



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

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

### Changes to Exemption “Class C”

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 empty and unfurnished properties will no longer receive an exemption and therefore will be charged the full 100% Council Tax.

### Changes to “Class A” (Uninhabitable) exemption

This exemption is abolished from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 but has been replaced by a locally defined discount, which Tendring District Council has set to 100% for up to a maximum of 12 months, as long as the property continues to require, or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.

### Changes to Furnished Unoccupied Properties

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 furnished unoccupied properties will no longer receive a 10% discount and therefore will be charged the full 100% Council Tax.

### You can choose to pay in 10 or 12 instalments

From the 2013/14 financial year Council Tax payers will 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: - 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>. Please email [12instalments@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:12instalments@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 [12instalments@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:12instalments@tendringdc.gov.uk). 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.**

## Bus Passes and Senior Railcards

**Concessionary bus passes** are now provided by Essex County Council. Call 0845 200 0388 to apply. Current pass holders who have passes due for renewal will be automatically sent replacements, rather than having to reapply. However, if you have moved call 0845 200 0388 and provide your new address. Application forms can be picked up at your local Library.

**Senior Railcards** are now provided at the Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SE, Telephone:01255 686633, Email: [clactontic@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:clactontic@tendringdc.gov.uk)

## Paying made easy



### 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.

### Paying online or over the phone:

Go to [www.tendringdc.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk) for further options.

## 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.

## 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, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Essex Fire Authority and the parish and town councils.

This year we need to collect £63 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.

## 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
- if 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.

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## 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 homeless or night shelters

- 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)
- 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).

## Local Council Tax Support (LCTS)

**For Working Age claimants, LCTS is replacing Local Council Benefit and 2nd Adult Rebate from 1st April 2013.**

**I am of working age, so how will the new LCTS Scheme affect me?** Under the new LCTS you can only claim up to 90% towards the council tax. Therefore all working age households will need to pay at least 10% of their council tax bill from 1st April 2013 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 Benefit at 31st March 2013 you will be automatically transferred to the new scheme.

**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.**

Otherwise to make a claim you can either contact us by:

**Telephone:** us on 01255 686811

**Email:** [benefits@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@tendringdc.gov.uk)

**Visit:** Council Offices, 88-90 Pier Avenue, Clacton Open times: Monday–Thursday 9am to 4.30pm, Friday 9am to 4pm.

Benefits Surgery: Harwich Job Centre, 164-168 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich. For opening times please telephone the number above.

### Changes

Please tell us when you move to another address. If you are receiving LCTS or Housing Benefit, you **must** tell us about any change that could affect your benefit claim.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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.

## 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 email us at [fraud.hotline@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto: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.

## 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 split them with the Government. 50% will go to the Government which will be paid into a central pool. The remaining 50% will be split as 80% for Tendring, 18% for Essex County Council and 2% for the Fire Authority.

	£ thousands	
	Last Year (2012/13)	This Year (2013/14)
General council costs	4,561	4,718
Coastal Protection	1,261	1,254
Collecting local taxes and paying Local Council Tax	16,738	1,758
Community Safety	241	220
Environmental Health	4,080	4,134
Highways, Roads and Transport	1,036	1,048
Housing Services	69,264	72,741
Leisure and Tourism	6,650	6,423
Planning, Community, Partnerships and Renewal	4,483	4,630
Refuse Collection and Recycling	3,048	3,400
Business Rates—Tariff and Levy	-	5,175
Other services	550	971
<b>Gross expenditure</b>	<b>111,912</b>	<b>106,472</b>
Town/parish council precepts	1,495	1,287
Less income from:		
Grants and contributions	-75,875	-60,918
Rents/fees /charges/interest	-21,453	-21,544
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>16,079</b>	<b>25,297</b>
Transfer from reserves	2,800	-1,189
Town/parish council precepts	-1,495	-1,287
	<b>17,384</b>	<b>22,821</b>
General Government Grant	-187	-6,720
Tendring's share of Business Rates	-9,476	-9,678
Income from Collection Fund	-80	-151
<b>Council Tax requirement</b>	<b>7,641</b>	<b>6,272</b>
Average Council Tax for a property in band D* in Tendring District Council and the percentage rise (comparing last year and this year).	£148.38	£147.64 -0.5%

\* excludes 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 2012/13	17,384
Adjustments for localisation of Business Rates and Local Council Tax Support	5,335
Changes in spending on services	1,583
Changes in grants, fees and other charges	-231
Changes to how we use savings	-1,250
<b>The amount we need to raise in</b>	<b>22,821</b>

