



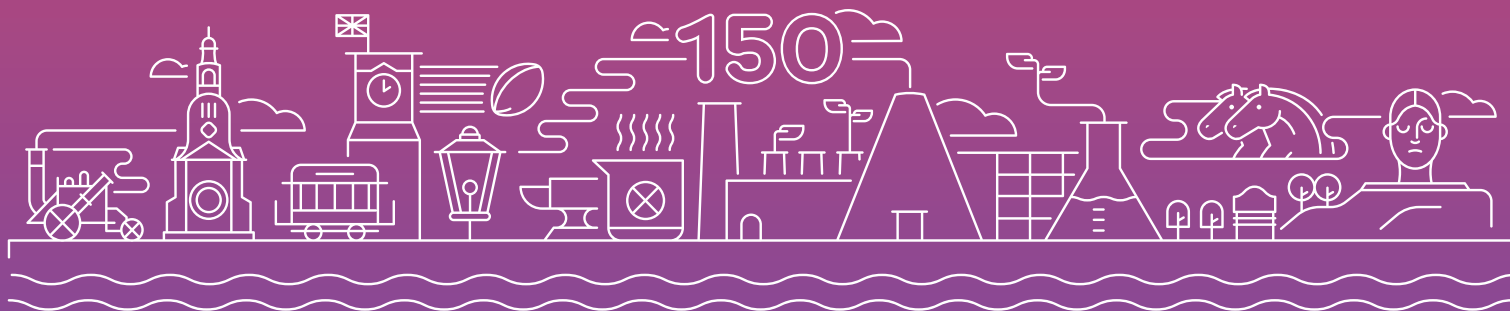
ST HELENS

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St. Helens
Council

Council Tax Information 2018/19





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Message from the Leader



Dear Resident,
Your Council Tax Booklet for 2018/19 provides useful information on the Council's Budget, how we calculate your Council Tax and where the money goes.

Council Tax pays for a wide range of vital community services, including care for the elderly, support for the disabled, services to protect vulnerable children and young people, refuse collection and recycling, and road maintenance to name but a few. Council Tax also contributes to critical services provided by other organisations including Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority and Merseytravel.

The future continues to present the Council with huge financial challenges brought about by the Government's ongoing programme of austerity and severe budget reductions. By 2020 over a 10 year period, the Council will have lost £90 million of Central Government funding.

This comes at a time when increasingly high demand for adult social care services

and the support required for vulnerable children and their families are severely testing the limits of Council resources. In response the Government have allowed local authorities to provide additional local financing to support adult social care by way of a care precept on your Council Tax. In addition they have enabled councils to increase general Council Tax by up to 2.99% in recognition of growing funding gaps in areas such as children's social care. In doing so the Government has effectively shifted the burden of funding services previously provided by central government taxes onto local tax payers, a policy which is likely to continue beyond 2018/19.

As a result the Council has had to take the difficult decision of levying a Care Precept of 3% and a general Council Tax increase of 2.99%, resulting in an overall Council Tax increase of 5.99% for 2018/19. Given the massive reductions in Central Government support the Council had no option but to increase taxes in order to allow it to continue to comply with the statutory duties required by Government.

In the coming years further hard choices and difficult decisions will be required. However as we celebrate 150 years of

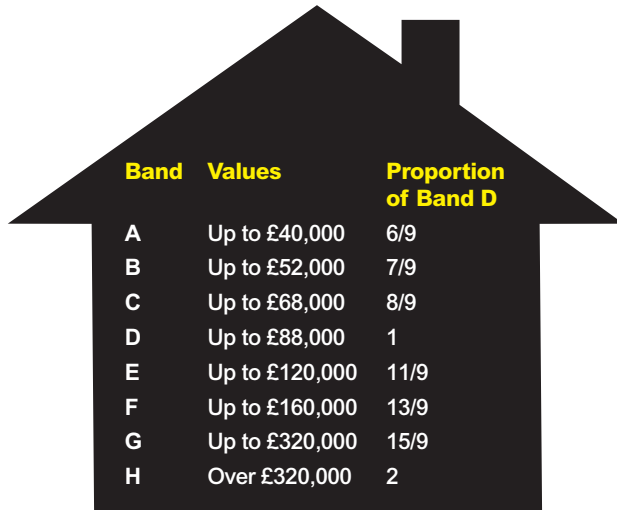
St. Helens as a Borough, we continue to look positively to the future and rise to the challenges before us. Our budget and vision for the Borough are fully aligned and together we will do all we can to provide sustainable health and social care services to protect the most vulnerable, whilst delivering a growth strategy that brings increased investment, opportunity and prosperity to St. Helens.

