

Council Tax Guide 2014/15

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 six 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 for 2014/15.

We have been able to do this by cutting costs and by using 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: £1393.74

How we calculate the Council Tax in Fareham

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

The Council has £4.9 million revenue reserves (money saved to invest in the future), funds balances of £4.4 million and capital reserves of £14.3 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 funds 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 the changes to the Council's budget for 2014/15 and how we calculate your Council Tax.

COUNCIL TAX PER BAND D PROPERTY			
Budget			Amount per
2013/14	Fareham Borough Council	2014/15	Band D Property
£'000		£'000	£
9,823	Net Expenditure	9,516	232.26
	Less Income:		
-61	Council Tax Freeze Grant	-61	-1.50
-2,533	Revenue Support Grant	-1,991	-48.60
-28	Use of Collection Fund Balances	0	0.00
-1,558	Retained Business Rates	-1,718	-41.92
5,643	Fareham Borough Council Total	5,746	£140.22
add:	Hampshire County Council Precept		1,037.88
	Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority Precept		61.38
	Police and Crime Commissioner Precept		154.26
	TOTAL		£1,393.74

Good at collecting Council Tax

Fareham Borough Council maintains excellent collection rates for Council Tax (98.4% in 2012/13) which 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 cleaning, housing and community and leisure services.



The table below shows how we spend your money to provide services in Fareham.

REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2014/15			
Budget	Service Budgets	Budget	Change between
2013/14		2014/15	2013/14 and
			2014/15 budget
£		£	£
669,000	Planning Committee	793,400	-124,400
395,800	Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee	503,400	-107,600
	Executive - Service Budgets		
1,681,800	- Leisure and Community	1,754,000	-72,200
1,369,400	- Health and Housing	1,210,300	159,100
-234,100	- Strategic Planning and Environment	-580,000	345,900
2,113,000	- Policy and Resources	2,374,600	-261,600
2,435,700	- Public Protection	2,679,100	-243,400
4,281,600	- Streetscene	4,292,600	-11,000
12,712,200	Total Service Expenditure	13,027,400	-315,200
-2,888,900	OTHER BUDGETS	-3,511,300	622,400
9,823,300	NET EXPENDITURE	9,516,100	307,200

What is my Council Tax spent on?

The chart below shows you how much of your £140.22 (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	18.45
Removing litter	11.07
Mowing the grass	5.41
Protecting the coast	0.75
Public toilets	2.30
Places to park your car	13.44
Easy access to green space	6.24
Conservation	4.62
Play areas	0.57
A popular leisure centre	3.25
Improving the health of the Borough	0.00
Entertainment at Ferneham Hall	3.98
A local museum	1.05
Well maintained sports pitches	4.99
Welcoming visitors	0.45
Local community facilities	2.57
Helping you feel safe and secure	4.51
Protecting your health	5.46
Controlling property development e.g. planning applications	10.55
Licensing	0.00
Pest control	0.78
Helping you with bereavement arrangements	0.64
Creating a vibrant town centre	2.22
Managing growth	6.14
A range of local job opportunities	1.15
Helping you with your property moves	0.00
Helping you travel around the Borough	0.58
Supporting those on lower incomes	4.34
Grants	3.79
Giving local people a voice	5.69
Affordable housing	7.70
Home improvements	2.39
Helping with traffic management	2.16
Planning for emergencies	0.62
Keeping you informed	2.36

Council Tax Support

If you have made a claim for Council Tax Support, your Council Tax bill and enclosed Decision Letter will tell how much support you are entitled to. You can find out more about the Council Tax Support scheme and how to apply on our website. www.fareham.gov.uk

under Benefits in the A-Z listing

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

www3.hants.gov.uk/finance/budget/counciltax2014-15

Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner

www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/Transparency/Council-Tax.aspx

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority

www.hantsfire.gov.uk/council-tax-leaflet

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: (01329)824651

Email: counciltax@fareham.gov.uk

or

benefits@fareham.gov.uk

Web: www.fareham.gov.uk

