

What is the Council Tax?

Each year the Government expects local authorities to raise money to help pay for the cost of providing local services. Some of this money comes from residents of the District and is collected by the Council in the form of Council Tax. Your Council Tax bill is based upon your Council Tax banding figure (which relates to the capital value of your property in 1991).

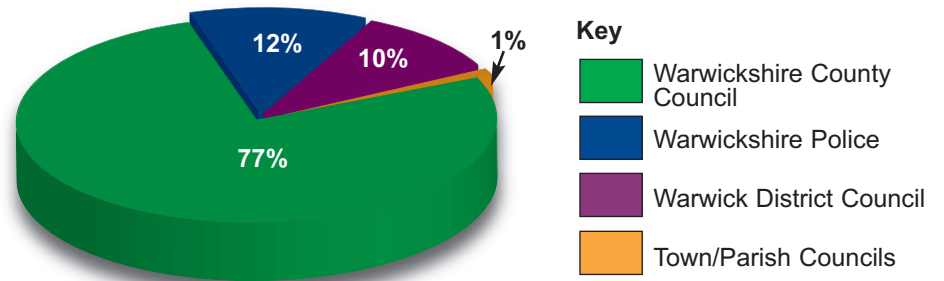
Why do you have to pay it?

By law we have to ask you for money and, by law, you are expected to pay. Failing to pay on time costs the council thousands of pounds each year, which can have an adverse effect on the following year's bills. In addition, failing to pay in time may result in additional costs being charged to you. We try to make paying the bill as easy as possible. We offer a number of ways in which you can pay. These are outlined on your Council Tax bill. There may also be help available (Council Tax Benefit) if you are on a low or fixed income – see 'on a low income' section.

How do we work out the Warwick District Council share of the Council Tax?

To work out the District Council element of the Council Tax we estimate what we will spend on delivering local services, we then reduce this for any income that we receive specifically for those services by way of fees and charges. This produces the Council's budget requirement. We then take away the money we will receive from the Government and from the Business Rates Pool. The balance is what is due to be raised from the Council Tax.

Where does the money go to?



The money we collect from you is not all for Warwick District Council. In fact we keep only 10p in every pound. The rest of the money is collected by us on behalf of other local authorities in the area, namely Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police Authority and the local parish and town councils. This leaflet tries to explain how the District Council's element of the Council Tax has been arrived at. However, if you require any further information regarding the level of tax set by each local authority please contact:

Warwickshire County Council (77%) **01926 412003**
 Warwickshire Police Authority (12%) **01926 415143**
 Warwick District Council & Parishes (11%) **01926 456013**

Calculating the Total Council Tax

£7.729m is the amount we need to collect in Council Tax to provide Warwick District Council services. We add on to this the amounts that the County Council, Police Authority and parish/town councils require to provide their services, that we collect on their behalf. In order to work out the specific level of Council Tax, these figures are divided by the number of properties in the area that are equivalent to a Band 'D'. For Warwick District for 2010/11 the total 'Band D equivalent' properties is 52,631.57. The Band D 'average' is £12.24/month when spread over 12 months.

	2010/11 £'000
Budget Requirements for Warwick District Council	18,214
Revenue Support Grant / Non Domestic Rates	(10,485)
Collection Fund Balance Adjustment	0
Amount to be raised from Council Tax	7,729

	Total amount to be raised from Council Tax £'000	Council Tax for a Band D property £	Proportion of total Council Tax
Warwick District Council	7,729	146.86	10%
Warwickshire County Council	60,802	1,155.25	77%
Warwickshire Police Authority	9,163	174.10	12%
Parish and Town Councils	1,074	20.39	1%
Total/Average Band D Council Tax	78,768	1,496.60	100%

How do we spend the money?

The table below shows how much we plan to spend on each of the main services provided by Warwick District Council.

Gross Expen.	2009/10 Gross Income	Net Expen.		Gross Expen.	2010/11 Gross Income	Net Expen.
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
13,011	9,253	3,758	Democratic Core & Central Services - This includes the cost of Council Tax benefits and the collection of Council Tax and business rates, along with costs of running the Council as a democratic body.	14,471	10,566	3,905
9,945	3,516	6,429	Cultural and Related Services - The costs of leisure services, parks and gardens, and arts facilities such as the Royal Pump Room and Royal Spa Centre	9,981	3,640	6,341
9,188	2,575	6,613	Environmental Services - This includes the cost of refuse collection and recycling, street cleansing, cemeteries and the crematorium. Community safety and environmental health are also included.	8,963	2,592	6,371
5,480	3,912	1,568	Planning and Development Services - The cost of planning applications and appeals, building control, the local plan. Money is also spent on economic and community development.	5,210	4,399	811
7,805	6,488	1,317	Highways, Roads and Transport Services - This comprises the cost of operating off-street car parks and the assisted travel scheme.	7,520	6,303	1,217
22,564	22,564	0	Council Housing - The cost of running and maintaining the Council's housing stock, paid for from rents.	21,951	21,951	0
27,574	26,691	883	Housing - Other - The costs of housing benefits, homelessness and renovation grants.	31,506	30,386	1,120
95,567	74,999	20,568	Total Expenditure on Services	99,602	79,837	19,765
		(2,646)	Less Financing and Reserves Adjustments			(1,551)
		17,922	Equals Budget Requirement			18,214
		(10,429)	Less Revenue Support Grant & Redistributed Non-domestic Rates			(10,485)
		7,493	Equals Amount to be raised from Council Tax			7,729

Why has the budget changed from last year?

	£'000
Budget Requirement 2009/10	17,922
Effect of Inflation	206
Service Developments - These include new cremators, shared services with other authorities and free swimming for under 16 year olds.	197
Committed Expenditure - Additional expenditure is having to be spent on utility costs plus a reduction in income due to the downturn in the economic climate.	763
Savings - Several short term projects have now finished. In addition, revised working practices have reduced costs plus the improvements in procurement practices have resulted in further savings.	(1,155)
Use of Reserves - More use is being made of the Council's reserves to pay for capital expenditure in 2010/11.	79
Financing charges - Less interest is expected to be received on the Council's investments due to falling interest rates.	202
Budget Requirement 2010/11	18,214