Further information can be found in St. Helens Council Plan 2018/20, available on our website and we welcome any comments that you may have on our budget and future plans.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Grunewald". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Councillor Barrie Grunewald
Leader, St. Helens Council

1. The Council's Budget



The Council Tax you pay depends on the valuation your property has been given by the Valuation Office Agency.

The amount payable is based on the market value of the property as of 1 April 1991.

Your Council Tax bill tells you which band applies to your home.

The amount of Council Tax charge for each band depends upon the tax set for band D, and is calculated using the proportions shown.

St.Helens Council has set a Council Tax requirement of

£70.994m for 2018/19
(2017/18 - £66.077m)

	2017/18	2018/19	Increase
Amount met from Council Taxpayer	£66.077m	£70.994m	7.44%
Council Tax Base (Band D equivalents)	49,880	50,563	
Band D Council Tax	£1,342.72	£1,404.07	5.99%

If you live in a Parish that charges a precept, your Council Tax will be higher. Please see Section 2 for details.

The basic Council Tax for a Band D property has been set at:



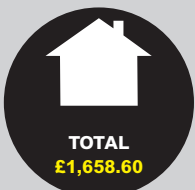
**5.99%
INCREASE**



**7.23%
INCREASE**



**2.99%
INCREASE**



Not all Council Tax collected pays for council services, it also supports Police and the Fire and Rescue service too.

Basic Council Tax Payable for 2018/19

Band	St Helens	Police	Fire	Total (Non-Parish)
A	£936.04	£118.65	£51.04	£1,105.73
B	£1,092.05	£138.42	£59.55	£1,290.02
C	£1,248.06	£158.20	£68.05	£1,474.31
D	£1,404.07	£177.97	£76.56	£1,658.60
E	£1,716.08	£217.52	£93.57	£2,027.17
F	£2,028.10	£257.07	£110.59	£2,395.76
G	£2,340.11	£296.62	£127.60	£2,764.33
H	£2,808.14	£355.94	£153.12	£3,317.20

The Government requires councils with adult social care responsibilities to hold a referendum with local residents if they propose to increase Council Tax by **6%** or more. Therefore, no referendum is required.

Revenue Spending 2018/19

Our total 2018/19 budget is **£402.7m** (Gross Revenue Expenditure).

In 2017/18, the equivalent amount was **£398.7m**.

The change in Gross Revenue Expenditure is due to a number of cost pressures, additional spend funded by non-council tax sources and savings made for **2018/19**.

+£3.2m

USE OF
EARMARKED
BALANCES

+£2.2m

PAY
INFLATION

+£2.2m

PRICE
INFLATION

+£2.8m

Additional Adult
Social Care
Spend

-£6.4m

SAVINGS
MADE

If you live in a Parish that charges a precept, your Council Tax will be higher. Please see Section 2 for details.

2. Council Tax Charges

Adult Social Care

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. (“Adult social care authorities” are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London

borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional “precept” on its council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority

in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this “precept” at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.

Council Tax Charges 2018/19

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bold	1,113.45	1,299.02	1,484.60	1,670.18	2,041.32	2,412.48	2,783.63	3,340.36
Rainford	1,123.06	1,310.24	1,497.42	1,684.60	2,058.94	2,433.31	2,807.66	3,369.20
Eccleston	1,115.69	1,301.64	1,487.59	1,673.54	2,045.43	2,417.34	2,789.23	3,347.08
Windle	1,114.03	1,299.70	1,485.38	1,671.05	2,042.39	2,413.74	2,785.08	3,342.10
Rainhill	1,117.79	1,304.09	1,490.39	1,676.69	2,049.28	2,421.89	2,794.48	3,353.38
Billinge	1,121.40	1,308.30	1,495.20	1,682.10	2,055.89	2,429.70	2,803.50	3,364.20
Seneley Green	1,128.28	1,316.33	1,504.38	1,692.43	2,068.52	2,444.63	2,820.71	3,384.86
All other parts of the Council area	1,105.73	1,290.02	1,474.31	1,658.60	2,027.17	2,395.76	2,764.33	3,317.20
Adult Social care Precept (included above)	67.91	79.23	90.54	101.86	124.50	147.13	169.77	203.72

3. Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA)

We are the public body responsible for dealing with household waste and recycling once it's been collected from your home.

