

your council tax 2010/11 explained



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*This leaflet is designed to tell you about Your Council Tax.
How it is funded and how it is spent.*

Introduction to Your Council Tax

Stratford-on-Avon District Council provides a wide range of services including:

- Refuse and Recycling Collection
- Public Car Parks
- Planning permissions for new buildings or alterations to existing buildings
- Housing
- Leisure Facilities

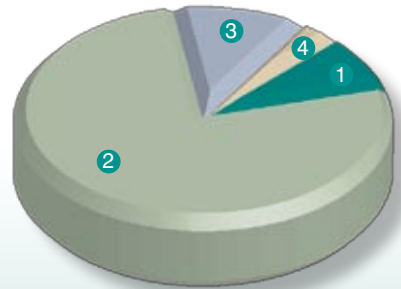
Services provided by Warwickshire County Council include:

- Education
- Road Maintenance
- Social Care & Health
- Libraries
- Waste Disposal
- Fire Service

(Please note: The Police Authority is a separate organisation and the Town and Parish Councils undertake further services).

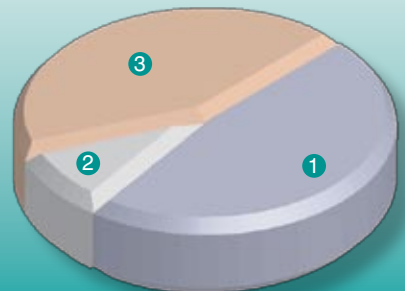
Your District Council collects the Council Tax on behalf of the County Council, Police Authority and the Town and Parish Councils. The income collected is split in the following way for an average band D property:

	2009/10	2010/11
	£'s	£'s
① Stratford-on-Avon District Council	127.43	129.34
② Warwickshire County Council	1,128.18	1,155.25
③ Warwickshire Police	171.22	174.10
④ Parish/Town Councils	49.86	51.29
TOTAL	1,476.69	1,509.98



Where Your District Council gets its money

	2009/10	2010/11
	£000's	£000's
① Council Tax	6,541	6,678
② Revenue Support Grant	1,781	1,375
③ Redistributed Non-Domestic Rates	5,637	6,088
TOTAL	13,959	14,141



Where Your District Council spends its money

EXPENDITURE	2009/10	2010/11
	£000's	£000's
Housing and Housing Benefit	19,938	20,667
Recreation and Tourism	2,507	3,450
Parking – on and off street	3,384	3,612
Planning	4,891	4,789
Environmental Health	3,675	3,876
Refuse Collection	3,774	3,867
Council Tax / National Non-Domestic Rates	1,339	1,220
Council Tax Benefits	6,933	6,939
Other Services less charges for the use of Land, Buildings and Equipment	646	131
TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE	47,087	48,551

INCOME	£000's	£000's
	Government Grants	-24,935
Fees and Charges	-5,461	-5,935
Interest	-40	-222
Other (grants, rent, sales)	-2,314	-2,679
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	-32,750	-34,041

	£000's	£000's
Contribution from reserves	-419	-360
Collection Fund deficit / -surplus	41	-9

NET EXPENDITURE	13,959	14,141
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Your Council Tax explained - 2010/11

Your Council Tax is a local property tax that is charged in order to supplement Central Government funding of the local services provided by **Your District Council**.

Band values for the District

It applies to properties used by people as their homes. Each home has been assessed and placed into one of eight bands (see table here). The amount of Council Tax you pay is dependent into which band your property falls (throughout this leaflet all illustrated examples use the costs that are associated with band D properties).

Band	Council Tax
A	£86.23
B	£100.60
C	£114.97
D	£129.34
E	£158.08
F	£186.82
G	£215.57
H	£258.68

In addition to the standard rate of Council Tax for the District (see table on right), Parish Councils throughout the District have additional expenses for specific Parish requirements. These are called precepts. Each Parish may request additional funding which is added in proportion to Your Council Tax dependent on where you live (see precepts table on page 5).

Town and Parish Councils which raise a precept of over £140,000 from Council Tax are required to supply additional information to accompany the Council Tax bills. The information that has been provided is set out below.

Town/Parish	Year	Gross Expenditure	Contingency & Reserves	Income	Net Expenditure	Precept
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£'s
Alcester	2009/10	215	6	-5	216	216,000
	2010/11	236	0	-16	220	220,320
Bidford-on-Avon	2009/10	202	-27	-21	154	154,400
	2010/11	300	-38	-63	199	199,500
Shipston-on-Stour	2009/10	264	-18	-21	225	225,000
	2010/11	248	-3	-20	225	225,000
Southam	2009/10	211	-38	-4	169	168,848
	2010/11	172	0	-1	171	171,268
Stratford-upon-Avon	2009/10	579	56	-156	479	479,246
	2010/11	593	51	-160	484	483,996
Wellesbourne	2009/10	241	-40	-1	200	200,000
	2010/11	231	-31	0	200	200,000

