



Council Tax – Changes continuing from April 2013 at a glance.

Following changes in the Council Tax Regulations and to reduce costs, we have once again not produced the “Inform” booklet and this leaflet will again replace it.

Exemption “Class C”

Empty and unfurnished properties do not receive an exemption and therefore will be charged the full 100% Council Tax.

“Class A” (Uninhabitable) exemption

This exemption has been replaced by a locally defined discount, which Tendring District Council has set to 100% for up to a maximum of 12 months, as long as the property continues to require, or is undergoing major repair works to render it habitable, or is undergoing structural alterations. If the major repair works are completed within six months you can receive a further 6 months discount providing the property remains unfurnished and unoccupied.

Furnished Unoccupied Properties

Furnished unoccupied properties will be charged the full 100% Council Tax.

Reductions for Annexes (Came into force from 1st April 2014)

From 1st April 2014 a 50% reduction in Council Tax will apply for people living in annexes provided they are related to the person liable to pay the Council Tax on the main dwelling (unless they are already exempt under Class W (dependent relative) or Class T (unoccupied and cannot be let separately from the main dwelling).

The reduction also applies for people living in dwellings with annexes which are unoccupied provided they are using the annexe as part of their main residence.

Paying made easy

Paying online or over the phone:

Go to www.tendringdc.gov.uk and follow the link ‘Pay for it’ to pay online. Calls are free from a BT landline to our automated 24-hour payment line 0800 678 3046

See the back of your Council Tax bill or visit our website at www.tendringdc.gov.uk for further options.



Post Office:

Payments by cash, cheque (made payable to Post Office Limited) or debit card can be made at any UK Post Office (or Sub Post Office), free of charge, using the payment barcode on your Council Tax bill.



PayPoint:

Payments by cash only can be made at any UK PayPoint outlet, free of charge, using the payment barcode on your Council Tax bill.

You can choose to pay in 10 or 12 instalments

Council Tax payers have the right to pay by 12 instalments (April – March) upon request. If you want to switch to payments by Direct Debit please see the back of your bill.

If you already pay by direct debit but would like 12 instalments you can choose from any of the following dates: - 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd or 28th.

Please email

Council.tax@tendringdc.gov.uk

ring 01255 686822 or write to 88-90 Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1TN.

Alternatively, if you would like 12 instalments but do not want to pay by direct debit please email

Council.tax@tendringdc.gov.uk

ring 01255 686822 or write to 88-90 Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1TN.

You can choose the 1st or the 28th of the month. Of course if you are happy with your present payment date and the number of instalments, **no action is required.**

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.

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, Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Essex Fire Authority and the Parish and Town Councils.

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

This year we need to collect £65 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 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.

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 owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months) (Class B)
- 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 (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.

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, no discount will be given.

However, if it needs or is having major repairs or structural alterations discount will be given.

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
- people caring for someone with a disability, who is not their partner or their child (if the child is under 18)
- 18 and 19 year-olds who are at or have just left school
- care workers working for low pay (usually for a charity)
- 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).

Local Council Tax Support (LCTS)

Pension Age (i.e. State Pension Credit age) LCTS customers will continue to be assessed under the Government prescribed scheme.

For Working Age applicants, LCTS replaced Council Tax Benefit and 2nd Adult Rebate from 1st April 2013.

I am of working age, so how will the LCTS Scheme affect me? Under LCTS you can claim up to 80% help towards your council tax. Therefore all working age households will need to pay at least 20% of their council tax bill from 1st April 2015 regardless of their income. If you have other adults living with you as part of your household e.g. adult children or parents you will have to pay more.

How do I claim Local Council Tax Support? If you are in receipt of Local Council Tax Support at 31st March 2015 your support will continue, but remember that you must tell us if there have been, or will be, any changes to your circumstances.

The amount of your LCTS award will be shown on the front of your bill, including any instalments you may need to pay if there is an amount due.

If you are not already receiving LCTS and think you may be eligible we would refer you to Tendring District Council website:

<http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council-tax/discounts>

Changes

If you are receiving LCTS you **must** tell us about **any** change that could affect your support. For example changes to the household, change of household income.

A £70 penalty notice will be issued if you fail to notify us of any such changes within 21 days.

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 think the decision is wrong you can:

1. Make an appeal in writing to Tendring District Council telling us why you think the decision is wrong. Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of Council Tax.

