

In a difficult financial climate, we have agreed a three year budget which means your council will be more efficient than ever but some services will be cut. We must reduce spending by more than £80 million over three years, with the biggest part of those savings - £30m - from back office functions and efficiencies.

Our innovative approach to delivering good quality, value for money services which meet local people's priorities means we've been able to keep council tax at 2010/11 levels for the majority of people.

Find out more about your council's budget. See page 4.



Direct Debit is the easy way to pay
Sign up online at:
www.kirklees.gov.uk/directdebit



Money off your bill?

You could get money off your bill depending on your circumstances – for example, if you live alone or have low income. **Don't miss out, see back page.**

If you have difficulty paying your bill

Contact us immediately and we'll do our best to help. We may be able to agree a different payment arrangement, such as smaller, regular payments or a different payment date. We can also check if you qualify for council tax discount and benefit. Contact us now on the number below.

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council.tax@kirklees.gov.uk
Call us on 01484 414900 or visit
www.kirklees.gov.uk/counciltax

**Circumstances changed?
Tell us now.
It could reduce your bill**

Our performance and achievements in 2010/11

Our innovative and efficient approach to delivering services means we've been able to make good progress in meeting your priorities, whilst identifying cost savings imposed by the government.

During the year we:

- saw more students gain five or more GCSEs
- improved opportunities for working age adults through education, training and apprenticeships
- helped over 8,000 adults receive greater flexibility in social care provision
- made Kirklees a safer place by reducing crime and alcohol related incidents
- achieved 'good' or 'outstanding' Ofsted assessments for all council children's homes
- reduced the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads
- repaired over 129,000m² of road and 34,000 potholes to keep local people moving.

Our plans for 2011/12

In the coming year we will:

- provide value for money and services that are effective and productive
- continue to prioritise help for families and businesses feeling the effects of recession
- enhance life chances and employment opportunities through education and training
- support communities to live healthy and active lifestyles.

e-billing, the new way to receive your council tax bill

Our new service gives you quick and easy access to your council tax bill online. It's free to register. Go to www.kirklees.gov.uk/ebilling

Do more online. Go to www.kirklees.gov.uk/counciltax

You said:
you wanted the option to receive council bills online, saving paper and helping the environment.

We are:
introducing e-billing so you will be able to receive your council tax bill electronically.

How much you pay

The council tax for each property in Kirklees for 2011/12 for each valuation band is as follows:

Valuation Band	Holme Valley	All other areas of Kirklees
A	£934.27	£934.31
B	£1,089.98	£1,090.03
C	£1,245.69	£1,245.75
D	£1,401.40	£1,401.47
E	£1,712.83	£1,712.91
F	£2,024.24	£2,024.34
G	£2,335.67	£2,335.78
H	£2,802.80	£2,802.94

Holme Valley Parish Council will provide certain services which, elsewhere, will be provided by Kirklees Council. This means that the council tax for band D properties in other areas of Kirklees will be 7p higher than for properties in the Holme Valley Parish Council area. The council tax bandings have been adjusted accordingly.

Areas where there is a Parish Council

If you live in an area where there is a Parish Council your council tax will be increased to take into account the parish precepts for those areas. The amounts of the precepts for each area are as follows:

	2011/12	2010/11
Denby Dale Parish Council	£108,915	£105,029
Holme Valley Parish Council	£127,000	£127,000
Kirkburton Parish Council	£122,000	£122,000
Meltham Parish Council	£41,500	£41,500
Mirfield Parish Council	£52,600	£52,600
	£452,015	£448,129

The Parish Council charges are:

Valuation Band	Denby Dale £	Holme Valley £	Kirkburton £	Meltham £	Mirfield £
A	12.58	8.46	9.06	9.56	5.13
B	14.67	9.87	10.56	11.15	5.98
C	16.77	11.28	12.07	12.74	6.84
D	18.86	12.69	13.58	14.33	7.69
E	23.05	15.51	16.60	17.52	9.40
F	27.25	18.33	19.62	20.70	11.11
G	31.44	21.15	22.64	23.89	12.82
H	37.73	25.38	27.17	28.67	15.38

Where your council's budget comes from

1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012

	2011/12 Net Expenditure	2010/11 Net Expenditure
	£m	£m
Kirklees approved budget	321.3	345.2
Funded from:		
Formula grant	159.2	157.1
Pooled grants*	7.6	30.4
Collection fund balances	0.0	-1.6
General fund balances	-1.0	4.5
Council tax	155.5	154.8
	321.3	345.2
Other sources of income:		
Dedicated schools grant and other school grants	304.5	303.4
Other government grants	180.5	180.6
External income	126.2	115.4
Gross expenditure	932.5	944.6

