

2012/13

inform

Your Council Tax – what's in it for you?



Tendring
District Council



Essex County Council

Working together



Paying made easy

Sign up for direct debit



Please see the back of your Council Tax bill for more about direct debit.

Pay online or over the phone

- Go to **www.tendringdc.gov.uk** and follow the link 'Pay for it' to pay online and get a receipt by e-mail.
- Calls are free from a BT landline to our automated 24-hour payment line 0800 678 3046.

Is your bill correct?

Please tell us about any changes in your circumstances, or if your billing details are wrong.

Difficulty paying?

Please contact us if you cannot pay your Council Tax. Don't wait until you are in debt as this makes it more difficult to sort the problem out.

Remember, we are here to help you.

Do you own an empty property?

On 1 April 2009 Tendring District Council removed the discount on empty domestic properties. Therefore you may wish to consider renting out any empty home you have.

If you are interested in doing this or need advice on the options available to you, please contact the empty homes officer on 01255 686739 or e-mail: emptyhomes@tendringdc.gov.uk

Go to www.tendringdc.gov.uk or see the back of your bill for more information and other ways to pay.

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More information

We can provide this leaflet in other formats, for example large print, audio tape or another language, free of charge.

For more about this or about Council Tax, phone 01255 686822.

Cover image: All Saints Church, Brightlingsea.

Picture courtesy of David Bridle, www.kwik2print.co.uk, 01206 305677.



Working together for you

Tendring District Council, Essex County Council, Essex Police Authority and Essex Fire Authority have produced this booklet together to make it quicker and easier to explain how we work out your Council Tax and how we use it. This is one example of how we work together to save money and improve services.

What is Council Tax?

Council Tax is a tax local authorities charge to raise money to pay for their services.

Almost every household has to pay Council Tax, whether your home is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette, mobile home or houseboat, and whether you own or rent it.

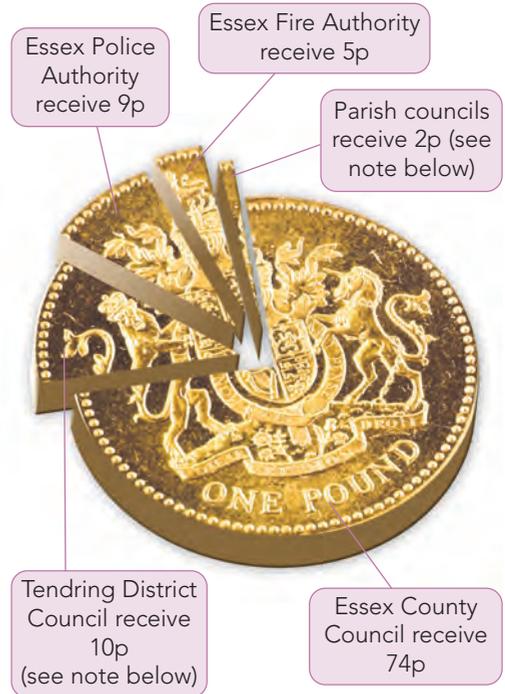
Each property is put into one of eight bands, depending on how much it was worth on 1 April 1991.

Your Council Tax bill shows the band your home is in.

Valuation band	Value of property on 1 April 1991
Band A	£40,000 or less
Band B	£40,001 to £52,000
Band C	£52,001 to £68,000
Band D	£68,001 to £88,000
Band E	£88,001 to £120,000
Band F	£120,001 to £160,000
Band G	£160,001 to £320,000
Band H	More than £320,000

We (Tendring District Council) collect your Council Tax and put it into a separate fund called the collection fund. We share this fund with Essex County Council, Essex Police Authority, Essex Fire Authority and the parish and town councils.

This year we need to collect £76 million in Council Tax. Every £1 of Council Tax is shared in the following way.



- Essex County Council use Council Tax to pay for services such as social services, highways and libraries.
- We use Council Tax to help pay for services such as collecting rubbish, planning, leisure services, developing housing and improving facilities for our community.

Please note – these are averages across all the parish and town councils.

Who has to pay Council Tax?

At least one person in each household is responsible for paying Council Tax.

In most cases the person (or people) aged 18 or over nearest the top of the following list will be responsible for paying Council Tax:

- Owner-occupiers
- Leaseholders
- People who pay rent
- People who have a licence to occupy, such as people who live in tied cottages (housing related to their work)
- People such as squatters, who live in the property but have no legal interest in it (that is, they don't own or rent it)
- People who own the property but don't live in it.

People such as tenants, married people or civil partners can be jointly or separately responsible for all the Council Tax for their property.

People with disabilities

You may be entitled to pay less Council Tax if you, or someone who lives with you, has a room or extra space, or an extra bathroom or kitchen, or uses a wheelchair in your property, to meet special needs relating to a disability.

We will reduce your bill by putting your home in the valuation band below the one it is now in. (For example, if your home is in band C, we will put it in band B.) If your home is in band A, we will reduce your bill by the difference between the amounts charged for bands A and B.

This means that people with disabilities don't have to pay more Council Tax for the extra space they need.

The Direct Debit Guarantee



- This guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay direct debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your direct debit, Tendring District Council will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Tendring District Council to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your direct debit by Tendring District Council or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Tendring District Council asks you to.
- You can cancel a direct debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Exempt properties

You don't have to pay Council Tax for some properties. These are known as 'exempt properties'.