2. If the Council cannot resolve your appeal or you do not get a reply within 2 months you may appeal to the Valuation Tribunal. You must do this within 2 months of the date of when the Council notified you of its decision or, if you have received no reply from us, within four months from the date of your initial appeal. You will need to fill in an appeal form. You can do this online at www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk.

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.

Fair Processing and Sharing of Information

Tendring District Council is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. In order to meet this obligation this will include sharing information internally and externally to prevent and detect fraud, improve the way it delivers services and for the purpose of performing any of its statutory enforcement duties. This will also include sharing information with other bodies responsible for auditing and administering public funds, as well as checks made on credit reference agencies.

All personal information will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Is your bill correct?

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

DO NOT IGNORE YOUR BILL - If you do not pay it and do not agree any other arrangement, we may take action against you which could increase the amount you have to pay.

Penalties

A £70 penalty notice will be issued to anyone who fails to inform the Council within 21 days of any relevant change of circumstances which affects entitlement to a discount, (including Local Council Tax Support) or exemption, or fails to reply to a request for information in relation to an entitlement to a discount (including Local Council Tax Support), or provides false information to obtain any Council Tax discount or exemption.

Benefit Fraud

You are an honest Council Tax payer, but others around you may not be.

Do you know of anyone who is currently trying to abuse the system by falsely claiming a Council Tax discount (including Local Council Tax Support) or an exemption?

Funding has been cut for the Council, but help us to prevent further cuts to **your** Council services by stopping those individuals who are not fully paying their way.

If you do have any suspicions you can anonymously contact us by

Telephone on 0800 1697 004 or
E-mail fraud.hotline@tendringdc.gov.uk or

All the information you provide us with will be treated in the strictest confidence.



Tendring District Council is dedicated to tackling any form of Fraud very seriously.

WARNING — FRAUD

You will have to pay back the overpaid benefit / discount in all circumstances but if the Council feels a serious offence has been committed in relation to a claim for Housing Benefit or Local Council Tax Support you can be interviewed under caution. This could result in the Council prosecuting you or you being offered a caution or an Administrative Penalty (fined up to 50% of the original total overpayment of benefit /discount).

A **£70 penalty notice** will be issued to anyone who either fails to inform the Council within 21 days of any relevant changes of circumstances or provides false information to obtain any discount or exemption or they are committing fraud.

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 – Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates.

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

We collect Business Rates and split them with the Government. 50% will go to the Government. The remaining 50% will be split as 40% for Tendring, 9% for Essex County Council and 1% for the Fire Authority.

	£ thousands		
	Last Year (2014/15)	This Year (2015/16)	
General Council Costs	4,253	4,521	
Coastal Protection	1,080	1,187	
Collecting Local Taxes	1,663	1,719	
Community Safety	311	231	
Environmental Health	3,979	4,099	
Highways, Roads and Transport	1,047	906	
Housing	72,743	72,548	
Leisure and Tourism	6,531	6,442	
Planning, Community Partnership and Renewal	4,380	4,350	
Refuse Collection and Recycling	3,491	3,578	
Other Services	287	3,731	
Gross Expenditure	99,765	103,312	
Town/Parish Council Precepts	1,327	1,360	
Less income from:			
Total Grants and Contributions	-61,168	-62,613	
Total Rents/Fees and Charges and Interest	-21,829	-22,719	
Net Expenditure	18,095	19,340	
Transfer From Reserves	-405	-3,145	
Town/Parish Council precepts	-1,327	-1,360	
	16,363	14,835	
Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates	-9,690	-7,919	
Income from Collection Fund	-254	-377	
Council Tax Requirement*	6,419	6,539	
Average Council Tax for a property in band D* in Tendring District Council and the percentage change comparing last year and this year.	£147.64	£147.64	0.0%
*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.

	£ thousands
Money needed for 2014/15	16,363
Changes in spending on services	3,547
Changes in grants, fees and other charges	-2,335
Changes to how we use savings and reserves	-2,740
The amount we need to raise in 2015/16	14,835

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.

