

# Balancing the Council's Budget

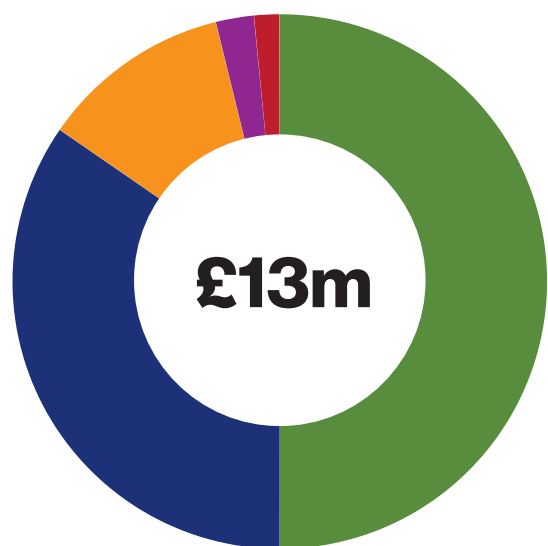
All councils are experiencing significant inflationary and demand pressures. As a result Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) faced a budget gap of £13m for 2024/25.

As part of a package to address this gap, the Council has made the difficult decision to increase core council tax by 0.99% and adult social care precept (ASCP) by 2%. This increase will provide £1.5m towards the funding gap. **At the time of writing, the combined increase of 2.99% is, we believe, the lowest increase in the country for a council with social care responsibility.**

The budget includes challenging savings proposals, but seeks to protect services to our most vulnerable residents. Without the increase, significant cuts to front line services would be needed.

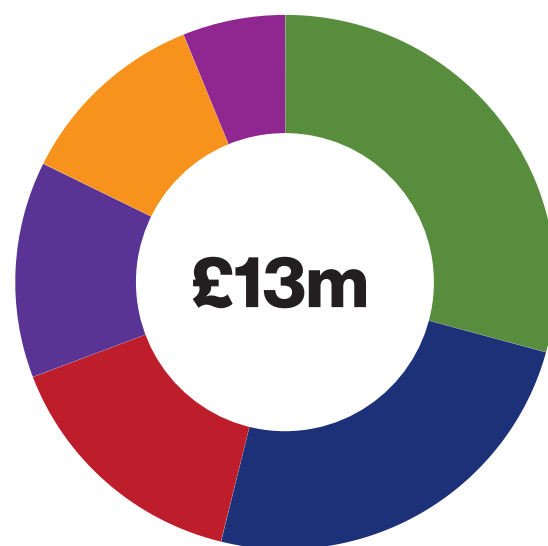
The Council's Government grant allocation for the next financial year is better than expected. However, we remain disappointed that a fairer distribution of government funding has been delayed. We will continue to press the case for a fairer funding system to alleviate the burden on local council tax payers.

## How the gap has arisen



- £6.5m Pay and price inflation
- £4.5m Childrens social care pressure
- £1.5m Previous use of one-off reserves
- £0.3m Increases to debt charges
- £0.2m Special education needs transport

## How the gap has been addressed



- £3.8m Government grant increases
- £3.2m Use of one-off reserves (i.e. deficit deferred)
- £2.0m Savings proposals
- £1.7m Increased business rates
- £1.5m Increased council tax (including ASCP)
- £0.8m Increased council tax base (i.e. more houses)

## A band-by-band guide to Council Tax 2024/25

	Hartlepool Borough Council Basic Amount without parishes	Hartlepool Borough Council Adult Social Care Precept	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner	Fire Authority	Total for areas without a Parish Council
🏠 Band A	1,135.45	187.50	202.49	59.64	1,585.08
🏠 Band B	1,324.69	218.75	236.23	69.58	1,849.25
🏠 Band C	1,513.93	250.00	269.98	79.52	2,113.43
🏠 Band D	1,703.17	281.25	303.73	89.46	2,377.61
🏠 Band E	2,081.65	343.75	371.23	109.34	2,905.97
🏠 Band F	2,460.13	406.25	438.72	129.22	3,434.32
🏠 Band G	2,838.62	468.75	506.22	149.10	3,962.69
🏠 Band H	3,406.34	562.50	607.46	178.92	4,755.22

*If you live in an area with a parish council, there will be an additional small charge for services it provides*

## How your HBC Council Tax is spent



## Are you eligible for help paying your Council Tax?

### Discounts

Reductions are available if, for example, you're the only person in your household over the age of 18, a family member is disabled or severely mentally impaired or your partner is in a nursing home. Discounts depend on individual circumstances.

### Local Council Tax Support Scheme

You may be able to claim if you or your partner are on a low income, either in or out of work. The level of support depends on your income.

The Council is introducing a new simplified scheme from 2024/25, that increases support for the most vulnerable. If you are currently in receipt of LCTS look out for details accompanying your bill.

### Tackling Fraud

The Council is committed to tackling council tax fraud. Make sure your records are up to date during the prosecution amnesty which runs until the 30 April.

### Paying your Council Tax

Please consider setting up a Direct Debit or standing order to avoid missing payments. Otherwise you can pay your bill anytime. All you need is your account details and bank card.

**0300 1230703**  
(charged at local rate)

[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/payment](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/payment)