If no-one lives in a property, it is exempt if the property:

- is unfurnished and needs or is having major repairs or structural alterations (exempt for up to a year) (Class A)
- is owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months) (Class B)
- is unfurnished (exempt for up to six months) (Class C)
- is left unoccupied because the owner or tenant who was living there is in prison (Class D)
- is left unoccupied by someone who has moved to receive personal care in a hospital, a care home, or somewhere else (Class E)
- is unoccupied when the owner has died and the property has to be sold to clear the debts of the estate. The exemption can apply for up to six months after probate or letters of administration have been granted. (Class F)
- is unoccupied because it is against the law for anyone to live in it (Class G)
- is waiting to be lived in by a minister of religion (Class H)
- is unoccupied because the owner or tenant who was living there has moved away to receive or provide care (Class I & J)
- is unoccupied and owned by a student and they were the last person to live there (Class K)
- has been repossessed and is still unoccupied (Class L)
- is Armed Forces accommodation (Class O)

- is Visiting Forces accommodation (Class P)
- is the responsibility of a trustee for someone who has been made bankrupt (Class Q)
- is an empty pitch for a caravan or mobile home, or a mooring for a houseboat (Class R), or
- is part of a property that also includes another home and cannot be let separately. (Class T)

Homes are also exempt if the following people live there:

- Only students. (Classes M and N)
- Only people under 18 years old. (Class S)
- Only people who have a severe mental difficulty and who would otherwise have to pay Council Tax. (Class U)
- A diplomat or member of international organisations. (Class V)
- An elderly or disabled person living in part of a home (an annexe) and their relative lives in the other part of the home. (Class W)

Please contact us if you think your property should be exempt from Council Tax or you should pay a reduced rate. Within 21 days of receiving the bill, you must tell us about anything that could affect an exemption or discount you receive.

FREE PARKING from 3pm – 6am

in all Tendring District Council
car parks*

This includes the summer months too!

(*excludes Holland Haven and The Naze)

For further information

Tel: 01255 686969

www.tendringdc.gov.uk

Discounts

Your Council Tax bill assumes that two adults are living in your home. If you are the only adult living there (as your main home), we will reduce the bill by 25%. If you own a furnished property and no-one lives there as their main home, we will reduce the bill by 10%.

If the property is unoccupied and unfurnished, no discount will be given.

When we look at the number of adults living in a property, we do not count:

- full-time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth trainees
- people who live in hospital
- people who are being looked after in care homes
- people who are severely mentally disabled
- people staying in some hostels for the homeless or night shelters
- 18 and 19 year-olds who are at or have just left school
- care workers working for low pay (usually for a charity)
- people caring for someone with a disability, who is not their partner or their child (if the child is under 18)
- members of visiting forces and some international institutions
- diplomats and their husbands or wives (who are not British)
- monks and nuns, and
- people in prison (except people in prison for not paying their Council Tax or a fine relating to their Council Tax).

Benefits

Council Tax Benefit means that people who get Income Support or Guarantee Pension Credit do not normally pay Council Tax, and that other people on low incomes pay less Council Tax.

There is also a scheme called Second Adult Rebate, which may apply if you share your home with other adults who are on low incomes.

We also pay Housing Benefit to help people pay their rent.

Make a claim as soon as you need help. Don't delay as you will lose money.

Claim by phoning:

- us on 01255 686811 – Benefit enquiries
- Jobcentre Plus on 0800 0 55 66 88 if you are of working age (under 60), or
- The Pension Service on 0800 99 1234 if you are eligible to claim state pension.

All benefits and rebates you are entitled to should be included on your Council Tax bill. Please tell us if you think you qualify for help to pay your Council Tax and it is not shown on your bill, or if you need more information.

We will need you to fill in a form to claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit. We will also ask you to give us proof of things like your identity, address, income and savings.

Changes

Please tell us when you move to another address.

If you are receiving Council Tax Benefit or Housing Benefit, you **must** tell us about any change that could affect your benefit claim. Please tell us when you know.

How do I appeal?

Valuation appeals

If you think your home should be in a different valuation band, please write to **The Valuation Office Agency** (not us) at **Ground Floor, Ferrers House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1AB** or telephone them on **03000 501501** or email them at **cteast@voa.gsi.gov.uk**

They will tell you your rights and how to appeal, if you are entitled to do so.

Other appeals

You can appeal to us if:

- you feel the property should be exempt from Council Tax
- you believe we have made a mistake working out your bill
- we have not given you a discount, or

- we have not reduced your bill because you or someone you live with has a disability.

If you disagree with our decision, you have two months to appeal to a Valuation Tribunal.

If you have applied for Council Tax Benefit and you disagree with our decision, you can ask us to look at it again. You can also appeal against our decision within one month of us making it (you must appeal in writing).

If you are still not happy with our decision, you can take your case to an independent appeals tribunal by writing to tell us that this is what you want to do.

If you appeal, you must continue to pay your Council Tax until your appeal is decided. If your appeal succeeds, we will give you back any Council Tax you have overpaid.

