

## Council Tax 2017/2018

There is a Council Tax increase for Kirklees Council this year of 4.99%, made up of 1.99% for services in general, and a specific 3% extra allowed by government which will fund adult social care. The West Yorkshire Fire Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the parish councils approve their own annual precept amounts, which are included in the overall household bill.

Since 2010, Kirklees Council has achieved savings of £129 million, but we still need to save a further £84 million over the next four years. With reduced funding from government, the savings will be achieved by reducing some services, using reserves as services are restructured and reducing future demand.

### Becoming a New Council

At Kirklees Council, we are transforming the way we work and the things we do in order to become a New Council. Our vision for our New Council is one which:

- enables individuals and communities to do more for themselves and each other,
- keeps vulnerable people safe and in control of their own lives,
- focuses resources on things that only the council can do.

### Why are we doing this?

We need to change in order to tackle the unprecedented financial challenge we face in a way that still enables us to develop our vision for Kirklees. We want a Kirklees which combines a strong sustainable economy with a great quality of life.

Up to now, we have managed to make savings in a way that has had as little impact on residents as possible. Further budget reductions mean we have to make changes that will unavoidably be noticed by the people and communities of Kirklees.

Changing the way we do things isn't easy – we're working hard to explore new and innovative ways of working and refocusing our resources in order to maximise the impact of the budget we receive. We're continuing to make decisions about our budget based on what is valued most by local people.

### Get involved

You can have your say on how you think the council should spend its budget by going to: [www.kirkleestalk.org](http://www.kirkleestalk.org)

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### E-Billing is coming!

Please register now and send your email address to [ebill.request@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:ebill.request@kirklees.gov.uk)  
In the subject please quote 'E-Billing' and your Council Tax account number.  
We will contact you in summer 2017.

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## Our performance and achievements for 2016/2017

- 87.9% of Kirklees pupils attend a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' school. This is both above the national (86.8%) and Yorkshire & Humber (85.5%) averages.
- 61.4% of GCSE pupils in Kirklees achieved five or more A\*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths. This is an improvement on the previous year and is significantly above the national figure of 59.3%.
- The autumn 2016 take-up levels of early education (eligible two year olds) reached a new high in Kirklees of 79% - close to the national target of 80%.
- 3,957 of the 4,072 adult social care service users (97%), receive Self Directed Support allowing them to choose how their support is provided, giving them as much control as they want of their individual budget.
- Effectiveness of short term support services in adult social care is rated at 74%, one of highest in region, despite the complexity of cases and the volume of clients.
- There were over 1,000 occasions where homelessness was prevented across Kirklees in the first half of 16/17 - a 13% increase on the same point last year, compared to a 3% increase nationally.
- There are 19 'Friends of Library' groups across Kirklees. Alongside this, volunteering in the library service continues to increase, now with over 900 people registered.
- Superfast Broadband is now available to 8,000 homes and businesses, with actual take-up recorded at 1,750.
- SME Growth Managers supported 106 businesses to access almost £700K of grant support which leveraged £11.3M of private sector investment into Kirklees.
- The Business Team has supported over 150 businesses, creating 281 new jobs – expected to rise to 300 jobs by the end of the 16/17 financial year.
- The first edition of a new newspaper, 'The City Talking – Huddersfield' was published in November. It is an opportunity to create and share stories that reveal UK cities and brands to audiences around the world.

### Save time, do it online: [www.kirklees.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/counciltax)

- Find out about Council Tax
- Apply for and cancel Council Tax discounts, such as single person discount
- Tell us you've moved
- Check your account balance; you need your account number, postcode and house number

## Moving house

Remember to register to vote, or it may affect your credit rating, at:

[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

## Council Tax Appeals

For more information about council tax appeals, please visit:

[www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals/appeal-a-bill](http://www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals/appeal-a-bill)

## You can challenge your band

You can challenge a Council Tax band by contacting the Valuation Office Agency if you think your home was valued incorrectly.

Please visit:

[www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals](http://www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals)

# Here are some ways we may be able to help you to reduce your bill

These are just a few of the reasons, for a full list of discounts and exemptions visit our website: [www.kirklees.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/counciltax)

## Single person discount

You can claim 25% off your bill if you are the only person in your household over 18.

## Disabled band reduction

If a disabled person lives in your property you may qualify for a reduction. Visit our website to find out more details.

