from the government for specific purposes, such as offering more early years provision to parents of young children and Pupil Equity Funding for schools. We are not allowed to use this money to fund other services.

Other income: We receive income from a wide range of sources, such as the NHS to enable our Health and Care Social Partnership to deliver important frontline services, and also from organisations such as Skills Development Scotland and Trading Standards Scotland. There are some services we charge our residents for, such as licencing and garden waste collection, and we also receive money from council house rent.

Non-domestic rates: Non-domestic rates are paid by businesses and collected by councils, paid into a central pot and then redistributed to councils.

Money from our reserves: Organisations need to keep some money in reserve for emergencies. This year, the council decided to take more than £5m from reserves to help prevent further cuts to services. The amount was carefully calculated to ensure a minimum amount of reserves is retained for emergencies and to safeguard long-term financial planning.

WHAT WE SPEND ON SERVICES



In this graphic, you can see how the Council's overall expenditure of £339m is broken down by department.

This information is based on total spend (gross expenditure) on services in 2022/23 as outlined in a report to East Renfrewshire Council on 3 March 2022 ([Revenue Estimates 2022/23](#)). This is the report which set our budget for the year.

This year we received additional funding from the Scottish Government to support our work on Covid recovery but we have not included this in our analysis as we do not expect to get this funding in future years.

This information is about the savings we need to make on our revenue budget which pays for our day to day activities but councils also have a capital budget. Capital expenditure is what councils spend on premises, equipment and vehicles, improvements to roads and in providing new assets such as schools. Councils can borrow to help fund capital expenditure, with borrowing charges paid for from our revenue expenditure. A further £145m is planned to be spent on capital improvement works such as new schools and leisure facilities over the next three years. Any savings we have to make must come from our Revenue Budget.

Our Education Department spends £163m on primary and secondary schools, early learning and childcare centres, adult learning and funds our Culture and Leisure Trust to provide services such as libraries and leisure centres.

The Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) spends £78.4m on social care services and social work. The HSCP has its own board, the Integration Joint Board, which agrees how it should spend its money.

The Environment Department spends £31.6m on a wide range of frontline services including Roads, Cleansing, Waste Management and Parks, Planning and Building Standards, Economic Development, Environmental Health and Trading Standards, and Housing.

Business Operations and Partnerships spends £24.3m and operates a number of shared services on behalf of the whole Council. This includes Customer First which handles enquiries from the public in person, on the phone and online, Community Safety which includes wardens and which also operates our out-of-hours service, council tax collection, housing benefits and our Money Advice and Rights Team.