Tendring Careline

for independence and peace of mind



Do you worry about:

- having an accident or being taken ill with no-one to call?
- your personal safety in the home or garden?
- a vulnerable relative?

Tendring Careline could be the answer

A 24-hour national award winning service provided by Tendring District Council

For further details please contact:

Tendring Careline, 92 Pier Avenue,
Clacton on Sea, Essex, CO15 1NJ

Tel: **01255 222727** Fax: **01255 220380**

Email: careline@tendringdc.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Tendring
District Council





How we work out your Council Tax

The table shows how much we plan to spend on each of our main services.

We collect some of this money through Council Tax, but we have two other main sources of income – the Revenue Support Grant and shared Business Rates.

The Government pays us the Revenue Support Grant out of the taxes it collects.

We collect Business Rates and pay them all to the Government, which then repays some of them to us.

	£ thousands	
	Last year (2011/12)	This year (2012/13)
General council costs	5,709	4,561
Coastal Protection	1,285	1,261
Collecting local taxes and paying Council Tax Benefit	16,925	16,738
Community Safety	231	241
Environmental Health	4,329	4,080
Highways, Roads and Transport	1,164	1,036
Housing Services	70,971	72,003
Leisure and Tourism	6,867	6,650
Planning, Community, Partnerships and Renewal	4,988	4,483
Refuse Collection and Recycling	3,202	3,048
Other services	685	550
Gross expenditure	116,356	114,651
Town/parish council precepts (see page 11)	1,425	1,495
Less income from:		
Grants and contributions	-74,611	-75,875
Rents/fees /charges/interest	-20,134	-21,453
Net expenditure	23,036	18,818
Transfer from reserves	-2,940	61
Town/parish council precepts (see page 11)	-1,425	-1,495
	18,671	17,384
General Government Grant	-10,941	-9,663
Income from Collection Fund	-80	-80
Council Tax requirement	7,650	7,641
Average Council Tax for a property in band D* in Tendring District Council and the percentage rise (comparing last year and this year).	£149.13	£148.38 -0.5%

*Excluding town and parish councils

Facing cost changes

The table below shows why our spending has changed. Government policies and the state of the national economy affect our spending in general, and also affect some particular services, such as paying benefits.

	£ thousands
Money needed for 2011/12	18,671
Changes in spending on services	-1,705
Changes in grants, fees and other charges	-2,583
Changes to how we use savings	3,001
The amount we need to raise in 2012/13	17,384

How much do you have to pay?

We work out how much Council Tax we must collect by adding together the money each of the authorities need. The amount for Tendring District Council is split between General and Special Expenses. General Expenses are applied across the whole district and Special Expenses vary from area to area (see page 11).

We work out how much Council Tax the properties in each valuation band should

Benefit fraud

If you think a person is committing benefit fraud, call our Fraud Line on 0800 1697 004. We treat all calls as confidential. Or e-mail us at fraud.hotline@tendringdc.gov.uk

Fair processing of information

The Council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers, so we may use the information you provide on any forms to prevent and detect fraud. We may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.

For further information, see the Fair Processing Notice at www.tendringdc.gov.uk or contact the Council's Data Protection Officer by email at DPAofficer@tendringdc.gov.uk or phone on 01255 686513.

pay in line with the amount homes in band D will pay.

So, if your home is in band D, your Council Tax for this year will be £1,425.96 plus an amount you have to pay to your local Town/Parish Council for their precept and to Tendring District Council for Special Expenses (see page 11 for more details). The table below shows the Council Tax for a property in band D.

	Amount needed £ thousand	Council Tax for each property in band D
Tendring District Council – general expenses	7,008	£136.08
Essex County Council	55,966	£1,086.75
Essex Fire Authority	3,421	£66.42
Essex Police Authority	7,040	£136.71
Total (not including town/parish councils)	73,435	£1,425.96

Council Tax amounts for each area in the district

The chart below shows how much Council Tax you have to pay, depending on where you live and which valuation band your home is in.