## 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 £1,429.99 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	5,749	£135.34
Essex County Council	46,165	£1,086.75
Essex Fire Authority	2,821	£66.42
Police and Crime Commissioner	6,010	£141.48
<b>Total (not including town/parish councils)</b>	<b>60,745</b>	<b>£1,429.99</b>

## 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)	967.93	1,129.26	1,290.58	1,451.90	1,774.54	2,097.19	2,419.83	2,903.80
Alresford	1,021.41	1,191.65	1,361.88	1,532.12	1,872.59	2,213.06	2,553.53	3,064.24
Ardleigh	980.65	1,144.10	1,307.54	1,470.98	1,797.86	2,124.75	2,451.63	2,941.96
Beaumont-cum-Moze	970.39	1,132.12	1,293.85	1,455.58	1,779.04	2,102.50	2,425.97	2,911.16
Great Bentley	989.07	1,153.91	1,318.76	1,483.60	1,813.29	2,142.98	2,472.67	2,967.20
Little Bentley	959.53	1,119.46	1,279.38	1,439.30	1,759.14	2,078.99	2,398.83	2,878.60
Bradfield	983.41	1,147.31	1,311.21	1,475.11	1,802.91	2,130.71	2,458.52	2,950.22
Brightlingsea	989.77	1,154.73	1,319.69	1,484.65	1,814.57	2,144.49	2,474.42	2,969.30
Great Bromley	981.10	1,144.62	1,308.13	1,471.65	1,798.68	2,125.72	2,452.75	2,943.30
Little Bromley	977.87	1,140.85	1,303.83	1,466.81	1,792.77	2,118.73	2,444.68	2,933.62
Little Clacton	996.11	1,162.12	1,328.14	1,494.16	1,826.20	2,158.23	2,490.27	2,988.32
Elmstead	984.63	1,148.74	1,312.84	1,476.95	1,805.16	2,133.37	2,461.58	2,953.90
Frating	978.99	1,142.16	1,305.32	1,468.49	1,794.82	2,121.15	2,447.48	2,936.98
Frinton and Walton	996.47	1,162.54	1,328.62	1,494.70	1,826.86	2,159.01	2,491.17	2,989.40
Harwich	984.01	1,148.01	1,312.01	1,476.01	1,804.01	2,132.01	2,460.02	2,952.02
Lawford	987.83	1,152.47	1,317.11	1,481.75	1,811.03	2,140.31	2,469.58	2,963.50
Manningtree	975.53	1,138.12	1,300.71	1,463.30	1,788.48	2,113.66	2,438.83	2,926.60
Mistley	992.89	1,158.38	1,323.86	1,489.34	1,820.30	2,151.27	2,482.23	2,978.68
Great Oakley	986.00	1,150.33	1,314.67	1,479.00	1,807.67	2,136.33	2,465.00	2,958.00
Little Oakley	972.83	1,134.97	1,297.11	1,459.25	1,783.53	2,107.81	2,432.08	2,918.50
Ramsey and Parkeston	985.89	1,150.21	1,314.52	1,478.84	1,807.47	2,136.10	2,464.73	2,957.68
St Osyth	993.27	1,158.81	1,324.36	1,489.90	1,820.99	2,152.08	2,483.17	2,979.80
Tendring	970.69	1,132.47	1,294.25	1,456.03	1,779.59	2,103.15	2,426.72	2,912.06
Thorpe-le-Soken	978.22	1,141.26	1,304.29	1,467.33	1,793.40	2,119.48	2,445.55	2,934.66
Thorrington	976.06	1,138.74	1,301.41	1,464.09	1,789.44	2,114.80	2,440.15	2,928.18
Weeley	981.55	1,145.14	1,308.73	1,472.32	1,799.50	2,126.68	2,453.87	2,944.64
Wix	995.71	1,161.67	1,327.62	1,493.57	1,825.47	2,157.38	2,489.28	2,987.14
Wrabness	972.06	1,134.07	1,296.08	1,458.09	1,782.11	2,106.13	2,430.15	2,916.18

## Parish and town council spending and special expenses

The table below shows parish and town councils that spend more than £140,000

**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 on the next page.

**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.

The introduction of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) from 1 April 2013 has resulted in a reduction to the tax base for all Councils due to the effect of treating Council Tax Benefit as a discount. Parish/Town Councils have been given a share of Council Tax Benefit grant to compensate for this reduction. As a result of these changes the amount each parish needs in 2013/14 looks to be less than 2012/13 for the same level of Council Tax.