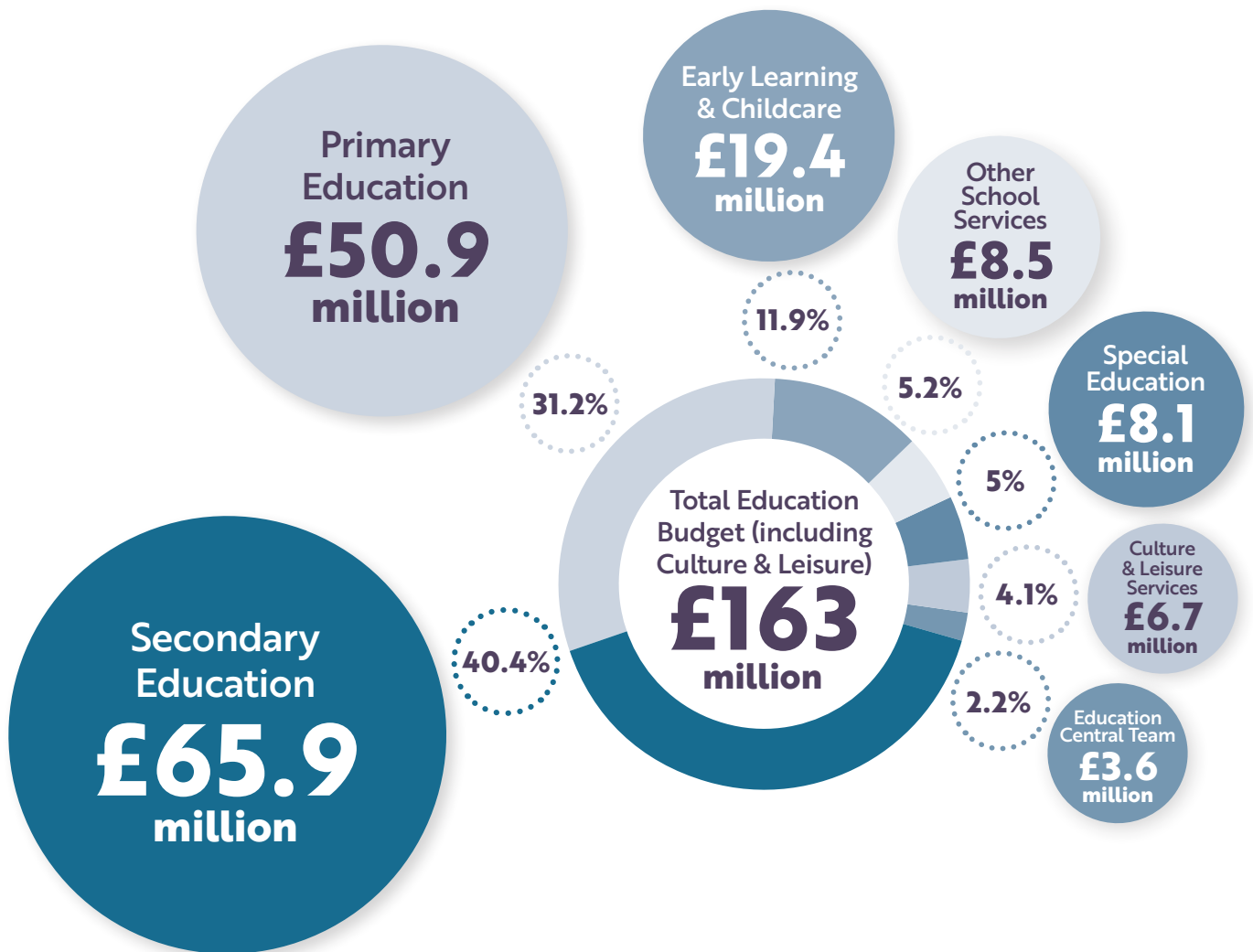
We spend about £14.2m on support services such as accountancy, audit, legal, ICT, HR and procurement which is just over 4% of our total spend.

The Council's housing team spend £12.9m. This money comes from rents or specific Government grants, and not from Council Tax or general government grant funding. Rent income can only be spent on council housing.

We spend £9m on financing important long-term capital projects such as new schools and leisure facilities. We do get a range of funding for capital projects such as capital grants and developer contributions but still have to borrow money for capital projects.

We spend £5.9m on services we have grouped in the "other" category. These include payments to joint boards such as Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and the Valuation Board (a total of £2.4m), corporate management costs (£0.3m) and other miscellaneous costs (£3.2m).

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Our Education Department includes 24 primary schools (13 of which have nursery classes), seven secondary schools, 10 family centres and one school for children with additional support needs. A total of £163m – almost half of the Council’s overall spending – goes on Education and Culture and Leisure Services in East Renfrewshire.

Secondary Education for everyone attending our schools between S1 and S6 which covers more than 8000 pupils, supported by 662 teachers and 158 support staff in seven secondary schools.

Primary Education for more than 9000 learners between P1 and P7 who are supported by 578 teachers and 147 support staff in 24 primary schools.

Early learning and Childcare supports the children aged 0 to 5 years who attend the six new nurseries we have opened in recent years and 16 other early learning and childcare settings. More than 2000 children are supported by 403 staff in our early learning and childcare settings.

Other School Services covers those services which are best managed centrally rather than at school level and include Music Services, Modern Apprenticeships and Vocational Programmes. Also included here are a range of services across all educational establishments including

