

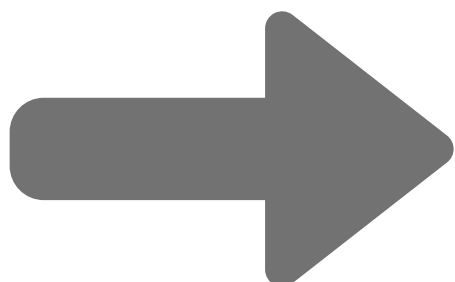
Last year, 2021/22, Hartlepool Borough Council froze Council Tax including the Adult Social Care (ASC) precept. Most councils increased Council Tax last year and the average increase was 4.4% - slightly below the 5% national limit. We funded this freeze by using one-off reserves, meaning we brought forward a budget deficit into 2022/23.

The Council continues to experience a range of budget pressures including within Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care, in addition to normal inflationary pressures we experience each year. For 2022/23, these pressures are amplified by the increase in National Living Wage incurred by our care providers, the National Insurance increase and significant inflationary pressures particularly on energy prices. We have sought savings to reduce these pressures, whilst protecting services as much as possible.

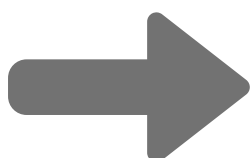
The Government is providing increased funding for councils for 2022/23. At a national level, Government figures show that for every £1 increase in Spending Power - i.e. funding available to pay for local services - 60 pence will come from an increase in grant funding and the other 40 pence will need to be achieved by increasing Council Tax income.

To secure this income, Council Tax will increase by 1.9% and the ASC precept by 3% - which is the increase we deferred from 2021/22. Overall, this is a 4.9% increase over two years – which is significantly lower than the 8% allowed by government over the two year period. It is also likely to be lower than most councils over this period as they will also be increasing Council Tax for 2022/23.

Council Tax 2021/22 and 2022/23



The National Council Tax limit over two years is 8%



The Hartlepool Council Tax increase over two years is 4.9%
2021/22: no increase
2022/23: 1.9% increase, plus 3% ASC

The amount of Council Tax payable for each property band in 2022/23 is shown below.

	Hartlepool Borough Council	Hartlepool Borough Council Adult Social Care Precept	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner	Cleveland Fire Authority	Total
Band A	£1,087.22	£137.32	£183.82	£54.57	£1,462.93
Band B	£1,268.42	£160.21	£214.46	£63.67	£1,706.76
Band C	£1,449.63	£183.09	£245.09	£72.76	£1,950.57
Band D	£1,630.83	£205.98	£275.73	£81.86	£2,194.40
Band E	£1,993.24	£251.75	£337.00	£100.05	£2,682.04
Band F	£2,355.64	£297.53	£398.28	£118.24	£3,169.69
Band G	£2,718.05	£343.30	£459.55	£136.43	£3,657.33
Band H	£3,261.66	£411.96	£551.46	£163.72	£4,388.80
Increase	1.9%	3%	3.76%	1.9%	4.64%

Other elements of your Council Tax

The Council Tax for Police is set by the Police and Crime Commissioner who decided to set an increase of 3.76%. Cleveland Fire Authority approved an increase of 1.9%.

Where each £1 spent by the Council comes from



How each £1 of Council Tax is spent



FAQ: What tax do I pay?

There are a number of taxes which receive far less attention than Council Tax. For example, we all buy goods on a daily basis without thinking about the rate of Value Added Tax (VAT). The standard rate of VAT for most goods and services is **20%** which goes directly to the Government.

Similarly, the price we pay for fuel - something we may be thinking about when filling our car – but do we remember the price includes Fuel Duty and VAT of around **65%** of what we pay.

Local Council Tax Support Scheme - You may be able to claim Local Council Tax Support if you, or another adult in your home, is on low income, either in or out of work. The amount of help you receive will depend on your income.

Discounts - There are also Council Tax reductions available; for example if you are the only person in your household over 18 years old, if a member of your family is disabled or severely mentally impaired, or your partner now lives in a nursing home. Discounts will depend on your individual circumstances.

Remember, you must keep us up to date if your circumstances change. You can apply online at www.hartlepool.gov.uk.

We all have a responsibility to pay taxes. We are on our way to collecting over 99% of Council Tax due and pursue all amounts due. If you have difficulties paying your bill, talk to us. We may be able to agree an alternative payment plan, highlight benefits you may be entitled to or signpost you to debt advice. Do not delay.

How do I pay? - Payment options are highlighted on your bill and a Direct Debit leaflet is enclosed. A convenient way to pay your bill at any time is on-line or using our automated payment line. All you need is your account details and bank card:



0300 1230703
(charged at local rate)



www.hartlepool.gov.uk/payment

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