	Band							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Clacton (unparished area)	964.65	1,125.42	1,286.20	1,446.97	1,768.52	2,090.07	2,411.62	2,893.94
Alresford	1,018.51	1,188.27	1,358.02	1,527.77	1,867.27	2,206.78	2,546.28	3,055.54
Ardleigh	977.89	1,140.88	1,303.86	1,466.84	1,792.80	2,118.77	2,444.73	2,933.68
Beaumont-cum-Moze	967.52	1,128.77	1,290.03	1,451.28	1,773.79	2,096.29	2,418.80	2,902.56
Great Bentley	994.30	1,160.02	1,325.73	1,491.45	1,822.88	2,154.32	2,485.75	2,982.90
Little Bentley	955.39	1,114.63	1,273.86	1,433.09	1,751.55	2,070.02	2,388.48	2,866.18
Bradfield	980.50	1,143.92	1,307.33	1,470.75	1,797.58	2,124.42	2,451.25	2,941.50
Brightlingsea	986.95	1,151.45	1,315.94	1,480.43	1,809.41	2,138.40	2,467.38	2,960.86
Great Bromley	977.93	1,140.92	1,303.91	1,466.90	1,792.88	2,118.86	2,444.83	2,933.80
Little Bromley	965.99	1,126.99	1,287.99	1,448.99	1,770.99	2,092.99	2,414.98	2,897.98
Little Clacton	993.31	1,158.86	1,324.41	1,489.96	1,821.06	2,152.16	2,483.27	2,979.92
Elmstead	981.34	1,144.90	1,308.45	1,472.01	1,799.12	2,126.24	2,453.35	2,944.02
Frating	975.71	1,138.33	1,300.95	1,463.57	1,788.81	2,114.05	2,439.28	2,927.14
Frinton and Walton	993.30	1,158.85	1,324.40	1,489.95	1,821.05	2,152.15	2,483.25	2,979.90
Harwich	981.09	1,144.61	1,308.12	1,471.64	1,798.67	2,125.70	2,452.73	2,943.28
Lawford	987.22	1,151.76	1,316.29	1,480.83	1,809.90	2,138.98	2,468.05	2,961.66
Manningtree	971.92	1,133.91	1,295.89	1,457.88	1,781.85	2,105.83	2,429.80	2,915.76
Mistley	988.71	1,153.49	1,318.28	1,483.06	1,812.63	2,142.20	2,471.77	2,966.12
Great Oakley	979.71	1,142.99	1,306.28	1,469.56	1,796.13	2,122.70	2,449.27	2,939.12
Little Oakley	969.10	1,130.62	1,292.13	1,453.65	1,776.68	2,099.72	2,422.75	2,907.30
Ramsey and Parkeston	984.57	1,148.66	1,312.76	1,476.85	1,805.04	2,133.23	2,461.42	2,953.70
St Osyth	990.19	1,155.23	1,320.26	1,485.29	1,815.35	2,145.42	2,475.48	2,970.58
Tendring	967.94	1,129.26	1,290.59	1,451.91	1,774.56	2,097.20	2,419.85	2,903.82
Thorpe-le-Soken	974.21	1,136.57	1,298.94	1,461.31	1,786.05	2,110.78	2,435.52	2,922.62
Thorington	973.25	1,135.46	1,297.67	1,459.88	1,784.30	2,108.72	2,433.13	2,919.76
Weeley	978.95	1,142.11	1,305.27	1,468.43	1,794.75	2,121.07	2,447.38	2,936.86
Wix	989.03	1,153.86	1,318.70	1,483.54	1,813.22	2,142.89	2,472.57	2,967.08
Wrabness	969.07	1,130.58	1,292.09	1,453.60	1,776.62	2,099.64	2,422.67	2,907.20

Parish and town council spending and special expenses

Parish/town council precepts: These are the extra amounts of money that these councils need to pay for things like footpaths, extra street lighting and community centres. The Council pays the precepts requested to the town and parish councils and recovers the cost by collecting an extra amount in that area. These are shown in the table below.

Special expenses: The cost of the Council's services throughout the whole district is spread across all Council Tax payers. However, some specific functions are also carried out by town/parish councils in their own areas. These functions include maintaining recreation grounds and open spaces, cemeteries and burial grounds, community centres and children's play areas. The Council calculates how much it spends in each area on those functions, reduces the general Council Tax by this amount and then charges it directly to the area where the service has been provided.

For more information about the Council's spending, please contact the Accountancy Section on 01255 686534.

Parish	Amount each parish needed to raise in 2011/12 in £'s	Amount each parish needs to raise in 2012/13 in £'s	Parish part of the Council tax for a property in band D in £	Special Expenses at band D in £
Clacton (unparished area)				21.01
Parishes of:				
Alresford	76,785	76,785	101.81	
Ardleigh	30,350	30,350	36.66	4.22
Beaumont-cum-Moze	3,000	3,200	25.32	
Great Bentley	54,041	55,068	65.01	0.48
Little Bentley	800	800	7.13	
Bradfield	20,000	20,000	44.79	
Brightlingsea	157,934	157,934	53.06	1.41
Great Bromley	14,000	15,500	40.94	
Little Bromley	1,380	2,250	23.03	
Little Clacton	67,500	67,500	64.00	
Elmstead	29,400	29,400	42.94	3.11
Frating	8,500	8,500	37.61	
Frinton and Walton	382,957	401,544	48.42	15.57
Harwich	188,279	191,518	32.56	13.12
Lawford	74,267	77,644	51.71	3.16
Manningtree	15,214	15,943	43.48	-11.56
Mistley	52,000	57,000	57.10	
Great Oakley	14,500	16,500	43.60	
Little Oakley	8,000	10,000	25.08	2.61
Ramsey and Parkeston	25,062	39,021	50.89	
St Osyth	104,942	116,000	58.87	0.46
Tending	7,000	7,000	25.95	
Thorpe-le-Soken	25,604	26,884	34.96	0.39
Thorrington	16,500	16,500	33.92	
Weeley	29,908	28,627	42.47	
Wix	11,500	17,500	57.58	
Wrabness	5,287	5,412	27.64	
Total	1,424,710	1,494,380		

The tables below show parish and town councils that spend more than £140,000.