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

	2012/13 £ thou- sands	2013/14 £ thou- sands
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### Frinton and Walton Town Council

Recreation and tourism	156	134
Police and Community Support Officers	129	132
Other Services	113	114
Establishment	135	140
Less Income	-131	-178
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>342</b>

### Harwich Town Council

Recreation and tourism	62	52
Economic development	10	10
Establishment	133	139
Less income	-13	-47
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>154</b>

## Parish and town council spending and special expenses

Parish	Amount each parish needed to raise in 2012/13 in £'s	Amount each parish needs to raise in 2013/14 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)				21.91
Parishes of:				
Alresford	76,785	71,073	102.13	
Ardleigh	30,350	28,359	36.83	4.16
Beaumont-cum-Moze	3,200	3,040	25.59	
Great Bentley	55,068	40,643	53.13	0.48
Little Bentley	800	950	9.31	
Bradfield	20,000	18,616	45.12	
Brightlingsea	157,934	137,150	53.25	1.41
Great Bromley	15,500	14,950	41.66	
Little Bromley	2,250	3,535	36.82	
Little Clacton	67,500	55,590	64.17	
Elmstead	29,400	26,793	44.44	2.52
Frating	8,500	8,019	38.50	
Frinton and Walton	401,544	341,973	48.71	16.00
Harwich	191,518	153,769	31.81	14.21
Lawford	77,644	64,782	48.57	3.19
Manningtree	15,943	14,520	47.28	-13.97
Mistley	57,000	53,627	59.35	
Great Oakley	16,500	16,716	49.01	
Little Oakley	10,000	9,279	26.65	2.61
Ramsey and Parkeston	39,021	31,435	48.85	
St Osyth	116,000	97,889	59.47	0.44
Tendring	7,000	6,663	26.04	
Thorpe-le-Soken	26,884	25,484	36.95	0.39
Thorrington	16,500	15,309	34.10	
Weeley	28,627	24,583	42.33	
Wix	17,500	16,945	63.58	
Wrabness	5,412	5,323	28.10	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,494,380</b>	<b>1,287,015</b>		

### Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service has frozen Council Tax for the third year running.

This means that a Band D household will contribute £66.42 a year which amounts to just £1.28 a week.

The freeze comes despite an overall reduction on government funding of £4,679,000 including the loss of the single year council tax freeze grant of £1,293,000 and a reduction on grant of £3,375,000.

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

Prudential financial management and early action by the Service means that it has healthy reserves and is in a good position to weather the current and future financial storms.

The Essex Fire Authority has approved the following budget

	£ thousands	
	2012/13	2013/14
Gross expenditure	80,777	78,720
Income	-3,498	-4,175
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>77,279</b>	<b>74,545</b>
Financed by:		
Revenue Support Grant	650	21,692
Business Rates	33,526	14,419
Collection fund surplus	-4	201
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>77,279</b>	<b>74,545</b>

Changes in the budget requirement for 2013/14

	£ thousands
2012/12	77,279
Inflation	750
Other Changes	-3,484
<b>2013/14 budget requirement</b>	<b>74,545</b>

# Essex County Council Funding, Expenditure and Capital

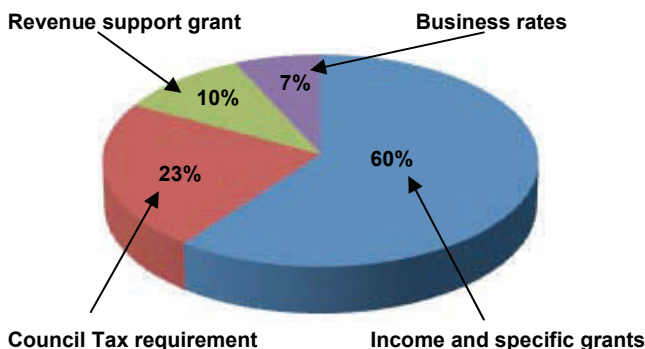
For the third successive year Essex County Council has frozen its share of the Council Tax. As a result it will mean the council's share of the Council Tax on a Band D property will be £1,086.75.

The Council's overall budget for delivering services including social services, libraries, country parks, waste and recycling, road safety, trading standards and street light in 2013/14 is £2.27 billion.

	£m 2012/13	£m 2013/14
Total expenditure	2,169	2,269
Income and grants	(1,312)	(1,362)
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>907</b>
This is paid for by:		
Collection fund (surplus)/ deficit	1	(3)
Business Rates and RSG	(275)	(386)
<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>(582)</b>	<b>(518)</b>
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>(856)</b>	<b>(907)</b>

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

**The tax base (number of band D equivalent properties) for council Tax purposes is 476,730 providing Council Tax income of £518 million.**



## Funding for Services

Around 60 per cent of the Council's funding in 2013/14 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 £232 million, Business Rates of £154 million and Council Tax of £518 million.

