

Your Council Tax Information for 2007/2008

Revenue Services HART

VALUATION BANDS

Most dwellings are subject to the council tax. There is one bill per dwelling, whether it is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette, mobile home or houseboat, and whether it is owned or rented. Each dwelling has been allocated to one of eight bands according to its open market capital value at 1 April 1991, by the Valuation Office at the Inland Revenue Office.

VALUATION BAND RANGE OF VALUES

A	Up to and including £40,000	E	£88,001 - £120,000
B	£40,001 - £52,000	F	£120,001 - £160,000
C	£52,001 - £68,000	G	£160,001 - £220,000
D	£68,001 - £88,000	H	More than £220,000

Your Council Tax bill states which band applies to your dwelling.

Appeals regarding the valuation band of your property are dealt with by the Listing Office at the Valuation Office, The Square, Basing View, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4LY. Telephone 01256 726100

The grounds for appeal about banding are restricted to the following cases:

- Where there has been a material increase or reduction in the property value e.g. either an extension has been added or part of the property demolished
- Conversion of houses to flats.
- Physical changes in the locality affecting the value of your home.

Please note that the current market price is not the best evidence for the Valuation Office to consider whether your property has been correctly banded, as property values for Council Tax purpose are based on the market prices as at 1st April 1991.

- Where you start or stop using part of your property to carry out a business, or the balance between domestic and business use change.
- Where you become the Council Taxpayer in respect of the property for the first time, then within six months you can appeal to the Valuation Office.

Council Tax was introduced 1st April 1993 and all Council Taxpayers at that time could challenge their banding until 30th November 1993. Therefore if the original resident failed to appeal, as the new Taxpayer, you would have another chance to put forward a case.

- Where there is a band change to your property or a similar property to yours (made by the court), again you have six months to appeal to the Valuation Office.

The Valuation of Annexes
If an annex or similar part of a property is occupied by an elderly or disabled relative of the Council Tax payers, then it should not be regarded as a separate dwelling for Council Tax purposes. If you think you are affected by this, please contact the Valuation Office, The Square, Basing View, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4LY. Telephone 01256 726100.

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of any tax outstanding. If your appeal is successful you will be entitled to a refund of any overpaid Council Tax. Further details of the appeal procedure can be obtained from Hart Revenue Services on 01252 774444.

EXEMPT DWELLINGS

Certain properties may be exempt. If you believe your property falls in to one of the categories below, please contact Hart Revenue Services on 01252 774444

A Property which is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished where less than 6 months has elapsed since the structural alteration or repair works were completed or a property which requires or is undergoing major repairs to make it habitable. After a year has elapsed a 50% charge is levied.

B A dwelling owned by a charity which is unoccupied and has been so for less than 6 months.
C Property which is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished and has been so for less than 6 months.
D Unoccupied property where the owner is in detention by order of a court.

E Unoccupied property which was previously the home of a person now living in a hospital, care home or hostel, where they receive care.

F Unoccupied property where grant of probate or letter of administration (upon death of owner) has not been made or less than 6 months since the day on which grant of probate or letter of administration was made.

G Unoccupied property where occupation is prohibited by law.
H Unoccupied property held for the use of a minister of religion from which to perform his duties.

I Unoccupied property where the owner is living elsewhere for the purpose of receiving personal care due to old age, disablement, illness, alcohol or drug dependence, or mental disorder.

J Unoccupied property where the owner is living elsewhere in order to provide personal care to a person, due to old age, disablement, illness, alcohol or drug dependence, or mental disorder.

K Unoccupied property where the owner (liable person) is a student and it was last occupied only by students.

L Unoccupied property that has been repossessed by a mortgage lender.
M Halls of residence provided predominantly for the accommodation of students.

N Occupied property where ALL of the residents are students.
O Property owned by the Ministry of Defence, which is held as accommodation for the armed forces.

P Property occupied by a member of visiting forces, who would otherwise be liable to pay the Council Tax.
Q An unoccupied property for which a person is liable for Council Tax only in his capacity as a trustee in bankruptcy.

R Unoccupied caravan pitches or moorings.
S Occupied only by people under 18 years of age.

T An unoccupied annex which cannot be let separately.
U Occupied only by severely mentally impaired people.

V A dwelling which is the main UK residence of a diplomat.
W Granny Annex occupied by a dependent relative who is over 65 and disabled or severely mentally impaired.

DISCOUNTS

The Full Council Tax bill assumes that there are two adults living in the dwelling. If only one adult lives in a dwelling (as their main home) the Council Tax bill will be reduced by 25%.

Unoccupied but furnished dwellings and second homes incur a charge of 50%.

Some people will not be counted when looking at the number of adults resident in a dwelling if they meet certain conditions. Such people include:

- Full-time (non-military) students, student nurses, apprentices and youth training trainees.
- Patients resident in hospital
- People who are being looked after in care homes

- People who are severely mentally impaired
- People staying in certain hostels or night shelters
- 18 and 19 years olds who are at or have just left school
- Careworkers working for low pay, usually for charities
- People caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner, or child under 18 years of age
- Members of visiting overseas forces, certain international institutions, diplomats.
- Members of religious communities (monks and nuns)
- People in prison (except those in prison for non-payments of council tax or a fine).