	2011/12 £ thousands	2012/13 £ thousands
Frinton and Walton Town Council		
Recreation and tourism	146	156
Police Community Support Officers	124	129
Other services	116	113
Establishment	122	135
Less income	-125	-131
Total	383	402
Brightlingsea Town Council		
Recreation and tourism	191	181
Waterside activities	7	1
Special projects	24	56
Improvements	5	13
Establishment	60	62
Less income	-129	-155
Total	158	158
Harwich Town Council		
Recreation and tourism	74	62
Economic development	9	10
Establishment	117	133
Contribution from reserve fund	0	0
Less income	-12	-13
Total	188	192

Essex County Council

This has been one of the toughest financial years for local government, and the difficult times will continue into the next year and beyond. Essex County Council has worked hard to ensure Council Tax is frozen for another year, as we know the economic situation is also difficult for our residents and local businesses.

For several years, we have been transforming the way we do things and by 2013 we will have saved over £330 million. This has put us in a good position to meet the challenges we face and also continue to provide services residents need. This programme will continue in order to make more savings.

This year also sees the launch of the new EssexWorks Corporate Vision, which we developed after public consultation. It highlights the county council's priorities and challenges for the coming years. Our vision statement is:

Essex means business. We want to be a vibrant place where every individual and community has the opportunity to grow and reach their potential, and play a part in our county's success.

As part of this, the key priorities for the next five years are:

- Enabling each individual to achieve their ambitions by supporting a world-class education and skills offer in the county
- Securing the highways, infrastructure and environment to enable businesses to grow

- Improving public health and wellbeing
- Protecting and safeguarding vulnerable people
- Giving people a greater say and a greater role in building safer and stronger communities.

Essex County Council wants to see residents playing an active role in their community. As we work together, we will ground our actions in the following principles:

- **Putting our residents first:** We will always strive to champion Essex residents and communities, ensuring they have access to high-quality and innovative public services, and making the best use of taxpayers' money.
- **Increasing choice:** Essex County Council will put more choice and control in the hands of citizens and communities, whether through direct payments, personal budgets or by giving people direct choice over the services they receive.





■ Promoting local decision-making:

Our approach will transfer power to those who have greatest interest in getting decisions right and allow Essex's diverse communities to shape local services to meet local needs.

■ **Improving outcomes:** We will ensure that citizens and communities get the services they need at best value for the taxpayer. This will mean working in partnership with a diverse range of service providers across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

■ **Taking action early:** It is vital that the public services tackle problems before they become difficult and costly to address, and blight people's lives. Individuals, families, and communities have an important role in taking responsibility for what happens in their area.

■ **Delivering value for money:** We will never forget that we are stewards of taxpayers' money. We will deliver the best possible value for money by improving efficiency. We will live within our means and keep Council Tax low.

Working to these principles will bring a range of benefits to both our residents and Essex County Council. We will be setting up an improved customer service centre enabling residents to contact us and get the information they need quickly and easily. We've also invested in our online communications and, from April, we'll post all our publications on our website in a dedicated area: www.essex.gov.uk/publications

For more about what we have delivered in the past year and our plans for the year ahead, go to www.essex.gov.uk



Essex County Council

Council Tax

The Essex County Council charge for a band D property has been set at £1,086.75 for 2012/13, the same as 2011/12 and also 2010/11.

Band	£	Band	£
A	724.50	E	1,328.25
B	845.25	F	1,569.75
C	966.00	G	1,811.25
D	1,086.75	H	2,173.50

The tax base (number of homes) for Council Tax purposes has increased by 0.51% to 535,184 in 2012/13 providing Council Tax income of £582 million.

Financial overview

This year we plan to spend £2.1 billion on delivering services. Some of this will be supported by grants for specific purposes and other income including fees and charges, leaving a net budget requirement of £856 million. In addition to this there is a requirement to cover a £1m deficit on the Council Tax collection fund.

These requirements will be met by formula grant of £275 million, and a Council Tax of £582 million, calculated as follows.

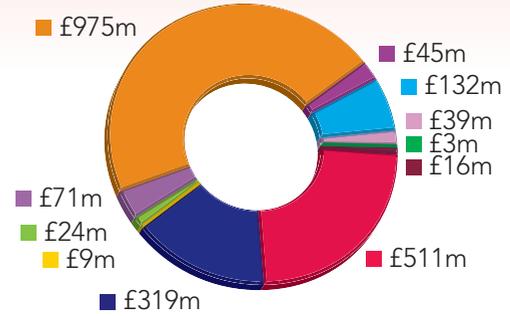
	£m	£m
	2011/12	2012/13
Total expenditure¹	2,096	2,144
Income and grants	(1,232)	(1,288)
Budget requirement	864	856
This is paid for by:		
Collection fund (surplus)/deficit	(1)	1
Formula grant ²	(284)	(275)
Council Tax requirement	(579)	(582)
Total funding	(864)	(856)

¹ Includes payments we have to make to the Environment Agency (£1.4 million), Lee Valley Regional Park (£1.7 million) and Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (£0.4 million).

² This is distributed by the Government using a national formula; there are no restrictions on what we can spend this on.

This year's budget is an apparent decrease of £8 million on last year's budget. This is due to increases in some specific government grants.