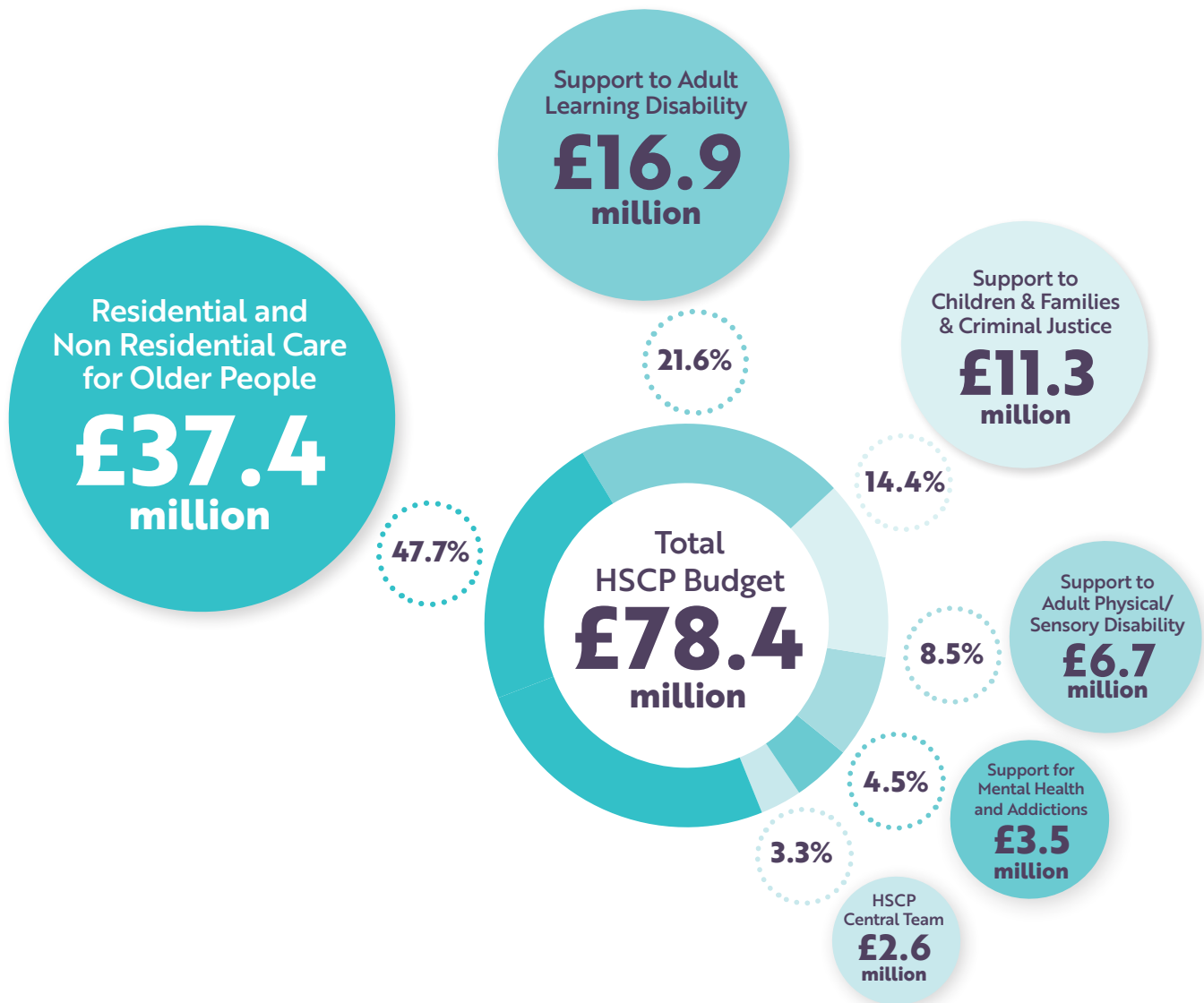
psychological services and school transport (excluding special education transport), janitorial services and clothing grants.

Special Education includes the costs of running Isobel Mair School (IMS), Carlibar Communication Centre (CCC), Williamwood Communication and Support Service (WCSS), Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs (SEBN) Outreach Support Service, Sensory Support Service and the costs of specialist support commissioned from outwith the council area. More than 300 pupils attend specialist provision, including 152 at IMS, 125 at CCC and 37 at WCSS, supported by 129 staff.

Culture and Leisure This is money we give to the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust (£5.4m) for running our leisure centres, libraries and community halls. It accounts for around half the running costs, with the remainder raised by the Trust. In addition, this budget supports the property costs (£1.3m) for the buildings used by the Trust.

Education Central Team is the team which supports schools and early learning and childcare establishments to provide high quality education through managing budgets and buildings, ensuring improvement and modernisation, business support, including school transport, and dealing with both school and early years admissions.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP



A wide range of frontline services are delivered by the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). The total gross expenditure of HSCP is just over £78.4 million, almost 25% of the Council's overall expenditure.

Residential and Non-Residential Care for older people: The costs of services to all people aged over 65, including those with dementia, mental health issues or a physical or other disability. Includes home care, day care, sheltered housing support and support for carers, and supporting people who live in care homes, including those residents of the Council's own care home, Bonnyton House.