## Other discounts

If you or someone living with you fits into one of the groups below, and there are no other adults living in the property, we may be able to give you a discount:

- full time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth trainees
- you receive child benefit for this person, who is over 18 years of age
- 18 and 19 year olds who are at or have just left school/college
- people who are severely mentally impaired
- people being looked after in care homes or permanently in hospital
- people caring for someone with a disability
- people serving a prison sentence

## In certain circumstances you may be exempt from paying Council Tax

This could mean you have no Council Tax to pay. Here are some of the reasons you may get an exemption:

- property left unoccupied because someone has died
- property left unoccupied by someone who is permanently in hospital or a care home
- the property has been repossessed
- the property is occupied by full-time students

## Council Tax Reduction

If you're on a low income you may be entitled to some help through the Council Tax Reduction scheme. To qualify you must be:

- responsible for paying Council Tax,
- on a low income, and
- have less than £16,000 in savings unless you are over 60 and receiving the Guaranteed Credit of Pension Credit.

Find out if you are entitled and make a claim online at:

[www.kirklees.gov.uk/newclaim](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/newclaim)

## Make benefits and work pay with BetterOff Kirklees

For more information about benefits, to appeal against a benefit decision, see handy tips to help you back into work and search for jobs, visit:

[www.betteroffkirklees.org.uk](http://www.betteroffkirklees.org.uk)

## Have you told us about your changes?

It is your responsibility to tell us straight away about any changes which affect:

- any Council Tax discount or exemption you may be receiving.
- your Council Tax Reduction, including changes in income or capital for you or others in your household, moving home or someone moving into or out of your household.

You can report your Council Tax Reduction changes online at:

[www.kirklees.gov.uk/change circumstance](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/change circumstance)

**If you do not tell us about the above changes within 21 days, depending on the circumstances, you may be fined £70.**

## How much Council Tax you pay in 2017/18

The total Council Tax for each property in Kirklees, including fire, police and parish precepts, is as follows:

Valuation Band	Denby Dale £	Holme Valley £	Kirkburton £	Meltham £	Mirfield £	All other parts £
A	1,088.78	1,078.24	1,071.53	1,083.40	1,073.73	1,063.19
B	1,270.27	1,257.95	1,250.14	1,263.98	1,252.71	1,240.41
C	1,451.71	1,437.66	1,428.71	1,444.53	1,431.64	1,417.59
D	1,633.19	1,617.36	1,607.31	1,625.11	1,610.61	1,594.80
E	1,996.11	1,976.77	1,964.48	1,986.24	1,968.51	1,949.19
F	2,359.05	2,336.19	2,321.67	2,347.38	2,326.44	2,303.60
G	2,721.97	2,695.60	2,678.84	2,708.51	2,684.34	2,657.99
H	3,266.38	3,234.72	3,214.62	3,250.22	3,221.22	3,189.60

## How your Council Tax is calculated

The calculation is:

- (1) Basic Council Tax charge
- + (2) Parish precept (if applicable for the area you live in)
- + (3) 3% Adult Social Care precept
- + (4) West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority and West Yorkshire Police Authority charges
- = **Your Council Tax charge**

### 1. Basic Council Tax charge for 2017/18

Valuation Band	Holme Valley £	All other areas of Kirklees £
A	878.52	878.73
B	1,024.94	1,025.19
C	1,171.36	1,171.64
D	1,317.78	1,318.10
E	1,610.62	1,611.01
F	1,903.46	1,903.92
G	2,196.30	2,196.83
H	2,635.56	2,636.20

The 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 32p higher than for properties in the Holme Valley Parish Council area. The Council Tax bandings have been adjusted accordingly.

## 2. Parish precepts

If you live in an area where there is a Parish Council your Council Tax will increase to take into account the parish precepts for those areas:

Valuation Band	Denby Dale £	Holme Valley £	Kirkburton £	Meltham £	Mirfield £
A	25.59	15.27	8.34	20.21	10.54
B	29.86	17.81	9.73	23.57	12.30
C	34.12	20.36	11.12	26.94	14.05
D	38.39	22.90	12.51	30.31	15.81
E	46.92	27.99	15.29	37.05	19.32
F	55.45	33.08	18.07	43.78	22.84
G	63.98	38.17	20.85	50.52	26.35
H	76.78	45.80	25.02	60.62	31.62

The Parish Council budget in areas where there is one is as follows:

	2017/2018 £	2016/2017 £
Denby Dale Parish Council	216,136	201,749
Holme Valley Parish Council	224,132	124,518
Kirkburton Parish Council	109,620	109,620
Meltham Parish Council	82,047	72,500
Mirfield Parish Council	102,991	48,873

### Where your Parish Council's money goes

Parish Council's with a budget of £140,000 or more are required to provide information about how it is spent.