We work out how much Council Tax the properties in each valuation band should 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 £1,436.76 plus an amount you have to pay to your local Town/Parish Council for their precept and to Tendring District Council for Special Expenses. 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	6,043	136.44
Essex County Council	48,132	1,086.75
Essex Fire Authority	2,942	66.42
Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex	6,517	147.15
Total (not including Town/Parish Councils)	63,634	1,436.76

Council Tax amounts for each area in the district

This chart 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)	970.68		1,132.46		1,294.24		1,456.02		1,779.58		2,103.14		2,426.70		2,912.04	
Alresford	1,025.07		1,195.92		1,366.76		1,537.61		1,879.30		2,220.99		2,562.68		3,075.22	
Ardleigh	984.07		1,148.08		1,312.09		1,476.10		1,804.12		2,132.14		2,460.17		2,952.20	
Beaumont-cum-Moze	975.80		1,138.43		1,301.07		1,463.70		1,788.97		2,114.23		2,439.50		2,927.40	
Great Bentley	1,000.47		1,167.21		1,333.96		1,500.70		1,834.19		2,167.68		2,501.17		3,001.40	
Little Bentley	970.66		1,132.44		1,294.21		1,455.99		1,779.54		2,103.10		2,426.65		2,911.98	
Bradfield	987.57		1,152.17		1,316.76		1,481.36		1,810.55		2,139.74		2,468.93		2,962.72	
Brightlingsea	993.28		1,158.83		1,324.37		1,489.92		1,821.01		2,152.11		2,483.20		2,979.84	
Great Bromley	991.11		1,156.30		1,321.48		1,486.67		1,817.04		2,147.41		2,477.78		2,973.34	
Little Bromley	973.63		1,135.90		1,298.17		1,460.44		1,784.98		2,109.52		2,434.07		2,920.88	
Little Clacton	1,006.50		1,174.25		1,342.00		1,509.75		1,845.25		2,180.75		2,516.25		3,019.50	
Elmstead	987.59		1,152.18		1,316.78		1,481.38		1,810.58		2,139.77		2,468.97		2,962.76	
Frating	984.37		1,148.44		1,312.50		1,476.56		1,804.68		2,132.81		2,460.93		2,953.12	
Frinton and Walton	1,000.23		1,166.93		1,333.64		1,500.34		1,833.75		2,167.16		2,500.57		3,000.68	
Harwich	988.91		1,153.72		1,318.54		1,483.36		1,813.00		2,142.63		2,472.27		2,966.72	
Lawford	986.35		1,150.74		1,315.13		1,479.52		1,808.30		2,137.08		2,465.87		2,959.04	
Manningtree	980.43		1,143.84		1,307.24		1,470.65		1,797.46		2,124.27		2,451.08		2,941.30	
Mistley	997.11		1,163.30		1,329.48		1,495.67		1,828.04		2,160.41		2,492.78		2,991.34	
Great Oakley	993.35		1,158.90		1,324.46		1,490.02		1,821.14		2,152.25		2,483.37		2,980.04	
Little Oakley	980.51		1,143.93		1,307.35		1,470.77		1,797.61		2,124.45		2,451.28		2,941.54	
Ramsey and Parkeston	994.44		1,160.18		1,325.92		1,491.66		1,823.14		2,154.62		2,486.10		2,983.32	
St Osyth	998.28		1,164.66		1,331.04		1,497.42		1,830.18		2,162.94		2,495.70		2,994.84	
Tendring	983.22		1,147.09		1,310.96		1,474.83		1,802.57		2,130.31		2,458.05		2,949.66	
Thorpe-le-Soken	989.11		1,153.97		1,318.82		1,483.67		1,813.37		2,143.08		2,472.78		2,967.34	
Thorrington	982.46		1,146.20		1,309.95		1,473.69		1,801.18		2,128.66		2,456.15		2,947.38	
Weeley	991.41		1,156.65		1,321.88		1,487.12		1,817.59		2,148.06		2,478.53		2,974.24	
Wix	999.27		1,165.81		1,332.36		1,498.90		1,831.99		2,165.08		2,498.17		2,997.80	
Wrabness	976.57		1,139.34		1,302.10		1,464.86		1,790.38		2,115.91		2,441.43		2,929.72	

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 the 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, open spaces 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.

The table below shows Parish and Town Councils that spend more than £140,000

	2014/15 £ thousands	2015/16 £ thousands
Frinton and Walton Town Council		
Recreation and Tourism	123	124
Police Community Support Officers	132	220
Other Services	121	94
Establishment	136	127
Contribution from Reserve Fund	0	-58
Less income	-162	-157
Total	350	350
Harwich Town Council		
Recreation and Tourism	42	67
Economic Development	7	23
Establishment	125	126
Contributions from Reserve Fund	27	-14
Less income	-41	-39
Total	160	163
Brightlingsea Town Council		
Recreation and Tourism	179	188
Waterside Activities	7	7
Special Projects	37	37
Improvements	15	20
Establishment	63	58
Less income	-161	-168
Total	140	142

