

Hart District Council

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Hampshire County Council

Budget and Council Tax
www.hants.gov.uk/finance/budget
For questions on our budget contact:
County Treasurer's Department
Hampshire County Council
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UB
E-mail: budget@hants.gov.uk
For more about our services, go to:
www.hants.gov.uk
Tel: 0845 603 5638* Textphone: 0845 603 5625*
E-mail: info@hants.gov.uk

* Calls to 0845 numbers are free on some BT call plans but will cost between 4p (local rate) and 6p (national rate) per minute for BT customers not on a plan. Calls made using other service providers or mobiles may cost more. Alternatively call 01329 225398 - standard and local call rates may apply to this number.

Follow us on Twitter:
<http://www.twitter.com/hantsconnect>

Hampshire Police Authority

Westgate Chambers, Staple Gardens
Winchester SO23 8AW
Tel: 01962 871595
E-mail: police.authority@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
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Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Tel: 023 8064 4000
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Budget questions
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This information is available as a large print format for anyone who has difficulties reading this publication.

2011/2012 your guide to your council tax



Welcome to your guide to Council Tax for 2011/12



We all use public services. Some are provided by authorities covering the whole of Hampshire, others are provided by local borough or district councils.

Some of the funding for these services comes from government grants which include contributions from business rates. The rest is paid for by income from resources including your Council Tax and income generated by, for example, rents, investments and service charges. Information about the authorities funded by your Council Tax is included in this leaflet to give you an overview of the services provided.

Part of your Council Tax funds services such as waste collection and kerbside recycling, street cleaning, housing, community and leisure services, provided by **Hart District Council**.

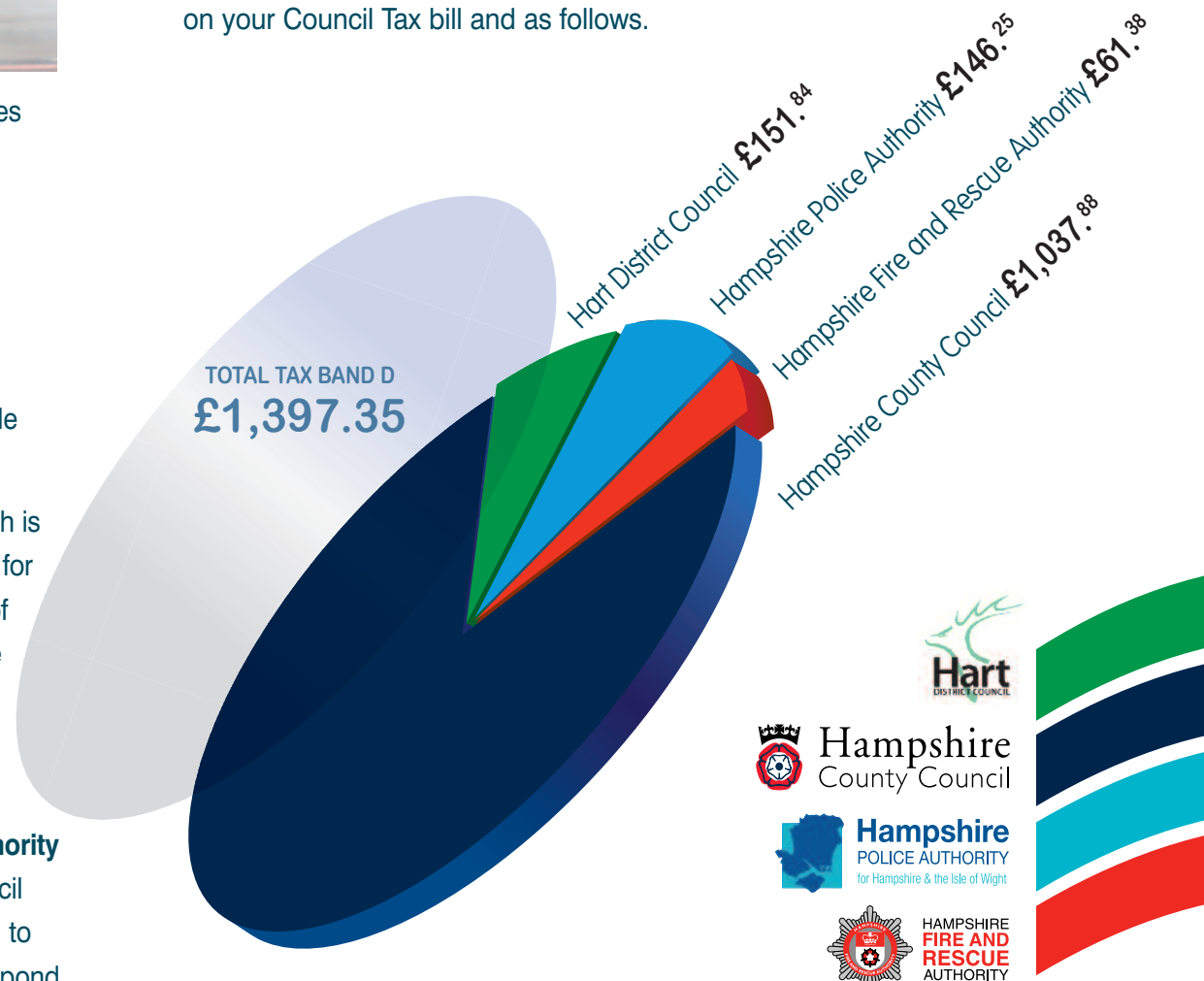
Your Council Tax helps fund services from **Hampshire County Council**, such as:

- support for children and families
- waste disposal
- street lighting and highways maintenance
- care and support for older people and people with disabilities.

Hampshire Police Authority, which is the independent body responsible for overseeing and funding the work of Hampshire Constabulary to ensure effective and efficient policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, is also funded from Council Tax.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority also receives a proportion of Council Tax to prevent fires and other risks, to protect life and property and to respond to fires and other emergencies.

For example, the total amount payable for a property in Council Tax Band D this year is **£1,397.35**. A summary of **how your Council Tax is divided** between these organisations is shown on your Council Tax bill and as follows.



The Council's spending and budget 2011/12

The Council has been successful in setting its budget for 2011/12 despite the continued weakness in the economy and the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. For the past three years the Council have made significant savings through value for money and efficiency reviews. We have reduced the cost of front line services and have outsourced back office services to improve value for money. We are also exploring a range of shared services with neighbouring authorities to further reduce our costs.

The Council will continue to protect front line services as much as possible by reducing overheads and pursuing further efficiency savings.

Single Person Discount Review

Council Tax payers who are in receipt of single occupancy discounts by having their bills reduced by 25 per cent will be subject to checks in April and May 2011.

Capital Local Government Services will work with Equifax, the credit reference agency on behalf of the council by using data-matching technology to identify people who may be claiming a discount which they are not entitled to. The full review will involve approximately 7,000 taxpayers.

The check is part of Hart District

Council's continuing measure to detect and prevent fraud, in association with the National Fraud Initiative ensuring the single person discount is claimed by taxpayers who are genuinely eligible.

Any taxpayers currently receiving a discount which they feel may not be correct are urged to contact 01252 774444.



Your Council Tax bill

Each property in Hart has been placed in a property band by the Valuation Office Agency (part of the Inland Revenue). This banding determines how much council tax you have to pay. The banding of your property and the amount you have to pay is shown on your bill.