#### Actions of Denby Dale Parish Council include:

- taken over the ownership and running costs Skelmanthorpe Council Building on a Community Asset Transfer in order to allow space for a community library and other community uses,
- contributed £40,000 to the Denby Dale Community Library and Building,
- employed a full-time Countryside Officer, a post which was previously half-funded by Kirklees Council,
- taken over land at Churchfields, Denby Dale on a 25 year lease from Kirklees Council, in order to provide allotments for the area and have had to budget for the set-up and running of these, and
- making provision for any future shortfall in Kirklees Council services which this parish council may be able to assist with.

#### Actions of Holme Valley Parish Council include:

- run Holmfirth public conveniences (saved from closure),
- the Community Asset Transfer of Holmfirth Civic Hall – due for completion on 31 March 2017,
- the co-ordination and preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan,
- investing in assets that were at risk of loss to the community, including Holmfirth Public Conveniences and the Civic Hall,
- securing the future of some of our other key community assets; once they are sold, they are lost forever and we are determined to help save any assets which are much valued by our local community.

### 3. Adult social care contribution

Valuation Band	Holme Valley £	All other areas of Kirklees £
A	43.23	43.24
B	50.43	50.45
C	57.64	57.65
D	64.84	64.86
E	79.25	79.27
F	93.66	93.69
G	108.07	108.10
H	129.68	129.72

Kirklees Council have accepted the offer made by the government to increase Council Tax by an extra 3%, without the need for a referendum, on the understanding that all this extra money is used for local adult social care functions.

As we are becoming an aging population the government has recognised a short fall in adult social care and agreed local authorities, such as Kirklees, with responsibility for these services can charge this increase each financial year to support adult social care functions until the end of the financial year 2019/20.

The agreed Kirklees Council Tax rise for council services in 2017/18 is therefore 4.99%; which is made up of 1.99% for services in general and a specific 3% extra which will go to adult social care.

Adult social care services help people who are in need of practical support due to illness, disability or old age. We support people in a wide range of circumstances. Everyone can get information and advice from us, and many people receive further support. Our aim is to help people keep their independence, either in their own home or in their local community.

For information on adult social care see our web information at:  
[www.kirklees.gov.uk/careandsupport](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/careandsupport)

For more information about adult social care funding go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search for 'adult social care Council Tax'.

### 4. West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority and West Yorkshire Police Authority charges

Valuation Band	West Yorkshire Fire Civil Defence Authority £	West Yorkshire Police Authority £
A	40.59	100.63
B	47.36	117.41
C	54.12	134.18
D	60.89	150.95
E	74.42	184.49
F	87.95	218.04
G	101.48	251.58
H	121.78	301.90

## Where your council's budget comes from

	<b>2017/2018 Net Expenditure</b>	<b>2016/2017 Net Expenditure</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Gross expenditure</b>	<b>823.1</b>	<b>826.5</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Dedicated schools grant and other school grants	253.5	259.3
Housing related grants	114.7	121.5
Other government grants	45.1	46.6
External income	115.1	88.3
<b>Kirklees approved budget</b>	<b>294.7</b>	<b>310.8</b>
<b>Funded from:</b>		
Government funding allocation	59.4	69.3
Local share of Business Rates	47.6	51.4
Unringfenced grants	16.8	21.3
Collection fund balances	0.1	2.0
General fund balances	11.2	17.5
<b>Council Tax requirement</b>	<b>159.6</b>	<b>149.3</b>
Core Council Tax	152.2	146.4
Adult Social Care precept	7.4	2.9

## Where your council's money goes

The amounts that the council intends to spend on the various services that it provides are shown below. The figures are adjusted for capital charges.