Parish and Town Council spending and special expenses

Parish	Amount each parish needed to raise in 2014/15 in £'s	Amount each parish needs to raise in 2015/16 in £'s	Parish part of the Council Tax for a property in band D in £'s	Special expenses at band D in £'s
Clacton (unparished)				19.26
Parishes of:				
Alresford	71,930	71,980	100.85	
Ardleigh	30,350	30,519	39.34	
Beaumont-cum-Moze	3,130	3,244	26.94	
Great Bentley	41,529	48,440	63.94	
Little Bentley	2,000	1,961	19.23	
Bradfield	18,824	18,942	44.60	
Brightlingsea	139,734	141,501	53.16	
Great Bromley	15,092	18,013	49.91	
Little Bromley	1,928	2,335	23.68	
Little Clacton	64,126	65,388	72.99	
Elmstead	27,272	27,544	44.62	
Frating	8,091	8,132	39.80	
Frinton and Walton	349,996	349,996	47.83	15.75
Harwich	159,558	162,645	32.02	14.58
Lawford	65,994	54,564	39.61	3.15
Manningtree	15,435	15,621	49.64	-15.75
Mistley	54,433	54,890	58.91	
Great Oakley	16,942	18,600	53.26	
Little Oakley	10,462	12,066	34.01	
Ramsey and Parkeston	36,621	36,717	54.90	
St Osyth	99,386	103,293	60.66	
Tendring	9,000	9,743	38.07	
Thorpe-le-Soken	27,308	32,851	46.91	
Thorrington	15,488	17,089	36.93	
Weeley	26,638	31,277	50.36	
Wix	10,932	17,101	62.14	
Wrabness	5,445	5,462	28.10	
Total	1,327,644	1,359,914		

Essex County Council Council Tax Information 2015/16

Funding, Expenditure and Capital

For the fifth successive year Essex County Council has frozen its share of the Council Tax. As a result it will mean the council's share of the Council Tax on a Band D property will be £1,086.75.

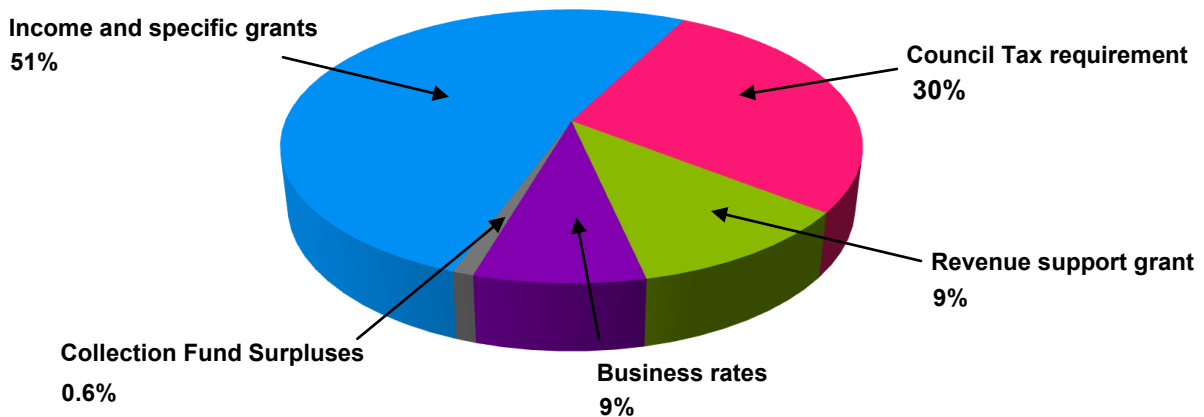
The Council's overall budget for delivering services including social services, libraries, country parks, waste and recycling, road safety, trading standards and street lighting in 2015/16 is £1.78 billion.

Financial Overview	£m 2014/15	£m 2015/16	Change £m
Total expenditure	1,856	1,779	(77)
Income and grants	(963)	(909)	54
Budget requirement	893	870	(23)
This is paid for by:			
Collection fund (surplus)/deficit	(6)	(11)	(5)
Business Rates and RSG	(359)	(321)	38
Council Tax Requirement	(529)	(539)	(10)
Total Financing	(893)	(870)	23

The tax base (number of band D equivalent properties) for council Tax purposes is 496,101.02 providing Council Tax income of £529 million.