Parish Council Precepts

Parish	Parish Precept 2009/10	Parish Precept 2010/11	Band D Parish Amount	Parish	Parish Precept 2009/10	Parish Precept 2010/11	Band D Parish Amount
Admington	£800	£700	£13.46	Long Itchington	£47,000	£48,900	£56.42
Alcester	£216,000	£220,320	£95.10	Loxley	£7,300	£8,000	£38.56
Alderminster	£5,000	£6,000	£23.26	Luddington	£4,000	£4,700	£23.21
Arrow (& Weethley)	£5,000	£5,500	£52.19	Mappleborough Green	£11,000	£11,000	£34.58
Aston Cantlow	£7,600	£7,900	£30.14	Marston Sicca	£8,000	£8,000	£39.47
Avon Dassett	£7,000	£7,000	£67.00	Moreton Morrell	£19,000	£19,000	£57.20
Barton-on-the-Heath	£875	£876	£16.91	Napton-on-the-Hill	£26,400	£26,400	£56.23
Bearley	£21,000	£21,000	£69.78	Newbold Pacey & Ashorne	£4,725	£4,725	£40.04
Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden	£82,487	£82,650	£57.11	Old Stratford & Drayton	£4,730	£4,990	£15.48
Bidford-on-Avon	£154,400	£199,500	£101.40	Oxhill	£2,500	£2,500	£14.24
Binton	£4,000	£4,000	£27.39	Pillerton Hersey	£400	£400	£4.33
Bishops Itchington	£62,500	£65,250	£83.08	Pillerton Priors	£2,027	£2,365	£15.53
Brailes	£14,000	£13,000	£25.41	Preston-on-Stour	£3,500	£3,500	£48.40
Burmington	£350	£450	£7.16	Priors Hardwick	£1,500	£2,000	£23.24
Burton Dassett	£16,523	£16,839	£34.91	Priors Marston	£14,500	£15,500	£59.76
Butlers Marston	£500	£1,250	£12.23	Quinton	£20,000	£23,000	£31.97
Charlecote	£3,500	£3,500	£42.44	Radway	£8,547	£8,547	£67.15
Cherington & Stourton	£3,850	£3,850	£17.05	Ratley & Upton	£10,000	£10,000	£63.11
Chesterton & Kingston	£40	£300	£4.80	Salford Priors	£41,000	£47,000	£85.92
Claverdon	£17,000	£18,000	£29.48	Sambourne	£8,436	£8,647	£22.92
Clifford Chambers & Milcote	£6,750	£6,750	£29.17	Shipston-on-Stour	£225,000	£225,000	£107.85
Combrook	£3,900	£3,900	£48.58	Shotteswell	£5,500	£6,500	£54.16
Coughton	£3,000	£3,100	£40.01	Snitterfield	£22,000	£22,500	£39.94
Dorsington	£800	£800	£11.14	Southam	£168,848	£171,268	£73.72
Ettington	£17,000	£17,000	£33.50	Stockton	£20,185	£20,185	£42.27
Exhall	£3,600	£3,450	£30.86	Stratford-upon-Avon	£479,246	£483,996	£39.91
Farnborough	£2,500	£4,500	£35.27	Stretton-on-Fosse	£4,200	£4,810	£23.49
Fenny Compton	£20,170	£20,170	£61.57	Studley	£122,528	£125,912	£60.95
Gaydon	£7,812	£7,968	£44.30	Sutton-under-Brailes	£1,500	£1,500	£28.31
Great Alne	£20,500	£15,300	£55.58	Tanworth-in-Arden	£45,500	£45,500	£28.73
Great Wolford	£850	£1,800	£17.49	Temple Grafton	£3,500	£3,500	£15.11
Halford	£9,000	£7,200	£45.75	Tredington	£17,000	£17,000	£23.69
Hampton Lucy	£6,000	£6,700	£33.45	Tysoe	£16,000	£17,000	£33.28
Harbury	£63,137	£66,252	£61.48	Ufton	£5,750	£6,250	£56.63
Haselor	£3,500	£3,600	£34.36	Ullenhall	£5,500	£6,000	£16.12
Ilmington	£15,000	£17,500	£46.35	Warmington	£7,410	£8,250	£47.66
Kineton	£43,000	£37,950	£40.86	Welford-on-Avon	£19,760	£19,760	£28.11
Kinwarton	£16,000	£17,000	£40.07	Wellesbourne	£200,000	£200,000	£81.43
Ladbroke	£4,700	£4,700	£33.68	Whichford	£4,800	£4,800	£27.86
Langley	£1,200	£1,200	£13.33	Wilmcote	£12,800	£15,610	£32.11
Lighthorne	£9,500	£9,800	£43.29	Wixford	£5,000	£6,000	£75.59
Lighthorne Heath	£8,500	£9,000	£36.19	Wolverton	£1,800	£1,800	£14.13
Little Compton	£5,487	£5,621	£36.41	Wootton Wawen	£18,750	£18,700	£31.90
Long Compton	£8,000	£8,250	£22.02	TOTAL	£2,559,473	£2,648,411	
				AVERAGE			£51.29

Parishes not included within the schedule have not issued a precept in either 2009/10 or 2010/11.