BAND			AR 5/9	A 6/9	B 7/9	C 8/9	D 9/9	E 11/9	F 13/9	G 15/9	H 18/9
PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL	PRECEPT	TAX BASE	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Blackwater & Hawley	154,120	1,842.7	822.78	987.33	1,151.88	1,316.44	1,480.99	1,810.10	2,139.20	2,468.32	2,961.98
Bramshill	1,650	90.5	786.44	943.72	1,101.01	1,258.29	1,415.58	1,730.15	2,044.72	2,359.30	2,831.16
Church Crookham	173,599	3,226.7	806.20	967.44	1,128.67	1,289.91	1,451.15	1,773.63	2,096.10	2,418.59	2,902.30
Crandall	53,000	821.0	812.18	974.61	1,137.04	1,299.48	1,461.91	1,786.78	2,111.64	2,436.52	2,923.82
Crookham Village	94,740	1,743.6	806.50	967.80	1,129.09	1,290.39	1,451.69	1,774.29	2,096.88	2,419.49	2,903.38
Dogmersfield	7,400	164.2	801.35	961.62	1,121.88	1,282.15	1,442.42	1,762.96	2,083.49	2,404.04	2,884.84
Elvetham Heath	108,199	2,011.1	806.20	967.44	1,128.67	1,289.91	1,451.15	1,773.63	2,096.10	2,418.59	2,902.30
Eversley	31,800	751.6	799.82	959.78	1,119.74	1,279.70	1,439.66	1,759.58	2,079.50	2,399.44	2,879.32
Ewshot	18,000	375.6	802.93	963.52	1,124.10	1,284.69	1,445.27	1,766.44	2,087.61	2,408.79	2,890.54
Fleet	535,993	9,741.1	806.88	968.25	1,129.62	1,291.00	1,452.37	1,775.12	2,097.86	2,420.62	2,904.74
Greywell	4,000	119.6	794.89	953.86	1,112.84	1,271.81	1,430.79	1,748.74	2,066.69	2,384.65	2,861.58
Hartley Wintney	170,271	2,360.0	816.39	979.67	1,142.95	1,306.22	1,469.50	1,796.05	2,122.61	2,449.17	2,939.00
Heckfield	4,000	161.0	790.12	948.14	1,106.16	1,264.18	1,422.20	1,738.24	2,054.28	2,370.34	2,844.40
Hook	312,000	3,344.6	828.14	993.76	1,159.39	1,325.01	1,490.64	1,821.89	2,153.14	2,484.40	2,981.28
Long Sutton	12,500	224.4	807.25	968.70	1,130.14	1,291.59	1,453.04	1,775.94	2,098.83	2,421.74	2,906.08
Mattingley	6,500	305.2	788.14	945.76	1,103.39	1,261.01	1,418.64	1,733.89	2,049.14	2,364.40	2,837.28
Odiham	110,414	2,141.2	804.96	965.95	1,126.94	1,287.93	1,448.92	1,770.90	2,092.88	2,414.87	2,897.84
Rotherwick	12,500	259.7	803.05	963.66	1,124.27	1,284.88	1,445.49	1,766.71	2,087.93	2,409.15	2,890.98
South Warnborough	5,683	301.6	786.78	944.13	1,101.48	1,258.84	1,416.19	1,730.90	2,045.60	2,360.32	2,832.38
Winchfield	4,500	308.3	784.42	941.30	1,098.18	1,255.06	1,411.94	1,725.70	2,039.46	2,353.24	2,823.88
Yateley	406,000	7,673.5	805.70	966.84	1,127.98	1,289.12	1,450.26	1,772.54	2,094.82	2,417.10	2,900.52
District Total	2,226,869	37,967.2									
District Average			808.89	970.67	1,132.45	1,294.22	1,456.00	1,779.55	2,103.11	2,426.67	2,912.00

Council Tax information

Council Tax valuation bands

Most dwellings are subject to 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 Listing Officer at the Inland Revenue Valuation Office.

If you believe your Council Tax band is wrong, contact your local Valuation Office on **01256 726100**.

Exempt dwellings

Certain types of property are exempt from payment of Council Tax, for example:-

Occupied

- Self contained annexe occupied by a dependant relative
- Student accommodation/halls of residence
- Solely by persons under 18 years
- Solely by severely mentally impaired persons

Unoccupied

- Home owned by student
- Empty caravans/pitches/boat moorings

- “Granny annexes” which cannot be separately let
- Vicarages etc.
- Owner in prison
- Moved to receive/provide personal care
- Occupation prohibited by law
- Trustee in bankruptcy
- Properties Repossessed

Unoccupied up to 6 months

- Unfurnished property
- Owned by a Charity
- After structural alterations/major repairs completed
- New dwellings
- After grant of probate/letters of administration granted

For further information on exemptions please contact the Council Tax section as shown on page 11.

Payments

All cheques should be made payable to Hart District Council. For full details of how to pay your Council Tax, including setting up a direct debit, please see the reverse side of your bill.