Gross expenditure on services £m



Total: £2,144m

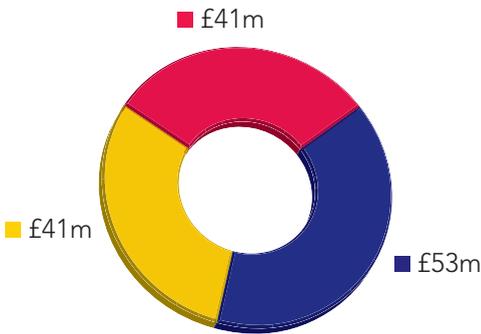
- Adults Health and Community Wellbeing
- Children's Services
- Communities and Planning
- Corporate Services
- Econ Devt and Waste and Recycling
- Education and 2012 Games
- Environment and Culture
- Highways and Transportation
- Other Operating Costs
- Procurement Property and Projects
- Policy and Strategy Services



Capital investment

Creating new assets and improving our existing ones is vital. However, in light of the pressures on the public finances, we have had to form new priorities for our capital programme. As a result, we have set an overall capital programme of £135 million for 2012/13 (see chart below) compared with £174 million for 2011/12. The council has also secured significant additional grants for funding infrastructure investment in Essex.

2012/13 Capital expenditure



- Education – improving the learning environment
- Maintaining, improving and updating our transport infrastructure and reducing congestion
- Other major projects

We will continue to invest in education: £41 million this year despite the difficult economic conditions. In 2012 two new replacement primary schools will open, one each in Takeley and Stansted. Both schools will be environmentally friendly with energy-efficient and sustainable buildings, and provide much improved learning conditions. There will also be substantial investment in Colchester, Epping and Harlow primary schools to cater for the rising number of children.

A new skills campus will open this year in Canvey Island and work will begin on a much-needed replacement building for Woodlands School in Basildon. Both buildings will provide efficient and modern learning facilities and the new skills campus will provide opportunities for new learning experiences outside of a typical curriculum.

From our continued discussions with local residents and businesses, it is clear that spending on the county's highways and transport infrastructure remains a priority. This year we will be investing £53 million on major transport schemes to help economic growth and regeneration across the county, including the completion of the A13/A130 Sadler's Farm junction.

For more about Council Tax and the services Essex County Council supports, go to www.essex.gov.uk/counciltax



Essex Police Authority

Essex Police Authority Council Tax – details for 2012/13

Essex Police Authority oversees the delivery of an effective and efficient police service throughout the county of Essex – the areas covered by Essex County Council and the unitary authorities in Southend and Thurrock. The police service is funded from two main sources – part of the Council Tax charged on all residential properties in Essex and central government grant.

These pages set out how Essex Police Authority will fund and maintain the policing services delivered by Essex Police in 2012/13. The budget will support the Force in fulfilling its vision to protect, help and serve everyone in Essex and make our communities even safer.

This is a time of major economic change, so the coming year and beyond will be extremely challenging. Our aim remains

to deliver a high level of service while managing significant funding cuts. The scale of the cuts will inevitably mean a reduction in officers and staff. However, we are reorganising our policing to improve efficiency and productivity, reducing costs wherever possible. This approach allows the Force and Authority to redirect resources towards priorities such as serious crime and public protection.

In addition, the Force will contribute significantly to the safety of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. The county has an Olympic venue at Hadleigh Castle, the Torch Relay and three training camps, which will mean a significant increase in visitors to Essex.

Policing priorities for 2012/13

Essex Police Authority and Essex Police have sought your views and concerns through consultation. These are reflected in the Policing Plan for 2012/13. The plan sets out local policing priorities for the coming year and shows how – together with our partners – we will achieve them.

Essex Police will continue to focus on reducing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour, while working to increase the number of crimes solved. We will also strive to make our roads safer and reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured.





Public safety remains at the heart of our business, so we will continue to work in partnership with other forces and agencies to build on our capability to tackle serious crime and dangerous offenders.

During the coming year we will be working to improve the level of public satisfaction by consistently delivering a quality policing service that meets the needs of individuals and our local communities.

Summary of performance against our 2011/12 priorities

Some types of crime have risen, but Essex remains a very safe county. From April to December 2011, compared to the same period the previous year, incidents of anti-social behaviour fell by 10.3% while criminal damage fell by 8.4%. There was also a 4% drop in serious violent crimes.

Over the same period the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads fell by 13.2%.

Essex Police has made significant progress in reducing the threat of harm to our communities by tackling organised crime and serious offenders. We have also seized funds and assets worth over £2.8 million from those involved in criminal activity.



After 31 March 2012 you can find out more about policing priorities for the coming year in the full Policing Plan for 2012/13 on the Essex Police website at www.essex.police.uk.

Public sector equality duty

The duty requires public bodies to have 'due regard' to equality in carrying out its business functions. This means taking a proactive approach to understanding the needs of staff and service users (and potential users), understanding the impact of our business policies, procedures and decisions on different people, delivering fair and appropriate services, and promoting equality. You can visit our website for our 'Equality Information Report', which shows how Essex Police has complied with the duty.

Funding the plan

The budget below shows how Essex Police Authority will fund the policing services in 2012/13. Its commitments are shown in the Essex Policing Plan.

Budgeting for policing

Essex Police Authority has approved a budget of £262 million for the Force. With Government grant funding of £173 million, the balance of £89 million has to be met by Council Tax receipts. This requires a Council Tax increase of 3.47% (a rise of 9p a week for a band D property).

