

Council Tax Guide 2013/14

Welcome to your Council Tax Guide

This brief guide will explain how your Council Tax helps to pay for the services Fareham Borough Council provides across the Borough.

Fareham's part of Council Tax set at the same level for five years

We understand that household budgets are tight. This is why we have kept increases in Fareham Borough Council's part of Council Tax below the rate of inflation since 2004. In fact, Council Tax has been frozen at £140.22 or 38p per day, since 2009 and will remain so until 2014.

We have been able to do this by cutting costs and by careful financial management.



How much of my Council Tax goes to Fareham Borough Council?

As you can see below, Fareham Borough Council only receives a small amount (10%) of the Council Tax you pay. The rest pays for services provided by Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

How much of my Council Tax does Fareham Borough Council receive?



Total Tax Band D: £1390.73

Council Tax Guide 2013/14

How we calculate the Council Tax in Fareham

We produce a Finance Strategy which is updated each year. This helps us make spending, borrowing and investment decisions over the next 5 years.

The Council has £4.9 million revenue reserves (money saved to invest in the future), fund balances of £4.2 million and capital reserves of £13.9 million. These are used to pay for new projects and services, meet any unforeseen costs and to smooth the effect of other financial pressures and changes in Government funding on Council Tax.

However, the Council's finances remain tight this year and are likely to be so for the foreseeable future because of economic pressures and Government cuts.

The table below shows how we calculate your Council Tax:

COUNCIL TAX PER BAND D PROPERTY			
2012/13	Budget	2013/14	Amount per
£'000	Fareham Borough Council	£'000	Band D Property
			£
10,458	Net Expenditure	9,823	244.09
	Less Income:		
(152)	Council Tax Freeze Grant	-61	-1.52
(4,151)	Revenue Support Grant/Business Rates	-2533	-62.94
(60)	Use of Collection Fund Balances	-28	-0.70
0	Retained Business Rates	-1558	-38.71
6,095	Fareham Borough Council Total	5,643	£140.22
add:	Hampshire County Council Precept		1,037.88
	Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Precept		61.38
	Hampshire Police Authority Precept		151.25
	TOTAL		£1,390.73

Good at collecting Council Tax

Fareham Borough Council is one of the best authorities at collecting Council Tax. In 2011/12 we collected 98.6% of all Council Tax. This compares very well with other authorities both in Hampshire and nationally.

Making sure your Council Tax is well spent

Part of your Council Tax funds services provided by Fareham Borough Council such as waste collection and kerbside recycling, street cleansing, housing and community and leisure services. The table below shows how we spend your money to provide services in Fareham

REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2013/14			
Budget 2012/13 £	SERVICE BUDGETS	Budget 2013/14 £	Variation £
713,700	Planning Committee	669,000	-44,700
503,900	Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee	395,800	-108,100
	Executive - Service Budgets		
1,668,500	- Leisure & Community	1,681,800	13,300
2,029,200	- Health & Housing	1,369,400	-659,800
-752,300	- Strategic Planning & Environment	-234,100	518,200
2,147,000	- Policy Strategy & Finance	2,113,000	-34,000
2,757,600	- Public Protection	2,435,700	-321,900
4,470,000	- Streetscene	4,281,600	-188,400
13,537,600	Total Service Expenditure	12,712,200	-825,400
-3,079,100	Other Budgets	-2,888,900	190,200
10,458,500	NET EXPENDITURE	9,823,300	-635,200

Council Tax Guide 2013/14

What is my Council Tax spent on?

The chart below shows you how much of your £140.22 (at Band D) is spent on the different services we provide to our residents

What is my £140.22 Council Tax spent on?	
EMPTYING YOUR BINS	21.18
REMOVING LITTER	12.43
MOWING THE GRASS	6.05
PROTECTING THE COAST	1.29
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	2.48
PLACES TO PARK YOUR CAR	0.00
EASY ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES	5.72
CONSERVATION	5.87
PLAY AREAS	0.64
A POPULAR LEISURE CENTRE	3.30
IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH	0.00
ENTERTAINMENT AT FERNEHAM HALL	4.50
A LOCAL MUSEUM	1.20
WELL MAINTAINED SPORTS PITCHES	4.23
WELCOMING VISITORS	0.59
LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES	3.97
HELPING YOU FEEL SAFE AND SECURE	5.57
PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH	6.15
CONTROLLING PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT	10.14
LICENSING	0.00
PEST CONTROL	0.86
HELPING YOU WITH BEREAVEMENT ARRANGMENTS	0.82
CREATING A VIBRANT TOWN CENTRE	2.41
MANAGING GROWTH	7.62
A RANGE OF LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES	0.75
HELPING YOU WITH YOUR PROPERTY MOVES	0.00
HELPING YOU TRAVEL AROUND THE BOROUGH	0.83
SUPPORTING THOSE ON LOWER INCOMES	5.10
GRANTS	3.72
GIVING LOCAL PEOPLE A VOICE	5.68
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	7.93
HOME IMPROVEMENTS	3.06
HELPING WITH TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	2.80
PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES	0.68
KEEPING YOU INFORMED	2.64

Council Tax Guide 2013/14

Council Tax Support

Council Tax Benefit is being replaced from 1 April 2013 by Council Tax Support. Your Council Tax bill and benefits letter will let you know how much Council Tax support you are entitled to.

How is the rest of my Council Tax spent?

Further details on the spending plans of Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority can be found at the following websites:

Hampshire County Council

www.hants.gov.uk/counciltax2013-14

Hampshire Police and Crime

Commissioner

www.hampshirepolice.pnn.police.org

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority

www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Contact us

For more information regarding Council Tax please see the back of your Council Tax bill or visit our website. Alternatively you can contact us at the Civic Offices and we will be happy to help you.

Tel: 01329236100

counciltax@fareham.gov.uk

benefits@fareham.gov.uk

www.fareham.gov.uk