## Expenditure on services

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

- Over £900 million on schools
- Around £700 million on services supporting vulnerable adults and children
- Over £100 million on highways & transportation

## Gross expenditure on services £m

Adult social care	506
Children's Services	216
Communities and planning	9
Customer services, environment and culture	43
Economic growth and waste and recycling	78
Education and 2012 Games	1,122
Finance and transformation	22
Health and wellbeing	91
Highways and transportation	136
Other operating costs	14
Strategy and policy	14

The Council is ensuring it is prepared for the new responsibilities in the next financial year including public health and changes to the welfare system.

It is also exploring opportunities to develop a scheme which will help first time buyers get on the housing ladder and will be continuing to promote initiatives that help businesses grow and flourish across the county.

Like every other part of the public sector, the Council is continuing to work within a tough financial climate with a growing demand for services coupled with a decreasing level of government funding to provide them.

However, the Council is in a good position to meet the challenges it faces and continue to provide the services our residents need thanks to the on-going transformation of its services. The first phase of this project will have made more than £360 million in savings and efficiencies by the end of March.

In this year's budget the authority has pledged to make a further £55 million savings and efficiencies. This is on top of the £200 million savings the authority is set to make by 2017 under the second phase of the transformation project which will reshape how it provides its services.

The Council will also push forward with the work it has developed as part of being one of four national community budget pilot areas, where it has worked with partners across Essex to develop proposals that will deliver cash savings and demand reduction and economic and social benefits worth over £400 million within five years.



## Capital investment

In addition to the expenditure on services outlined above, the Council is committed to investing in assets it owns on behalf of the community such as schools and highways.

As a result, we have set an overall capital programme of £186 million for 2003/14, which will include.

- Investing almost £18 million in providing 1,000 additional school places in 2013/2014.
- £2 million in providing accommodation for vulnerable people.

The Council has also committed more than £180 million over the next four years on enhancing and maintaining its network of 8,500 miles of roads.

## Essex Local Policing Summary

### 2013/14 Budget

The 2013/14 budget of £274.3m consists of £271.8m for Policing operations and £2.5m for Community Grants issued by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex (the PCC).

### Community Safety Grants

The Government are supporting crime reduction initiatives by providing the PCC with Grant funding of £1.3m that was previously allocated to local Councils. The PCC has increased the budget by £0.5m, which along with other budgets has created a fund of £2.5m. This is the first time that funding for crime reduction initiatives, drug service and youth offending teams have been consolidated through the PCC.

### Funding the 2013/14 Police and Crime Plan

After using £2.7m of reserves, the budget requirement of £271.6m will be funded from two main sources; Government Grant and Council Tax. Government grant funding will be £189.8 million and Council Tax receipts will be £81.8 million.

	2012/13 £million	2013/14 £million
Net expenditure:-		
Force	269.8	271.8
PCC / Community Grants		2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>269.8</b>	<b>274.3</b>
Less: use of balances	(7.9)	(2.7)
Budget requirement *(a)	261.9	271.6
Financed by:		
Home Office Grant	109.5	116.6
Community Safety Fund	0	1.3
Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates	63.6	60.9
Council Tax Support Grant	0	11.0
Council Tax	88.7	81.4
Surplus on Collection Fund	0.1	0.4

\* (a) At £271.6m, the budget requirement if £154 per head of population, which is one of the lowest in the country.

### Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

2013/14 will be the third year of an MTFS requiring £42.2m of savings by 2014/15

### Budget Savings

In 2013/14, budget savings of £6.3 million are needed to meet cost increases and a reduction in Government grants and the impact on staff numbers to meet the savings required is shown in the next column.

### Staff numbers (full-time equivalent)

Estimated provision in budget	2012/13	2013/14
Police officers	3,321	3,283
Police community support officers	362	350
Police staff	1,825	1,769
Special constables	620	600

### Council Tax 2013/14 \*(b)

The 2013/14 budget requires a Council Tax increase of 3.49% (a rise of just over 9p a week for a Band D property). Band D is used as the base of calculating the tax. To raise the Council Tax income of £81.4million, a Council Tax (Band D) of £141.48 is needed. The other seven bands are fixed in direct proportion to Band D as follows:

	thousands	
	2012/13	2013/14
Gross expenditure	80,777	78,720
Income	-3,498	-4,175
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>77,279</b>	<b>74,545</b>
Financed by:		
Revenue Support Grant	650	21,692
Business Rates	33,526	14,419
Collection fund surplus	-4	201
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>77,279</b>	<b>74,545</b>