Help with meeting Your Council Tax bill



If you are on a low income and liable to pay Council Tax, you could be eligible to receive help towards paying **Your Council Tax by claiming Council Tax Benefit.**

- You could be working but receiving a low wage and you do not have to get any other benefits to be entitled.
 - It does not matter if you already get a discount on Your Council Tax, for example, if you live alone.
 - However, if you have capital in excess of £16,000 you will not qualify for Council Tax Benefit unless you get the guarantee credit within pension credits. To work out Your Council Tax Benefit, the Council will look at:-
- *Money you and your partner have coming in, including earnings, some benefits, tax/pension credits and things like occupational pensions*

- *Your savings and your partner's savings*
- *Your circumstances, such as your age, the ages and size of your family, whether you or any of your family is disabled and whether anyone who lives with you could help with the rent.*

The most Council Tax Benefit you can get is the full Council Tax you have to pay. There are special rules for students. In most circumstances the Council will also make a deduction for any non-dependants (persons aged 18+) living with you.

Second Adult Rebate - You may be entitled to Second Adult Rebate even if you are not entitled to Council Tax Benefit. Second Adult Rebate is based on the income and capital of other people in your household. It is not affected by your income or savings.

If you would like to find out more about Second Adult Rebate, contact the benefits hotline on **01789 260991**. It is important that we can be sure of your identity when you make a claim. We may need to ask you about your background and look at any official documents that you have to support the information you give.

If you are not currently claiming Council Tax Benefit or Second Adult Rebate you can obtain an application form from any of the Council's offices in Stratford, Alcester or Southam. Alternatively you can telephone **01789 260991** or email **revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk**

**Here
to help**

If you find the text in this leaflet difficult to read we can supply it in a format better suited to your needs.

We try to write everything in Plain English and want to make sure that everyone has access to the information they need.

01789 260105

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Message from Councillor Les Topham

- *Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council*

“ *The budget is one of the biggest responsibilities Your District Council has and this is the lowest increase in Council Tax for 5 years.* ”

*During the budget process **Your District Council** has continued to seek the views of residents, local businesses, staff, partners and Councillors to ensure that everybody's opinion has been considered and this district-wide consultation has provided valuable information to assist us in our work.*

***Your District Council's** new budget for 2010/11 is prudent and plans for difficult times ahead. The level of public expenditure nationally and the economic downturn have caused us to examine carefully every penny that is spent; every area of our business has been scrutinised with further savings identified. The medium term position remains challenging with a drop in government grant. Significant work will be required in order for the sustainability to be maintained, so we cannot think of setting a budget just for one year and changes have been made to ensure a more realistic and sustainable approach to **Your District Council's** finances.*

*This year is a critical year of transition leading to a transformed Council from April 2011. This transformation will build on previous year's efforts to constantly seek ways to work more efficiently across all services. **Your District Council** will continue to strive for the delivery of better quality services for less cost giving the tax payer even better value for money and we can prove years of achievement in this by significantly bettering government targets for efficiencies.*

*The Audit Commission, when considering **Your District Council's** performance, judged us to be performing well and we are endeavouring to build on this. We know hard times are affecting many people in our communities, that is why we have listened and are committed to keeping any increase in Council Tax to a minimum year on year and this year's 1.5% Council Tax increase represents real value for money with all the services provided by **Your District Council** costing only £2.49 a week for a Band D household.*

*As Leader I was pleased to be able to reduce the proposed Council Tax rise from 2.5% down to 1.5% and this is because the staff at **Your District Council** are subject to a pay freeze this year.*

Staff

It is estimated that the Council will employ an average of 300 (full time equivalent) staff in 2010/11, compared to an average of 315 (full time equivalents) in the previous year.

Future Capital Projects

Your District Council intends to spend a net £1.4m in 2010/11 on projects that will benefit buildings and major equipment that it is responsible for. The programme includes: E-Government Action Plan £733k; Planned Maintenance £455k; and Housing £1.1m.

Becoming More Efficient

All councils are required to measure and report the value of efficiency savings they have achieved since April 2008. An efficiency saving occurs when the cost of an activity falls, but its effectiveness is not reduced.

The table below shows the value of efficiency savings submitted to the Government to be achieved by the end of March 2010 :-

	Saving per Band D dwelling	National average for similar authorities
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£74	£41
Warwickshire County Council	£96	£98
Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority	£2	£4
Warwickshire Police Authority	£34	£54

Useful Contacts

Name	Contact details
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	01789 267575 (Out-of-Office 01789 414066)
Minicom	01789 260747
Council Tax	01789 260990
Benefits	01789 260991

The Council participates in the bi-annual National Fraud Initiative and the current exercise has been extended to include information from both the electoral register and council tax records to identify incidents of potential fraud. For this purpose, the Council works with the Audit Commission, an independent public body responsible for ensuring that public money is spent economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council transmits information to the Audit Commission through a secure upload to the Audit Commission's IT system.



Stratford-on-Avon District Council

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