Discounts

The full council tax bill assumes that there are two adults living in a dwelling. If only one adult lives in a dwelling (as their main home), the council tax bill will be reduced by

25%. For details of all discounts please see reverse side of your bill.

Disability relief

If you, or someone who lives with you, needs an extra bathroom or kitchen, or space in your property to meet the needs arising from a disability you may qualify for a reduction in your Council Tax bill. If you qualify for help under this scheme your tax bill will be reduced by one property band (or if in Band A to Band AR).

Council Tax and Housing Benefit

This may be available for people who are on low incomes and have savings, capital or investments of less than £16,000. If you wish to claim, you need to complete an application form. Please contact the Benefits section for a form or for any other benefits advice.

Changes of residence

If you change your address you should notify the Council within 21 days. Failure to do so could result in a penalty being imposed upon you.

Appeals

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.
- Where you start or stop using part of your property to carry out a business, or the balance between domestic and business use changes.
- 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.
- 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.

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 Revenues Services on **01252 774444** or **revenues@hart.gov.uk**.

Financial reports and staffing levels

Council Income in 2011/12

The services we provide for the district are paid for by the following;

INCOME	£ '000	%
General Government Grants	2,961	8.9%
Other Government Grants	646	1.9%
Housing benefit grant from the government	16,145	48.7%
Interest from investments	150	0.5%
Fees and charges	5,368	16.2%
Reversal of Capital charges	1,373	4.1%
Council Tax	5,876	17.7%
Other incomes	671	2.0%
Total	33,190	100.0%



Net expenditure on services

The figures below take into account both cost and income for each service and where income exceeds expenditure, this figure is shown in brackets.

2010/11 NET EXPENDITURE £ '000	SERVICE	2011/12 GROSS EXPENDITURE £ '000	INCOME £ '000	NET EXPENDITURE £ '000	BAND D £
1,560	Central services to the public: (incl. local tax collection)	2,115	(243)	1,872	
8,361	Cultural: Environmental & Planning Services (incl. parks, recreation, sport, waste collection, street cleansing, community safety, environmental health & building control)	12,825	(5,294)	7,531	
(119)	Highways: Roads, Transport Services (incl. car parking)	571	(948)	(377)	
1,779	Housing Services: (incl. Housing Benefit Payments)	17,679	(16,299)	1,380	
11,581	Net Cost of Services	33,190	(22,784)	10,406	
80	Cost associated with savings			280	
28	Added to/taken from Balances			(190)	
(1,790)	Reversal of capital charges			(1,373)	
0	Minimum Reserve Provision			8	
(244)	Net interest on balance			(150)	
0	Council Tax freeze grant			(144)	
9,655	Hart DC Budget Requirement			8,837	232.74
(3,854)	Government funding			(2,961)	(77.99)
(44)	Collection fund surplus			(111)	(2.91)
5,757	Hart DC total to be met by Council Tax payers			5,765	151.84

Why the budget has changed

	£'000
2010/11 Budget Requirements	9,655
Concessionary Fares administration to Hampshire CC	-282
Inflation and other service adjustments	311
Reduced income	382
Efficiency and service savings	-1,413
Reduced Government grants	50
Reduced interest on balances	94
Contribution to reserves	40
2011/12 Budget Requirement	8,837



Council Staffing

Hart Council's 2011/12 budget provides for the employment of 177.9 full time equivalent permanent employees. These figures exclude workers employed casually at the leisure facilities e.g. life guards and course instructors.

Capital Expenditure Plans 2011/12

As part of the operation of the Council it has assets that are used to support services. Those assets that have a life greater than a year and are significant in value fall within the capital expenditure plans of the Council. Below lists our current plans for our assets as well as potential new assets to support the services we provide.