Essex Police Authority planned spending

	2011/12 (£millions)	2012/13 (£millions)	Cost per head of population (in £)
Net expenditure	284.08	269.86	
Less: use of balances	(15.13)	(7.92)	
Budget requirement	268.95	261.94	147.35
Financed by:			
Home Office Grant	117.61	109.53	
Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates	65.69	63.61	
Council Tax requirement	85.32	88.73	
Surplus on Collection Fund	0.33	0.07	

Rising costs of contracts and unavoidable cost pressures

The 2012/13 revenue budget includes a rise of £1.3m in the cost of existing contracts and new cost pressures.

Budget savings

In 2012/13, budget savings of £15 million are needed to meet cost increases and a reduction in a number of Government grants. All the budget savings have been identified.



Loans

As at 31 March 2012, the Essex Police Authority has no external debt.

Council Tax 2012/13

Band D is used as the base for calculating the tax. The equivalent number of band D properties in Essex is 649,002. To raise Council Tax income of £88.725 million, a Council Tax (Band D) of £136.71 is needed. The other seven bands are fixed in direct proportion to band D:

Band A	£91.14	Band C	£121.52	Band E	£167.09	Band G	£227.85
Band B	£106.33	Band D	£136.71	Band F	£197.47	Band H	£273.42

Staff numbers (full-time equivalent)

Estimated provision in budget	2011/12	2012/13
Police officers	3,443	3,321
Police community support officers	362	362
Police staff	1,964	1,825
Special constables	600	620

The staffing figures for 2012/13 reflect the estimated budget provision by 31 March 2013.



Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Making certain every decision counts

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service continues to face one of the biggest financial challenges in our long history but we are weathering the storm, making savings while still striving for progress.

Through prudent financial management and doing some things differently, we are preparing for the expected austerity measures while continuing to invest in the frontline services that keep Essex families safe.

Decisions implemented now will help us in future years as the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review takes effect. Our aim is to meet our financial targets with minimal impact on those who live, work or travel through Essex.

Essex Fire Authority has met its commitments that there will be no fire station closures, no reduction in the number of fire appliances responding to

emergencies, and a guarantee of job security for the dedicated workforce that delivers our frontline operational services.

We have successfully changed our crewing arrangements at Canvey Island Fire Station, where the two fire appliances are now crewed by retained (part-time) firefighters. These crews are available to protect the public round the clock.

We are progressing well with our recruitment and training of retained firefighters so that we can change arrangements at Brentwood Fire Station. Our plan is to move from two wholetime crewed fire appliances to one wholetime crewed and one retained-crewed fire appliance.

Emergency calls to the fire station have been falling – and across the County calls have dropped by an average of 16 per cent – partly as a result of our decision not to respond to automatic fire alarms except where there is a risk to life.



So this is a sensible and considered response based on robust data and extensive computer modelling. The decision was made by the elected members of the Fire Authority based on advice from senior fire officers.

Investment in new protective equipment has not only given Essex firefighters a new image, gold tunics, new boots, helmets and gloves, but ensured that they have the very best personal protection when called upon to fight a fire. Delivered to fire stations in October, this kit was bought under a shared contract with other fire and rescue services in the region. We will benefit from annual savings of £100,000. For our firefighters, replacement kit is never more than two hours away.

While other UK fire and rescue services are cutting back, we continue to invest in frontline vehicles and equipment suitable for a modern fire and rescue service. We now have five new aerial ladder platforms, two incident command units, a welfare unit, foam units, a specialist animal rescue unit, and two new water units and boats as part of a swift water rescue response.

Through an agreement with Spartan Rescue we have access to a £1.4m fleet of sophisticated vehicles, equipment and personnel. The vehicles provide us with extra back-up in the event of a catastrophe such as major widespread flooding, as seen in other parts of the UK in recent years.



Plans for a new emergency Control Centre at our Kelvedon Park headquarters move on apace. This is where 999 calls are received and our crews are mobilised from, so it is at the heart of our frontline response. The Fire Authority believes it is important to keep this operation in Essex rather than follow the lead of other fire and rescue services that have outsourced it to neighbouring organisations.

We have been criticised for deciding to spend millions of pounds on IT. But a modern fire and rescue service cannot rely on carbon copies, pens and pencils. So this is crucial spending designed to establish a strong and resilient network that can deliver crucial facts to the scene of incidents. It also enables us to manage our data so that we can focus resources on areas that need them most, as well as managing and recording such things as hours worked, sickness absence, shift patterns and course bookings. For example, the 'electronic rota book' alone will help us save millions of pounds.

Like the rest of Essex, our people are eagerly awaiting the Olympics . As one of the biggest sporting occasions the UK has ever seen, it brings increased risk. Though Essex will host only one formal event, the Games will bring thousands of extra visitors here to use our airports, docks, roads, hotels and shopping centres, and we have to make sure we are ready if any emergency arises. We are working with our partner agencies to make sure the County's safety is not compromised.

Smoke alarm could save your life



You wouldn't dream of travelling in a car without a seat belt, yet every night thousands of families in the County switch out the lights and go to sleep without a smoke alarm.

It may be because they think fire happens to someone else or perhaps because they don't understand that the best way to protect their family is to fit a smoke alarm. Whatever the reason, a smoke alarm could actually save their life – or yours.

