

Hertfordshire County Council - Council tax and budget information 2017/18

County Council tax for Band D households



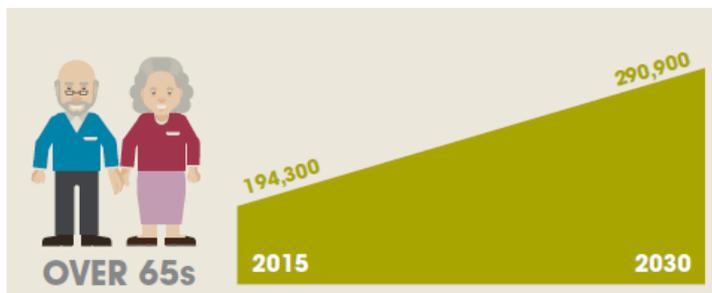
- The portion of your council tax that we receive is changing from last year
- The council tax for each valuation band can be found on page 4

Where we spend your money*



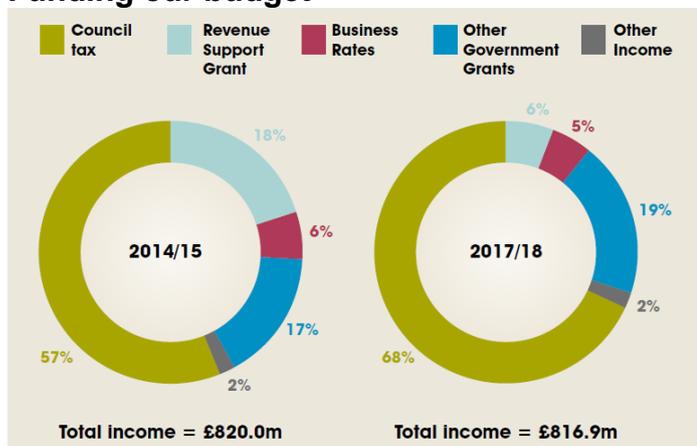
*Based on Band D households bill for 2017/18 - £1,245.83

Rising pressures in adult social care



- The number of people who require our adult social care services is growing
- We are increasing the adult social care precept element of our council tax by 3% to help pay for the escalating costs

Funding our budget



- We have cut our total spending but our government grant has been cut by almost half from £80 million to £44 million
- Separately from the adult social care precept, we are increasing the core element of our council tax by 1.99% in order to balance our books

Our budget:

The table below shows the budgeted spend for each service area and the income used to fund this.

2016/17 £m		2017/18 £m
394.3	Adult Care	411.1
50.2	Public Health	48.9
1,074.0	Children's Services (including Schools)	1,106.1
122.9	Roads & Waste	122.1
37.5	Fire & Community Protection	37.2
124.9	Other services*	127.2
32.3	Borrowing and Interest	25.9
1,836.1	Gross Budget	1,878.5
	Less:	
(913.3)	Ring-fenced Grants (including Schools)	(955.4)
(112.3)	Sales, Fees & Charges	(116.2)
(16.0)	Partner Contributions	(18.3)
(0.4)	Use of reserves	-
794.1	Net Budget	788.6
(114.1)	Business Rates Income / Top-up Grant	(115.9)
(80.0)	Revenue Support Grant from Government	(44.5)
(50.0)	Ring-fenced Funding	(48.8)
(33.2)	Non Ring-fenced Grants	(28.9)
(7.9)	Collection Fund	(6.9)
(9.8)	Adult Social Care Precept	(25.5)
499.1	General Council Tax Requirement	518.1

*Other services include contributions the council has to make to the funding of two organisations - the **Lee Valley Regional Park Authority** (£1.14 million) and the **Environment Agency** for flood defence (£0.9 million for the Thames Region and £0.06 million for the Anglian Region).

For more information on our service areas visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/whatwedo

How our gross budget and council tax requirement has changed

The gross budget is how much we spend in total to deliver services and amounts to £1,878.5 million this year, compared with £1,836.1 million for 2016/17. Of this, £906.0 million is for schools.

This year's general council tax requirement (the part of the budget financed from council tax) has increased by £19.0 million.

The principal reasons for the increase in our budget are:

- the impact of more people receiving our services meaning we need to spend an extra £19.4 million;
- implementation of the National Living Wage resulting in an increase in costs of £5.6 million;
- other unavoidable costs including changes in what we are required to do by law giving further spending of £8.4 million;
- inflation relating to utility bills, business rates, pay and contracts increasing our costs by £4.8 million;
- changes to the services we are responsible for and specific funding received from government, resulting in a reduction in our budget of £2.4 million;
- a reduction of £33.6 million in core funding from government and business rates; and
- a reduction in Education Services Grant (£8.7 million) and Public Health (£1.2 million).

The County Council has responded to these changes by:

- increasing council tax by 1.99%;
- adopting the flexibility in council tax charging offered by the government that allows councils to raise a specific social care precept, increasing council tax by a further 3.0%;
- drawing on the one-off Adult Social Care Support funding provided by Government, amounting to £4.2 million; and
- finding council savings of £41.0 million by identifying ways to be more efficient and by reviewing charging policies.

Council Tax for each valuation band:

These are the amounts collected by each District Council on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council for each valuation band. The total amount of Council Tax you pay can be found on your bill.

Band	2016/17 Council Tax & Adult Social Care Precept	General Expenditure 1.99% Increase	Adult Social Care precept 3.00% Increase	2017/18 Council Tax & Adult Social Care Precept
A	£791.08	£15.74	£23.73	£830.55
B	£922.93	£18.36	£27.69	£968.98
C	£1,054.77	£20.99	£31.64	£1,107.40
D	£1,186.62	£23.61	£35.60	£1,245.83
E	£1,450.31	£28.86	£43.51	£1,522.68
F	£1,714.01	£34.10	£51.42	£1,799.53
G	£1,977.70	£39.35	£59.33	£2,076.38
H	£2,373.24	£47.22	£71.20	£2,491.66

Department for Communities and Local Government statement:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this "precept" at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.

Enquiries

Enquiries about payments, rebates or benefits should be made to your **district or borough council**:

Broxbourne Borough Council	01992 785557
Dacorum Borough Council	01442 228000
East Hertfordshire District Council	01279 655261
Hertsmere Borough Council	0208 207 2277
North Hertfordshire District Council	01462 474000
St Albans District Council	01727 819204 / 819205
Stevenage Borough Council	01438 242875
Three Rivers District Council	01923 776611
Watford Borough Council	01923 278466
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	01707 357000

If you have an enquiry about **Hertfordshire County Council's** budget or if you would like the information in this leaflet in large print, on tape or in another language, please either:

Visit our website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax

Email: budget@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Call: 0300 123 4040