Support for Adult Learning Disability: This includes the costs of services to people aged 18 to 64 where the primary reason for their care is related to a learning disability. Costs include spend on assessment and care management, occupational therapy, supported living, self-directed support, day care and support for carers, including short breaks and advocacy.

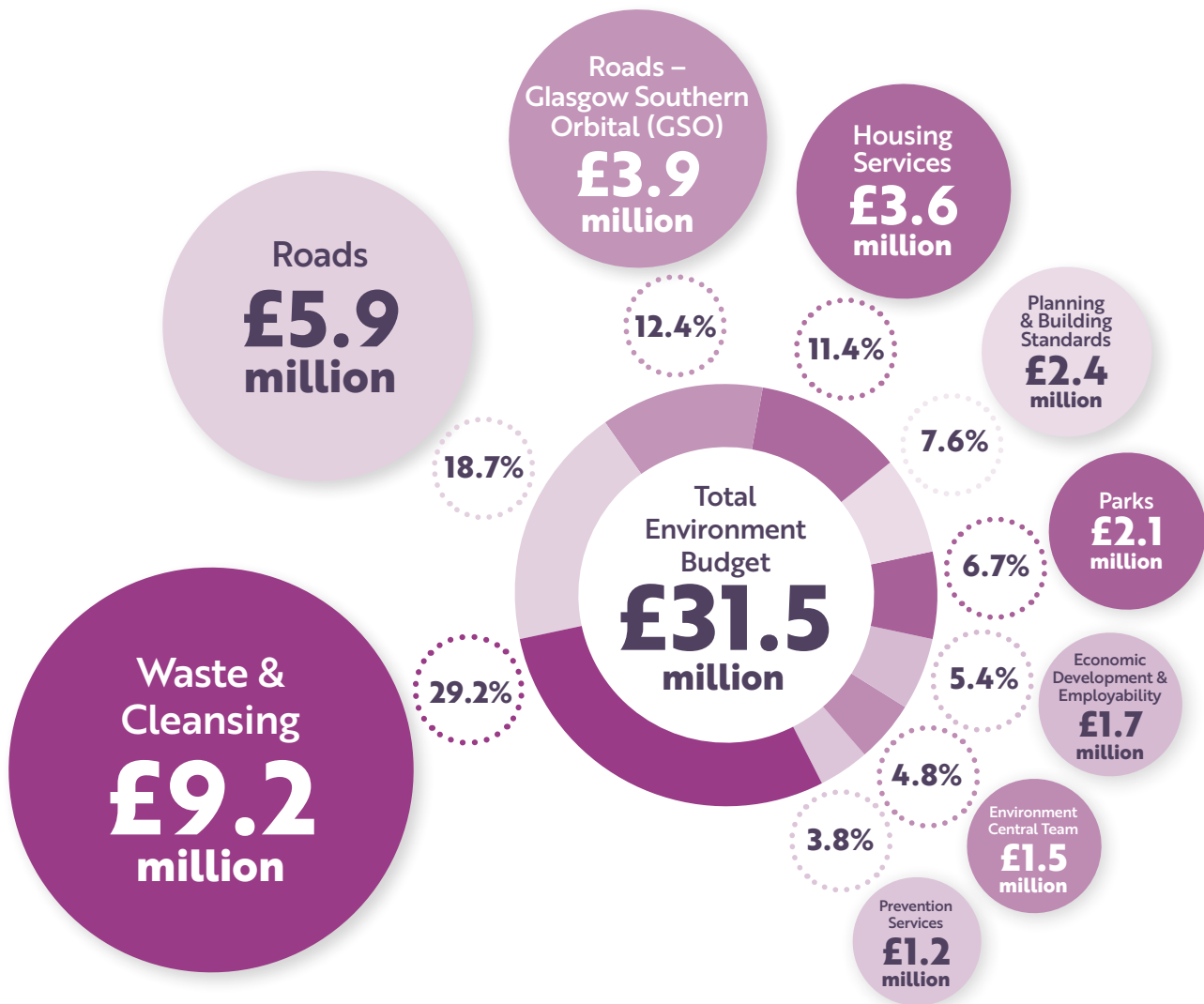
Support to Children and Families and Criminal Justice: This budget supports services to children and families; child protection, looked after children, fostering, adoption, criminal justice and youth justice services.