A smoke alarm gives valuable early warning and enables you and your family to flee before you are overcome by toxic smoke.

Smoke alarms are relatively cheap and easy to fit yourself. While you're protecting yourself, think about elderly relatives and neighbours who might need one too.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service will conduct free home fire safety visits for vulnerable people such as the elderly or families with young children. You can recommend a friend, neighbour or family member for one of these visits. To see if you are eligible, call 0845 601 2495.



Zero council tax increase

Households will be paying about £1.27 a week in 2012/13 for fire services.

The cost of providing our services in 2012/13 will be £77.279m. There will be no Council Tax increase from Essex Fire Authority this year as the Government has provided a specific grant to compensate for the Council Tax freeze.

The Fire Authority charges a separate amount of Council Tax for properties covered by Essex County Council and the two unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock.

To raise the money we need, we will charge a Council Tax of £66.42 for an average Band D property. We believe this is excellent value for money.

What do you think? Visit our website: www.essex-fire.gov.uk and complete our customer survey, or write to webmaster@essex-fire.gov.uk.

Band	£	Band	£
A	44.28	E	81.18
B	51.66	F	95.94
C	59.04	G	110.70
D	66.42	H	132.84

Doing more with less

We are working on plans to share our properties with partner agencies in a bid to make best use of our assets.

Essex Police have already moved in at Tiptree, West Mersea and Wivenhoe Fire Stations and the Coastguard has made its base at South Woodham Ferrers Fire Station.

In Southend, our new pilot scheme uses trained volunteers from the Southend Association of Voluntary Services to help elderly and vulnerable people by making home fire safety visits and fitting smoke alarms.

In Newport and Coggeshall, firefighters are putting their efforts into a new scheme supporting the Ambulance Service as first responders. This means firefighters are alerted at the same time as the Ambulance Service. All those taking part have received special training and equipment from the Ambulance Service. And because they live and work in the community, they are more likely to reach a casualty quicker than a team coming from outside.

With all the emergency services having to find ways of doing more with less, schemes like this make perfect sense. This is particularly true in rural areas where those used to responding in emergencies can expand their expertise and could help to save more lives.



Essex County Fire and Rescue Service planned spending

The Essex Fire Authority has approved the following budget.

	£ thousands	
	2011/12	2012/13
Gross expenditure	78,066	80,777
Income	-2,701	-3,498
Budget requirement	75,365	77,279
Financed by:		
Revenue support grant	7,630	650
Business rates	24,685	33,526
Collection fund surplus	158	-4
Council Tax	42,892	43,107
Total financing	75,365	77,279

Changes in the budget requirement for 2012/13

	£ thousands
2011/12	75,365
Inflation	446
Other changes	1,468
2012/13 budget requirement	77,279

Our corporate plan and annual report provide information about our performance and our plans for the future. Both are available on our website. If you are unable to access the internet, printed copies (including large print, braille and other languages) are available on request from chloe.rowling@essex-fire.gov.uk. From summer 2012, printed copies will be available in your local fire station or library.

More information

Want to know more about our services?

Tendring
District Council



Write to:
Benefits and Revenues
Tendring District Council
88-90 Pier Avenue
Clacton-on-Sea
Essex CO15 1TN.

Email: council.tax@tendringdc.gov.uk

Phone:

- **01255 686868** for general enquiries
- **01255 686822** Council Tax enquiries
01255 686811 Benefit enquiries, or
- **01255 222727** for emergency help out of hours.

Call in at 88-90 Pier Avenue, Clacton. We are open between 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9am to 4pm Fridays.

Visit our website for more information.

www.tendringdc.gov.uk



Write to:
Essex County Council
Freepost CL3636
Chelmsford CM1 1LX.

Email: counciltax@essex.gov.uk

Phone:

- **08457 430 430**, or
- **08457 585 592** if you are hard of hearing.

Our main office is at:
County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1LX.

Read our online magazine at
www.essex.gov.uk/ew

Follow us on Essex_CC

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www.facebook.com/essexcountycouncil

Find information relevant to you at
www.essex.gov.uk/publications

For more about our services visit
our website.



www.essex.gov.uk



For further information about
Essex Police and Essex Police
Authority please visit
www.essex.police.uk and
www.essex.police.uk/authority.

Or you can call Essex Police 24 hours a day on:
101 – for non-emergencies from a landline
0300 333 4444 – for non-emergencies from a mobile
999 – for emergencies only.

If you want more detailed financial
information, please contact the
Financial Services department at
police headquarters:

PO Box 2, Springfield
Chelmsford, Essex
CM2 6DA.
Phone: **01245 452615**
Fax: **01245 452568**
Email: financehelp@essex.pnn.police.uk



www.essex.police.uk



Write to:
**Essex County Fire and
Rescue Service**
Kelvedon Park, Rivenhall,
Witham, Essex CM8 3HB.

Email: chloe.rowling@essex-fire.gov.uk

Phone:

- **01376 576125**.

Essex County Fire and Rescue
Service visits the homes of vulnerable
people free of charge to give you
advice about fire safety and to fit
smoke alarms. Phone 0845 601 2495
to see if you qualify or for more safety
information.



You can find out more about our
services by visiting our website.



www.essex-fire.gov.uk

For every tree used to make our paper, another is planted.