Band	£	Band	£
A	724.50	E	1,328.25
B	845.25	F	1,569.75
C	966.00	G	1,811.50
D	1,086.75	H	2,173.50

Funding For Services



Funding for Services

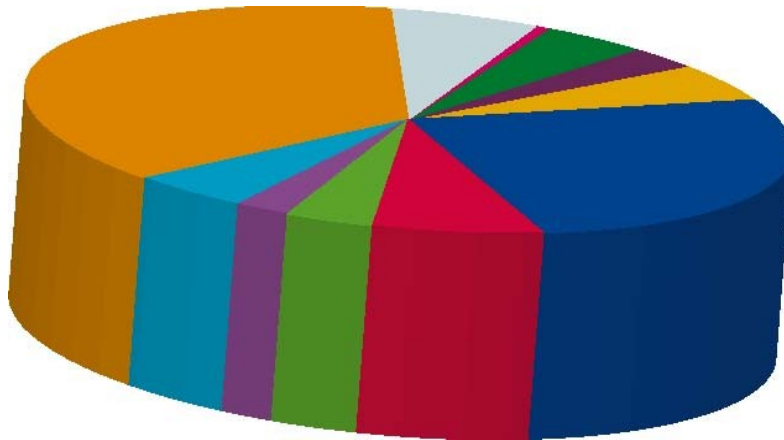
Around 51 per cent of the Council's funding in 2015/16 will come from grants for specific purposes and other income including fees and charges.

The remaining funding will come from the Revenue Support Grant of £161 million, Business Rates of £160 million and Council Tax of £539 million.

Expenditure on services

While freezing the Council Tax the Council has committed to spending:

- £125 million on services supporting vulnerable children and families
- £473 million on services supporting vulnerable adults
- £108 million on highways and transportation



	£m
 Adult Social Care	473
 Children and Families	125
 Communities and Healthy Living	69
 Customer Services, Planning and Environment	35
 Economic Growth, Infrastructure, Waste and Recycling	87
 Education and Lifelong Learning	660
 Highways and Transportation	108
 Leader	13
 Transformation, Corporate and Traded Services	75
 Finance, Central Services and Levies	48
 Other Operating Costs	99

The Council is not only ensuring that it is preparing itself for the challenges it will be facing in the future, but also investing in issues impacting on its residents and communities now.

It has chosen to freeze council tax while investing in road improvements and flood management; continuing to help to support the most vulnerable people in society; and boosting economic growth and employment.

Like every other part of the public sector the Council is continuing to work within a tough financial climate with a £47m reduction in government funding whilst also facing rising inflation and increasing demands on services.

However, the Council continues to be in a good position to meet these challenges. The Council has made £450 million savings over the last 5 years. However, over the next 3 years it still needs to save at least a further £190 million.

To help achieve this, the Council is changing the way it supports its residents and communities to help make a lasting difference to their lives while also saving money. In this year's budget the Council has created a £1 million Essex Innovation Challenge Prize which will encourage staff and communities to find new solutions to some of the most difficult challenges facing public services in Essex

The Council will also continue to push forward its work with partners to deliver more effective, efficient and coordinated services meeting the needs of local people.

Capital investment

In addition to the expenditure on services outlined above, the Council is committed to delivering the biggest capital investment programme Essex has ever seen providing investment in front line services to ensure residents and businesses get the services they need, without any increase in council tax.

As a result, we have set an overall capital programme of £272 million for 2015/16 which will include:

- £130 million into the highways network to help economic growth, reduce traffic congestion and improve the conditions of the county's roads;
- £78 million into education focusing on the provision of additional school places;
- £11 million into Super-fast broadband to ensure that 95% of Essex residents and businesses have coverage.

This information is issued by Essex County Council, Financial Services

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PCC) – Publications

For information relating to the PCC please visit

<http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/scrunity/pcc-publications/>

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service has frozen Council Tax for the fifth year running. This means that a Band D household will contribute £66.42 a year.

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

This amounts to just £1.28 a week for a 24 hour a day 365 days a year fire service. 2010.

The Essex Fire Authority has approved the following budget:

	£ thousands	
	2014/15	2015/16
Gross expenditure	77,358	75,943
Income	-4,087	-4,116
Budget requirement	73,271	71,827
Financed by:		
Revenue Support Grant	19,138	16,303
Business Rates	14,712	14,993
Collection fund surplus	467	773
Council Tax	38,954	39,758
Total Financing	73,271	71,827

Changes in the budget requirement for 2015/16

	£ thousands
2014/15	73,271
Inflation	755
Other Changes	-2,199
2015/16 budget requirement	71,827