If you think you may be entitled to a discount you should contact Hart Revenue Services. If your bill indicates that a discount has been allowed, you must tell Hart Council of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement. If you fail to do so you may be required to pay a penalty of £50, in addition to all the discounts allowed incorrectly.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

If you or some one who lives with you, need a room, an extra bathroom, kitchen or extra space in your property or use a wheelchair indoors to meet special needs arising from a disability, you may be entitled to a reduced Council Tax bill. The bill may be reduced to that of a property in the band immediately below the band shown on the valuation list. Properties in band A which meet the criteria are entitled to a reduction, equal to band AR.

MORE HELP IS AVAILABLE

Staying Put
Hart and Rushmoor Staying Put provides free advice and assistance to homeowners who are over 60 years of age or disabled and on a low income whose homes are in need of repairs and/or adaptations, including advice on applying for grants towards the cost of the work. For further information please contact Staying Put on telephone: 01276 608950.

Concessionary Travel Scheme
The Council operates a concessionary travel scheme for residents aged 60 or over, and certain disabled residents. The Hampshire Farepass (bus pass) entitles the holder to free local bus travel anytime/anywhere in Hampshire.

You can also travel further afield as long as your journey starts and/or finishes in Hampshire. The Council offers transport tokens, instead of a bus pass, to certain vulnerable groups. Please call 01252 622122 extn. 4657 for an application form or visit our website at www.hart.gov.uk/community-living/travel

Call and Go
Call and Go is a bus service operating throughout Hart District for people who live more than 400 metres from a bus stop or have a mobility or sensory impairment or do not have access to a car and there is no bus service running when they need to travel. To use the service you must be registered. You can register or obtain more information by calling 0845 602 4135.

Citizens Advice Bureau
CAB's provide free, confidential advice on debt management, welfare benefits, housing, local taxation, employment, family and personal matters and consumer rights.

Fleet and District CAB
Tel: 01252 617922 - Advice Line - Open: Mon - Thurs 10.00am to 4.00pm, Fri 10.00am to 12.30pm

Yateley and District CAB
Tel: 01252 878410 - Open: Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9.30am to 3.00pm, Tues 9.30am to 1.00pm
Local Surgeries are also people held during the week. Contact your local office for details.

Hart Voluntary Action
Hart Voluntary Action provides services and support to the District's voluntary and community organisations. For further information telephone 01252 815652.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, HAMPSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY AND HAMPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

Hampshire County Council
The County Council has set a 2007/08 tax rate of £955.62 for a Band D dwelling, an increase of £45.00 or 4.9% compared to the previous year. For further information about this and the services provided by the County Council, please read the separate leaflet enclosed with your bill.

Hampshire Police Authority
The Police Authority has set a 2007/08 tax rate of £125.37 for a Band D dwelling, an increase of £5.94 or 5.0% compared to the previous year. For further information about the services provided by the Police Authority, please read the separate leaflet enclosed with your bill.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority
The Fire and Rescue Authority has set a 2007/08 tax rate of £56.07 for a Band D dwelling an increase of £2.43 or 4.5% compared to the previous year. For further information about this and the services provided by the Fire and Rescue Authority, please read the separate leaflet enclosed with your bill.

NUMBER OF STAFF EMPLOYED

Hart Council's 2007/08 budget provides for the employment of 295 full-time equivalent permanent employees (248 officers and 47 manual workers). These figures exclude workers employed casually at leisure facilities e.g. life guards and course instructors.

CAPITAL CHARGES

2007/08 figures exclude capital charges (i.e. notional charges for the use of assets) which are estimated at £2.0 million. These notional charges have no impact on Council Tax and are therefore excluded from the figures above.

OUTSTANDING LOAN DEBT

The Council repaid the last of its external borrowing in March 1994 and has since maintained a policy of debt-free status.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (Thames Region)

Flood Defence
Details of the Environment Agency's expenditure on flood defence is available in a leaflet which can be obtained by calling Hart District Council on 01252 774444.