<b>Service</b>	<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2016/17</b>	
	<b>Gross £m</b>	<b>Net £m</b>	<b>Gross £m</b>	<b>Net £m</b>
Childrens	331.2	67.9	339.3	69.9
Adults, Commissioning and Public Health	180.1	96.0	153.4	91.0
Place	80.7	34.3	79.8	36.2
Economic Resilience	11.6	10.5	-	-
Resources	155.9	32.8	166.9	37.6
Communities Transformation and Change	5.3	4.5	13.2	11.8
Cross directorate activity	-	-	1.0	1.0
Treasury Management, contingency and other items	37.9	28.3	52.3	42.7
WY Passenger Transport Authority	18.6	18.6	18.8	18.8
Other West Yorkshire Joint Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
<b>Total expenditure (excluding Precepts)</b>	<b>823.1</b>	<b>294.7</b>	<b>826.5</b>	<b>310.8</b>
Parish Council Precepts	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6
<b>Total expenditure (including Precepts)</b>	<b>823.9</b>	<b>295.5</b>	<b>827.1</b>	<b>311.4</b>



## Mark Burns-Williamson OBE West Yorkshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner

As your Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) I want to make sure our communities are safe and feel safe. This next year I have set a budget to recruit hundreds more Police Officers and maintain your Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to protect frontline policing. That will mean a slight rise in the police element of Council Tax of around £4 a year, or 8 pence a week, for most tax payers. This represents an increase of 3.43% overall.

I asked people across West Yorkshire about increasing the police element of Council Tax and 77 per cent of people that responded told me they would support the increase to protect frontline policing by continued key recruitment of police officers and staff. With this increase, along with other ongoing efficiencies and savings, we can now recruit around 500 police officers (200 additional, the rest to cover those expected to retire) and protect current PCSO numbers at over 550.

Government cuts of more than £140m have seen police officer numbers drop by over 2,000 since 2010. Last year, with help from our communities in West Yorkshire, I was able to set a budget to begin to rebuild the number of police officers and protect PCSO numbers. The rise in council tax this year, still makes us one of the lowest police Council Taxes in England and Wales, and will enable us to continue to rebuild and protect crucial policing resources here in West Yorkshire.

Where the money comes from 2017/2018	
	%
Government Grant	63.1
Precept (Police Council Tax)	19.1
Income	15.3
Other	2.5

Budget	2017/2018 £m	2016/2017 £m
Gross expenditure	496.956	485.664
Council tax requirement	94.945	90.199

What the money is spent on 2016/2017	
	%
Police Officers	51.4
Running costs	21.2
Police Staff	21.9
PCSOs	3.6
Borrowing	1.6
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	0.3

Council Tax Band	Total cost per year £	Increase per annum £	Increase in pence per week
A	100.64	3.33	6.4
B	117.41	3.89	7.5
C	134.18	4.44	8.5
D	150.95	5.00	9.6
E	184.49	6.11	11.8
F	218.03	7.22	13.9
G	251.58	8.33	16
H	301.90	10.00	19.2

### Mark is delivering for communities across West Yorkshire by:

- recruiting more police officers, protecting neighbourhood policing and the number of PCSOs,
- giving over £1.5million of recovered Proceeds of Crime money to community groups and organisations working to keep communities safe,
- working with key partners to co-ordinate resources to tackle child sexual exploitation,
- improving services for victims and witnesses with dedicated hubs and the Help for Victims website [www.helpforvictims.co.uk](http://www.helpforvictims.co.uk),
- tackling human trafficking and modern slavery, creating the first national network to combat it,
- working with the police, councils, highways agency, charities and other partners to improve road safety,
- raising awareness of hate crime, the support available and encouraging reporting.

For more detailed information, visit [www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk)



## West Yorkshire Combined Authority

West Yorkshire Combined Authority brings together the public sector in the form of the five West Yorkshire districts, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield plus York, and the business sector through the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

It is the driving force for economic growth across Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield districts and the City of York Council area and brings together key decision-makers, into a single body, putting West Yorkshire and the wider Leeds City Region, which includes the City of York and parts of North Yorkshire, in a much stronger position to deliver greater economic growth by using transport to improve access to jobs and leisure, making the City Region a better place to live and work.