Support for Adult Physical/Sensory Disability: This includes the costs of services to people aged 18 to 64 where the primary reason for their care is related to a physical or sensory disability. Costs include spend on assessment and care management, occupational therapy, equipment and adaptations, self-directed support, residential care, day care and support for carers including short breaks and advocacy.

Support for Mental Health and Addictions: Support for those whose health is impacted by mental health issues or addiction.

HSCP Central Team: The team who support HSCP frontline services through finance, commissioning, planning, health improvement, management and other office support.

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Our Environment Department covers a wide range of frontline services including refuse collection, roads and Parks. In total, more than £31m is spent by the Department of Environment, just under 10% of the Council's overall expenditure.

Waste Management: The cost of collecting and disposing of household waste as well as keeping streets litter free.

Roads: Includes maintenance and repairs, street lighting, winter maintenance and flood prevention.

Roads - Glasgow Southern Orbital (GSO): This is money we receive from the Government to run the Southern Orbital dual carriageway leading to the M77.

Housing Services: This is separate spend from the council housing budget (which is funded from rent). It includes spend on all types of housing ownership including repair services, disabled adaptation, homelessness, landlord services and environmental improvements.

Planning and Building Standards: Funds planning officers and building standards officers who consider planning applications and building applications. This budget also covers our support for Dams to Darnley Country Park and Whitelee Windfarm.

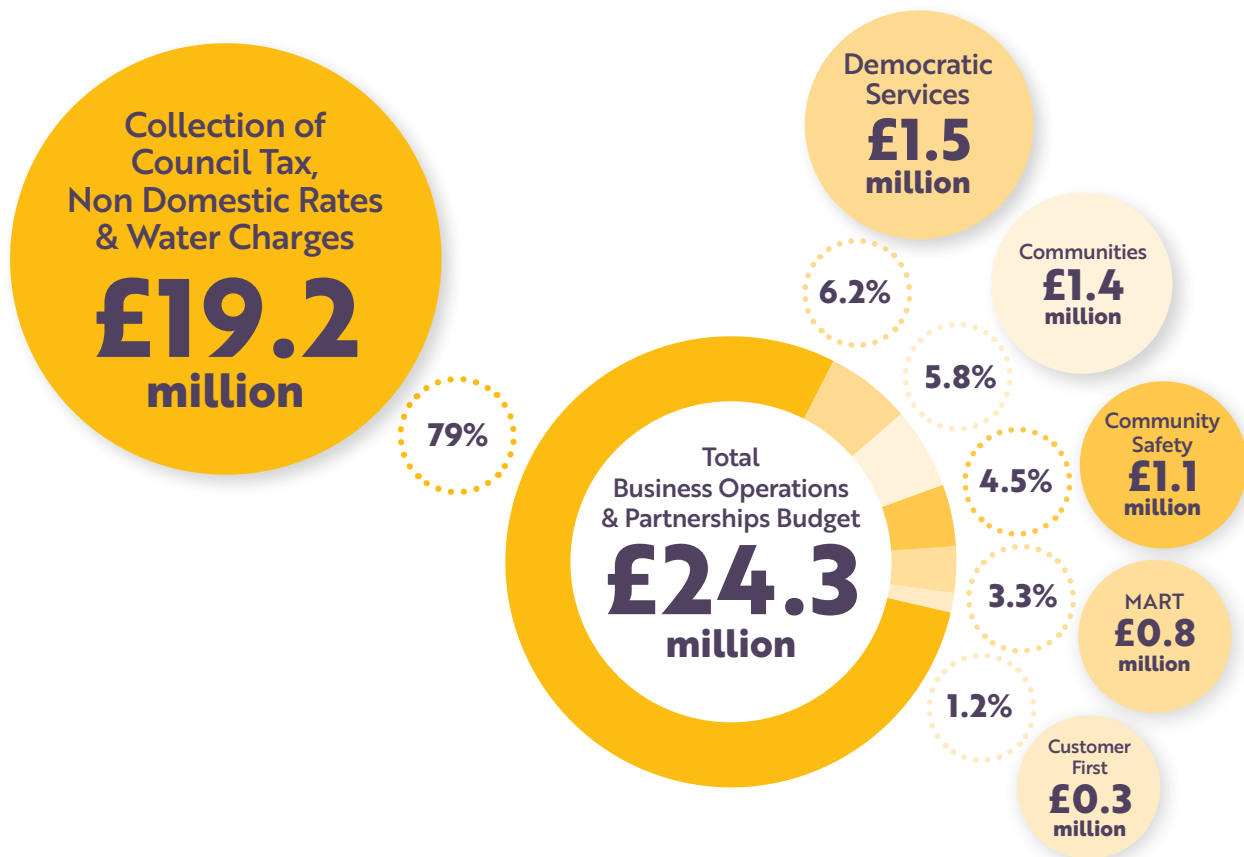
Parks: Maintaining our award-winning parks and other open spaces as well as cemeteries.