HOW MUCH COUNCIL TAX DO I HAVE TO PAY

Parish/Town Area	Valuation Bands(£)								
	AR	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Blackwater and Hawley	753.15	903.78	1,054.41	1,205.04	1,355.67	1,506.30	1,656.93	1,958.19	2,259.45
Bramshill	714.18	857.01	999.84	1,142.68	1,285.51	1,571.18	1,856.84	2,142.52	2,571.02
Crandall	729.26	875.11	1,020.95	1,166.81	1,312.66	1,604.37	1,896.06	2,187.77	2,625.32
Crookham Village	716.38	859.65	1,002.93	1,146.21	1,289.48	1,576.03	1,862.58	2,149.13	2,578.96
Dogmersfield	727.85	873.41	1,018.98	1,164.55	1,310.12	1,601.26	1,892.39	2,183.53	2,620.24
Eversley	728.85	874.61	1,020.38	1,166.15	1,311.92	1,603.46	1,894.99	2,186.53	2,623.84
Greywell	724.67	869.60	1,014.53	1,159.47	1,304.40	1,594.27	1,884.13	2,174.00	2,608.80
Hartley Wintney	746.13	895.35	1,044.58	1,193.81	1,343.03	1,641.48	1,939.93	2,238.38	2,686.06
Heckfield	660.78	717.30	873.81	1,030.84	1,187.87	1,478.90	1,769.93	2,060.96	2,512.26
Hook	757.38	908.85	1,060.32	1,211.80	1,363.27	1,666.22	1,969.16	2,272.12	2,726.54
Long Sutton	731.74	878.09	1,024.43	1,170.79	1,317.13	1,609.83	1,902.52	2,195.22	2,634.26
Mattingley	718.58	862.29	1,006.01	1,149.73	1,293.44	1,580.87	1,868.30	2,155.73	2,586.88
Odiham	730.44	876.53	1,022.61	1,168.71	1,314.79	1,606.97	1,899.14	2,191.32	2,629.58
Rotherwick	733.76	880.51	1,027.25	1,174.01	1,320.76	1,614.27	1,907.76	2,201.27	2,641.52
South Warnborough	717.37	860.94	1,004.31	1,147.79	1,291.26	1,578.21	1,865.25	2,152.10	2,582.52
Winchfield	712.75	855.29	997.84	1,140.39	1,282.94	1,568.04	1,853.13	2,138.23	2,565.88
Yateley	734.34	881.20	1,028.06	1,174.94	1,321.80	1,615.54	1,909.26	2,203.00	2,643.60
Fleet and Church Crookham (including special expenses)	733.88	880.65	1,027.43	1,174.21	1,320.98	1,614.53	1,908.08	2,201.63	2,641.96

There are 17 separate parishes within Hart each with its own elected Council and powers to provide local services. There is no parish for Fleet and Church Crookham, but equivalent arrangements are made by levying specific charges known as Special Expenses for the area. The amounts required for 2007/08, together with comparative amounts for 2006/07 are shown in the table below.

2006/07		2007/08	
Amount Required	Council Tax (Band D)	Amount Required	Council Tax (Band D)
£	£	£	£
180,300	83.39	184,000	83.67
14.41	1.50	13.51	1.51
62,734	39.86	64,106	40.66
30,000	17.58	30,000	17.48
5,625	36.31	5,905	38.12
26,100	35.20	28,820	39.92
3,700	31.28	3,700	32.40
156,000	68.74	161,850	71.03
2,750	17.86	3,000	19.13
274,000	87.88	290,000	91.27
5,000	35.20	10,000	45.13
5,825	20.30	6,250	21.44
90,000	42.43	90,000	42.79
11,000	42.99	12,000	48.76
5,430	18.70	5,430	19.26
3,500	11.82	3,250	10.84
365,000	48.11	378,633	49.80
647,500	47.18	672,430	48.98
1,879,614	TOTALS	1,950,524	52.78

Services Provided:	Blackwater & Hawley		Hartley Wintney		Hook		Yateley	
	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Gross Expenditure	185	181	31	27	104	75	156	158
Recreation & the Env. Cycleways & Footpaths			10	16	11	11	10	10
Youth Provision			53	60	40	36	85	64
Community Hall			2	2	10	12	18	18
Cemeteries			4	4	12	12	5	11
Street Lighting							2	2
Planning Appeals							3	2
Grants to local vol. orgs.			7	5	35	41	32	32
Security Cameras					5	5	5	5
Other Expenditure	112	115	65	70	81	61	142	144
Transfer to (from bals)	0	0	4	5	62	556	12	5
Precept	180	184	156	162	274	290	366	378
Less Income								
Fees and Charges	(174)	(176)	(21)	(20)	(10)	(10)	(61)	(58)
Conts. from Hart	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)				
Other Income	(2)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(32)	(473)	(17)	(18)
Net Expenditure	180	184	152	157	212	262	378	378
Transfer to (from bals)	0	0	4	5	62	556	12	5
Precept	180	184	156	162	274	290	366	378

Further information about individual requirements can be obtained from your local Parish or Town Council.

HART DISTRICT COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS

Hart's 2007/08 tax for Band D dwellings is £134.94, an increase of £6.18 over 2006/07 (4.8% increase). The main features of the Council's 2007/08 budget are highlighted in the table below along with comparative figures for 2006/07.

2006/07		2007/08		Per Head of Population	WHY THE BUDGET HAS CHANGED
Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Services		
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£	£'000
4,841	2,377	2,464	Central Services to the Public	2,347	27.08
10,355	4,537	5,818	Cultural, Environmental and Planning Services	7,245	83.61
968	926	42	Highways, Roads, Transport Services and Car Parks	(195)	(2.25)
9,094	7,725	1,369	Housing Services	1,275	14.71
332	590	(258)	Other Expenditure & Income	(10,386)	318
25,590	16,155	9,435	Taken from Balances	112.79	(3.77)
		(226)	HART DC BUDGET REQUIREMENT	9,447	109.02
		(594)	Government Revenue Support Grant	(534)	(6.16)
		(3,077)	Redistributed National Business Rate	(3,179)	(36.69)
		(145)	Contribution Fund Deficit/(Surplus)		