*The nature and amount of the grants received by the Council has changed considerably since 2010-11

Kirklees - changes in requirements from 2010/11 to 2011/12

The cost of services provided has decreased from 2010/11 for the following reasons:

Net expenditure 2010/11	£m
	£345.2
a) Inflation and price increases	+3.3
b) Net changes in service resources	-2.3
c) Efficiencies	-24.9
Net expenditure 2011/12	£m
	£321.3

Where your council's money goes

Service	2011/12		Service	2010/11	
	Gross £m	Net £m		Gross £m	Net £m
Children & Young People	444.1	73.1	Children's services	457.6	84.2
Well Being and Communities	159.4	113.5	Adult and community services	167.9	122.7
Place	93.1	55.6	Highways	25.9	16.0
Resources	181.3	24.5	Environmental health	37.7	26.6
Capital charges, contingency and other items	34.5	34.5	Regeneration (inc. culture & leisure)	45.4	30.4
WY Passenger Transport Authority	17.7	17.7	Revenues and benefits	137.0	4.6
Other joint committees	2.4	2.4	Other Kirklees services	15.6	3.4
Total Kirklees expenditure	932.5	321.3	WY Passenger Transport Authority	16.6	16.6
Plus: parish council precepts	0.5	0.5	Other joint committees	2.2	2.2
	933.0	321.8	Contingency and capital charges	38.5	38.5
			Total Kirklees expenditure	944.4	345.2
			Plus: parish council precepts	0.4	0.4
				944.8	345.6

The figures are adjusted for capital charges.

Direct service by service comparisons between 2010/11 and 2011/12 are affected by a major restructure of the council and its budgets

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority



Central government is cutting financial support to the fire and rescue service by 25% over the next four years. The method in which reduction of funds is distributed means West Yorkshire will lose even more, heralding a period of unprecedented change in the way our fire and rescue service provides emergency cover.

In fact, over the next two years metropolitan brigades such as ours – which serve the most deprived inner city wards in the country and also provide the backbone of national resilience infrastructure – will lose twice the national average.

In order to freeze the council tax precept my fire authority has had to manage a £5.8m cash shortfall for 2011/12. This will be achieved by:

- suspension of full-time firefighter recruitment for the foreseeable future
- voluntary severance of non-operational staff
- use of £850k from reserves.

I believe that prudent financial management will see us through the next two years but there is likely to be a further significant loss of funding for 2013-15.

The chief fire officer has already commissioned a fundamental and county-wide review of fire cover so that all options can be considered and publicly shared.

Councillor David Ridgway, Chair

Budget 2011/12

Gross Expenditure	2010/2011 £m	2011/2012 £m	Per head
	96.840	93.172	
Less income	-3.330	-4.273	
	93.510	88.899	
Less contribution from reserves	-650	-839	
	92.860	88.060	38.32
Less Revenue Support Grant	-7.290	-12.328	-5.36
Less Redistributed Non-Domestic Rates	-50.200	-39.886	-17.36
Proportion of Collection Fund Surpluses	51	-89	-0.04
Precept	35.421	35.757	15.56

What are the changes from last year	2011/2012 £m
Standstill brought forward	92.860
Inflation	333
Government grants	-891
Changes in quantity or quality of service	-4.053
Difference in fees and charges	0
Changes in uses of reserves	-189
	88.060

For FREE fire safety advice visit: www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

West Yorkshire Police Authority



The Government's recent spending review has led to a reduction in the grant to West Yorkshire Police Authority of 5.1% in 2011/12. Further reductions will be made in the following three years.

Since West Yorkshire receives about 79% of its funding from Government grants, this has left the Police Authority and Force with the task of reducing the police budget for 2011/12 by £37.3m. Our shared priority from the outset has been to maintain as far as possible 'front-line' policing required by the public of West Yorkshire. We have restructured the Force back-office and support functions to create a leaner organisation. We have frozen recruitment, so that we can try to reduce police staff numbers through normal turnover as much as possible, rather than by enforced redundancy. We cannot make police officers redundant, but we have stopped recruiting new officers for the time being. This means that, as existing police officers retire or leave the Force, the total number of police officers in West Yorkshire will reduce.