	2010/11 £'000'S	2011/12 £'000'S	2012/13 £'000'S
Leisure & Recreation	107	20	0
Future of Fleet Town Centre	20	4	0
Provision to support parish schemes	23	0	0
Fleet Football Club Grant	0	6	0
Property & Asset Maintenance	32	0	0
Disabled Facilities Grants	560	460	500
Private Sector Housing	40	60	60
Public Sector Housing Initiatives	255	110	0
IT Systems/Equipment	22	0	0
Car Parking	35	0	0
Disability Discrimination Act Works	0	86	0
Depot Improvements	4	0	0
Planned Enhancements	129	626	0
Total	1,227	1,372	560

Your Parish Council budget

PARISHED AREAS	2011/12 PRECEPT £	TAX BASE	BAND D CHARGE PARISH £
Blackwater & Hawley	154,120	1,842.7	83.64
Bramshill	1,650	90.5	18.23
Church Crookham	173,599	3,226.7	53.80
Crookham Village	94,740	1,743.6	54.34
Dogmersfield	7,400	164.2	45.07
Elvetham Heath	108,199	2,011.1	53.80
Eversley	31,800	751.6	42.31
Ewshot	18,000	375.6	47.92
Fleet	535,993	9,741.1	55.02
Greywell	4,000	119.6	33.44
Hartley Wintney	170,271	2,360.0	72.15
Heckfield	4,000	161.0	24.85
Hook	312,000	3,344.6	93.29
Long Sutton	12,500	224.4	55.69
Mattingley	6,500	305.2	21.29
Odiham	110,414	2,141.2	51.57
Rotherwick	12,500	259.7	48.14
South Warnborough	5,683	301.6	18.84
Winchfield	4,500	308.3	14.59
Yateley	406,000	7,673.5	52.91
District Total	2,226,869	37,967.2	
District Average			58.65

Climate change commitment

The council has reduced its energy use at the Civic Offices and therefore reduced the cost of its energy bills. You too, can reduce your energy use at home and see your bills drop. There are a number of schemes to enable you to insulate your home or to help you purchase solar panels. For more information about which scheme is right for you, visit www.hart.gov.uk/climate-change or contact our Climate Change Officer on 01252 774251 or Carolyn.whistlecraft@Hart.gov.uk

Where a parish budget requirement exceeds £140,000 Hart District Council is required to provide a breakdown of its expenditure and income. For 2011/12 this applies to the parishes below

SERVICE PROVIDED	BLACKWATER & HAWLEY		CHURCH CROOKHAM		FLEET		HARTLEY WINTNEY		HOOK		YATELEY	
	10/11 £'000	11/12 £'000	10/11 £'000	11/12 £'000	10/11 £'000	11/12 £'000	10/11 £'000	11/12 £'000	10/11 £'000	11/12 £'000	10/11 £'000	11/12 £'000
Gross expenditure												
Recreation & environment	182	170	63	95	221	187	64	51	96	96	169	178
Youth Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12	15	15	10	13
Community Hall	23	22	0	0	392	415	6	7	60	60	92	78
Cemeteries	3	3	0	0	13	14	12	13	19	13	14	15
Street Lighting	5	4	0	0	0	0	10	11	7	4	28	28
Planning Appeals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
Grants to local voluntary organisations	0	0	4	3	0	65	11	12	12	9	38	41
Security Cameras	0	0	1	1	12	13	0	0	6	6	0	0
Other Expenditure	113	109	58	90	91	153	89	132	110	93	155	128
Less Income												
Fee & Charges	(169)	(152)	(14)	(16)	(209)	(336)	(34)	(34)	(4)	(3)	(53)	(56)
Other Income	(3)	(2)	0	0	(81)	(1)	0	0	(9)	(7)	(9)	(11)
Transfer to (from) balances	0	0	66	1	84	26	0	(35)	0	26	(40)	(9)
Precept	154	154	178	174	523	536	170	170	312	312	406	406

How to contact Hart District Council

Council Tax and Benefits Correspondence only

Council Tax and Benefits Section
Civic Offices
Harlington Way
Fleet
Hampshire GU51 4AE

Telephone:

General enquiries **01252 622122**
Council Tax and Benefits
01252 774444

Email:

enquiries@hart.gov.uk
revenues@hart.gov.uk (for Council Tax queries)
benefits@hart.gov.uk (for Housing & Council Tax benefit queries)

Website:

www.hart.gov.uk

Office opening hours

Monday - Thursday
8.30am - 4.45pm
Friday
8.30am - 4.15pm
Please note:
phone lines are open
8.30am - 5.00pm
weekdays