### Successes

- Worked in partnership with bus operators to develop the Bus 18 initiative that will see improved services for passengers.
- Carried out an extensive public consultation, which received over 5,000 responses, that will be used in the development of 20-year West Yorkshire Transport and Bus Strategies.
- Bid for £109m from the third round of the Leeds City Region Growth Deal, in addition to £1 billion-plus deal already secured by the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to boost jobs and growth across the whole of Leeds City Region.
- Approved a total of £79m has now been committed towards new the City Region's FE college infrastructure – the largest current package of skills capital investment in the country, which is forecast to boost the regional economy by £600m through an 18% increase in the number of college students by 2021 and the creation of 3,000 apprenticeships.
- Adopted the new West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy, jointly developed with the five West Yorkshire District Councils and Public Health England to reduce the harmful emissions from transport and other sources that impact on health and the environment.

### The future

Over the next 12 months, West Yorkshire Combined Authority will continue to work with its partners to:

- see the completion of the Wakefield Eastern Relief Road, the first scheme in West Yorkshire Combined Authority's £1bn, 10-year programme of strategic transport schemes programme,
- open a new rail station at Low Moor station between Bradford and Halifax,
- complete the Aire Valley Park & Ride and develop plans for Temple Green Park,
- develop and shape the new Leeds Transport Strategy,
- help shape and inform the Transport for the North, the emerging HS2 and Northern Powerhouse rail agendas.

Budget		
	2017/18 £m	2016/17 £m
Gross expenditure	134.3	136.7
Budget requirement (gross expenditure – income)	96.9	99.7

Where the money comes from		
	2017/18 £m	2016/17 £m
Government grants	0.9	0.9
Net transport levy	100.9	101.9
Other	37.4	37.0

How the money will be spent in 2017/18			
	£m		£m
Rail Support	0.9	Passenger facilities	13.1
Concessionary fares	56.0	Development & other support	9.9
Prepaid tickets	29.6	Financing & contingency	5.3
Subsidised bus & Accessbus services	18.2	Pensions	1.3

More information is available at [www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk](http://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk) or follow @WestYorkshireCA on Twitter

## West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority

The Fire Authority has lost a further £3.29m of grant in 2017/2018 as part of the four year settlement which will see an overall grant reduction of £7.9m by 2019/2020. The Authority has identified further saving of £1.2m and will use £0.95m of revenue balances to limit the increased cost to council tax payers to 1.99%, which means that the average increase the average council tax payer is around 2 pence per week.

The long term implications of this increase coupled with the planned use of revenue balances means the Authority can recommence whole-time firefighter recruitment in 2017/2018. The Authority continues to reform the way it delivers the service with the opening of a new Fire Station on Valley Road Shipley in summer 2017 to replace the Old Shipley and Idle fire stations.

New Chief Fire Officer John Roberts said, "I have taken over a service which has gone through major reshaping over the last eight years seeing significant reductions in firefighter numbers, however the job is not complete with further savings being needed over the next three years. The reintroduction of recruitment is a positive step forward but there are not yet out of the woods."

Councillor Judith Hughes, Chair of the Authority added "2017/2018 is a significant year for West Yorkshire Fire Service with the appointment of the new Chief Officer and commencement of whole-time firefighter recruitment. This small increase in precept has allowed the Authority to balance the budget in the current year and provided additional financial stability for future years. Despite this increase the Authority remains one of the lowest cost per head of population Fire Authorities in the country."

<b>What will the Fire and Rescue Authority cost?</b>			
	<b>2016/17 £000</b>	<b>2017/18 £000</b>	<b>Per head £</b>
Gross expenditure	82,774	82,060	
Contribution to/from balances	-103	-953	
Income	-2,246	-2,411	
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>80,425</b>	<b>78,696</b>	36.42
Revenue support grant	-20,497	-16,751	-7.75
Top up grant	-15,104	-16,325	-7.55
Business rates	-7,455	-6,847	-3.17
Collection fund	-469	-471	-0.22
<b>Council tax requirement</b>	<b>36,900</b>	<b>38,302</b>	<b>17.73</b>

<b>What are the changes from last year?</b>		
	<b>2016/17 £000</b>	<b>2017/18 £000</b>
Previous year's budget	82,151	80,425
Inflation	2,155	1,183
Government grants	0	-106
Changes in quantity or quality of service	-3,630	-2,106
Difference in fees and charges	141	150
Changes in use of reserves	-392	-850
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>80,425</b>	<b>78,696</b>

For FREE fire safety advice visit: [www.westyorksfire.gov.uk](http://www.westyorksfire.gov.uk)