Economic Development and Employability: Teams supporting local businesses and helping people into work.

Environment Central Team: This includes the Environment Department's Director and Senior Management Team and teams working on behalf of all services on work such as Climate Change, business intelligence, improvement and change work and the shared running costs of council-owned buildings.

Prevention Services: Environmental Health and Trading Standards work together in Prevention Services to ensure our residents are safe and all legislation is adhered to.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS DEPARTMENT



The Department of Business Operations & Partnerships includes Community Safety, Democratic Services and Money Advice & Rights Team (MART). The total expenditure for the department is more than £24m, with over £17.6m of this funding being used to support residents through benefits payments or council tax reductions.

Collection of Council Tax, non-domestic rates and water charges: This budget covers the costs of collecting council tax, non-domestic rates, and water charges (on behalf of Scottish Water). It also covers the costs of the reduction on council tax we give residents due to low income, housing benefits and the Scottish Welfare Fund, as well as the relief small businesses receive on non-domestic rates. £17.6m of the budget directly benefits residents and businesses financially.

Democratic Services: This includes costs associated with councillors and services to support the working of the Council including Committee Services and Elections.

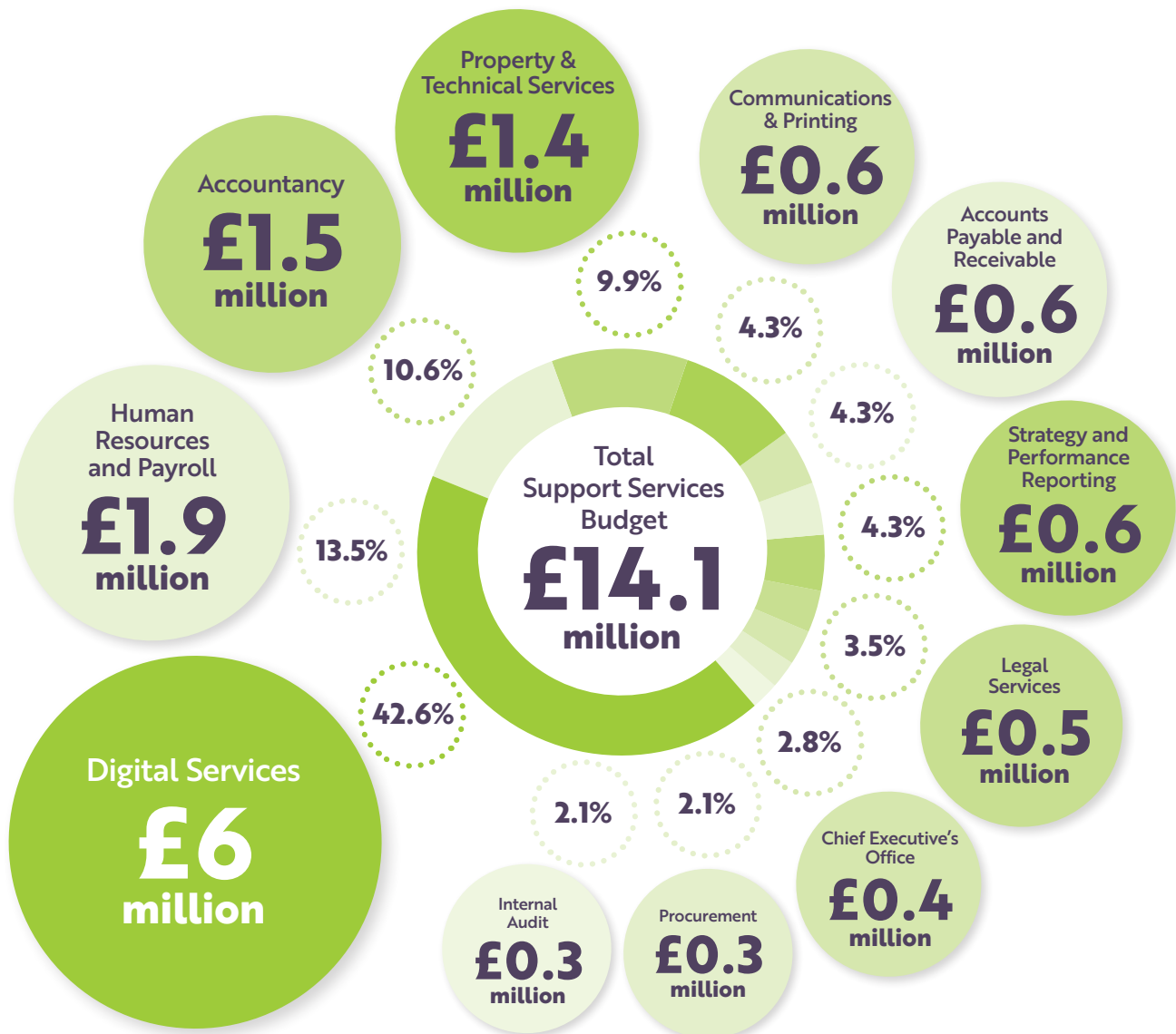
Communities: Including services such as Community Learning & Development (CLD), locality planning support, participatory budget planning, youth work, Auchenback Resource Centre (ARC) & small community grants.