We are also pushing ahead with plans alongside the other police authorities and forces in the Yorkshire and Humber region to deliver some back office and specialist support services regionally, such as procurement and forensic services. Joint working to date, such as the creation of a regional team to tackle criminals who travel across force borders to commit serious crime, has been shown to produce better results and at a lower cost than the four forces could achieve working alone.

The Police Authority will continue to work with the Chief Constable to ensure that police performance and public confidence remain our top priorities over the next 12 months.

- The police budget for 2011/12 is reduced by 3.9% to £432.8m.
- There will be no increase to the annual council tax precept for policing.
- Band D households will continue to pay £130.50 per year for policing during the coming year.

Budget	adjusted 2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m
Gross Expenditure	539.854	509.170
Budget Requirement (gross expenditure minus income)	450.228	432.794
What the money is spent on	£m	
Police officer pay	283.857	
Police staff pay	121.694	
Running costs	90.819	
Costs of borrowing	10.942	
Police authority costs	1.858	

For more information visit: www.wypa.org or contact: Fraser Sampson, Chief Executive and Solicitor, West Yorkshire Police Authority, Ploughland House, 62 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1DL. Telephone (01924) 294000 or e-mail ed@wypa.pnn.police.uk.



Metro spends £72m supporting the county's rail network, £50m on concessions for children, older, blind and disabled people.

Around £25m is spent subsidising vital West Yorkshire bus journeys that bus operators don't consider sufficiently profitable. This means 90% of West Yorkshire's bus services are either wholly or partly paid for by Metro.

This year the five West Yorkshire Districts are being forced to make significant savings and Metro's budget is going to be similarly affected, with a 7.4% cut on our discretionary spend.

Although Metro delivers the highest efficiency among the UK's PTEs, and has already made around £1m of staffing savings it is still facing cuts of £3.5m this year with a further £6.5m the following year. And with more than 50% of our budget being tied to statutory expenditure such as free off-peak bus travel for people over 60 and supporting local rail services, we are limited to areas such as staffing efficiencies, tendered bus services and concessionary fares to find those savings.

We will continue to work closely with the Districts to protect front-line services as much as possible, but faced with finding cuts on this scale we are also asking the bus operators to work with us and absorb some of the costs involved.

Metro believes that the bus operators will agree that it is in their long-term interest to work with us to maintain a working bus network across the county. If they don't it will, unfortunately, mean higher fares for young people and the disappearance of some early-morning, late-night, Sunday and rural bus services.

Funding of Transport Budget	2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m
Gross expenditure	211.8	207.0
Budget requirement (gross expenditure minus income)	174.9	171.7

Where the money comes from

Government grants	82.4	72.1
Transport levy	91.8	97.5
Other	37.6	37.4

How your money will be spent in 2011/12

	£m		£m
Rail Support	72.1	Passenger services	13.2
Concessionary fares	50.5	Development and	
Prepaid tickets	27.5	other support	10.2
Subsidised and		Financing and contingency	8.3
AccessBus services	23.7	Pensions	1.5

Money off your council tax bill?

Depending on your circumstances you could get money off your bill. If you think any of the following apply to you please contact us immediately on **01484 414900** or for benefit queries **01484 414950**, or visit our website www.kirklees.gov.uk/counciltax

We could prosecute if you give incorrect information, or don't tell us if your circumstances have changed which means you continue to receive a discount you are not entitled to.

Do you live alone?

You may qualify for a 25% single person discount. Remember to tell us straight away if another adult moves in with you.

Is your house unoccupied?

You may qualify for a discount if your house is empty, for example, because it is a second home, having repairs carried out, been repossessed, or because you are in prison, hospital, a nursing home or a residential care home.

Do you have a low income and savings of less than £16,000?

You may be able to claim council tax benefit – if you receive child benefit this does not count towards your income, so you are more likely to qualify. If you also live in a rented home you may also be able to claim housing benefit. You can estimate your benefit entitlement using our online calculator: www.kirklees.gov.uk/calculator

Do you live with an adult who is not your partner or a tenant who has less than £231 income each week? You may qualify for up to 25% second adult rebate.

Are you a full time student, apprentice or trainee or is someone in your home a student, apprentice or trainee? You could get money off your bill.

Is someone in your house disabled?

If so and your home has been altered you may get a reduction in your council tax band.

If you have evidence the council tax band of your home is wrong, contact the Valuation Office on 03000 500 685, or write to them at 60 Crown Street, Halifax, HX1 1HY.

Warning! Some companies will offer to revalue your home for a fee – the Valuation Office will look into your query for FREE.