Community Safety: This is the cost of the work we do to keep people safe. It covers running our network of CCTV cameras, our community wardens and our telecare service which supports hundreds of vulnerable residents,

MART: The Money Advice & Rights Team support East Renfrewshire residents with all aspects of financial support.

Customer First: This includes registration services for birth, deaths and marriages and the team handling enquiries from the public in person, on the phone and online about a range of council service. Customer First recharges other services in the Council £1.2m for delivering services on their behalf.

SUPPORT SERVICES



A range of key support services play a critical role in ensuring the Council is able to deliver efficient and effective day-to-day operational services, transformation and service improvement which improve the quality of life for people in East Renfrewshire. Over recent years, the costs of these services has reduced to ensure the organisation is as lean as possible whilst retaining professional, high quality services. The total expenditure for Support Services is just over £14m, or 4% of the Council's overall expenditure.

Digital Services: This includes all our ICT work from day-to-day support of laptops, networks and phones, managing ICT projects, through to upgrading business applications. The total here includes the budget for all ICT contracts and the Project Management Office who lead our digital transformation work across the Council.

Human Resources and Payroll: Manages recruitment, all HR matters and ensures our 4000 employees are paid on time.

Accountancy: Provides professional financial support to teams across the Council ensuring the maximum effective use of financial resources and that we meet our statutory requirements.

Property and Technical Services: This team carries out repairs and maintenance of council buildings.

Also includes Health and Safety Unit which provides advice and support to services across the Council.

Accounts Payable and Receivable: Responsibility for ensuring the issue, collection and payment of invoices for the Council in a timely and accurate manner.

Communications and Printing: Shares important messages with our residents and runs the Council's social media channels. Also handles staff communications, marketing and design and printing services as well as responding to press and media enquiries.

Strategy and Performance Reporting: Ensuring we take a strategic approach to our operations and undertake performance reporting to maintain best practice.

Legal Services: Legal advice and support across the whole council.

Chief Executive's Office: Support for the office of the Chief Executive, procurement and legal services.

Procurement: Support for officers across the council in adhering to strict rules covering the awarding of contracts and ensuring that best value is achieved.

Internal Audit: Independent unit which objectively examines, evaluates and reports on the adequacy of internal financial controls.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This document has been developed to provide a high level overview of how we spend our money. We have simplified the budget estimates, rounded up figures and removed internal recharges and support services to display these costs separately. This means some of the figures will differ slightly from the budget estimates. The actual gross expenditure in 2022/23 may also vary due to changes in current and predicted demand on services.

We hope you find this document useful and welcome any feedback which you can email to us at communications@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or write to us at Budget Feedback, Corporate Communications, Council HQ, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire G46 6UG.

OTHER USEFUL READING

[Budget Briefing, October 2022](#)

[How we spend money](#)

[Performance](#)

[Programmes and Plans](#)

[Planning for the Future](#)

[Covid-19 impact report](#)

[Digital Transformation Strategy](#)