Using the latest technologies we aim to make sure as much waste as possible is sustainably managed. Our Energy from Waste facility in Wilton diverts over 92% of Merseyside's non-recycled waste from landfill - and in the process saves more than £100m in current landfill disposal

costs over the life of its contract.

We work hard to persuade Merseyside's householders to use less in the first place and, through our 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres and District Council kerbside collections, to recycle as much as they can. Together with our Council partners we're making steady progress. Last year, 43% of Merseyside's household waste was re-used, recycled and composted.

You can read more about our Sustainability, Accountability and Deliverability on:

www.merseysidewda.gov.uk.

The Levy for St.Helens Council for 2018-19 will be £8,571,000

Financial Summary

A comparison of Expenditure and Income for 2016-17 and 2017-18 is as follows.

	2017-18	2018-19
	£M	£M
Gross expenditure	74.404	72.761
Landfill Tax	0	0
Total Net Expenditure	74.404	72.761
Contribution to Reserves	0	0
Total Requirement	74.404	72.761
Use of Reserves	-8.813	-1.267
Levy	65.591	71.494
Levy per head	£46.91	£51.14



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

For more information contact:
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority
7th Floor

No.1 Mann Island

Liverpool

L3 1BP

Tel: **0151 255 1444**

E-mail: **enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk**

Web: **www.merseysidewda.gov.uk**

www.recycleformerseysideandhalton.com

4. Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk

management for 6500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation

of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion.

The financial details are:

North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

	2017/2018 '000s	2018/2019 '000s
Gross expenditure	£52,939	£59,769
Levies Raised	£3,861	£3,938
Total Council Tax Base	2,077	2,110

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environmental

Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between the years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by this committee has increased by 2.0%.

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £3,860,675 in 2017/2018 to £3,937,888 for 2018/2019.



5. Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Budget Statement 2018/19

The Liverpool City Region Mayoral Combined Authority consists of the Metro Mayor, Steve Rotherham, alongside the six constituent Local Authorities of the Liverpool City Region.

Its function is to coordinate the delivery of economic growth across the City Region, with particular responsibility for economic development, employment and skills, housing and transport.

This is the first budget set by Steve Rotherham and reflects the Mayor's ambitions to create a fair, green and connected City Region that works for all of its residents.

Transport Funding

The Combined Authority provides resources to facilitate the delivery of transport activities within the City Region. This is funded through a series of transport levies across each of the six Councils.

It funds the provision of the transport services delivered by Merseytravel from a charge to each of the Merseyside Councils which is presented in the following table.

Halton Council provides transport activities directly within its boundaries and this is funded through a differential transport levy which will be £3.1m for 2018/19.

Other Activities

The Mayoral Combined Authority is responsible for managing an investment programme of over £1bn over the coming years which is directly associated with additional funding attracted to the City Region through its devolution deal and the election of the Metro Mayor.

	Transport Levy 2017/18 £000	Transport Levy 2018/19 £000
Knowsley	10,045	10,032
Liverpool	32,660	32,869
St Helens	12,120	12,107
Sefton	18,677	18,605
Wirral	21,899	21,786
Total	95,400	95,400

In order to ensure that this programme delivers improvements in the City Region's economy the Combined Authority has to identify certain running costs for 2018/19.

The budget that is associated with exercising the City Region's new Mayoral powers for 2018/19 will be £6.2m.



Mr John Fogarty, B.A. Hons, I.P.F.A.

Director of Corporate Services
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority



Steve Rotherham

Metro Mayor
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority



St Helens
Parade Works
1/10 Heath

6. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside

I have a statutory duty to ensure an efficient and effective police service is delivered by the Chief Constable on behalf of the public. Similarly I have a responsibility to produce an annual budget, including setting the council tax precept requirement for the Police Service on Merseyside. The council tax precept requirement provides the balance of funding not covered by government grant and is raised entirely and only for the police service.

Setting the budget is never an easy task, but this year was particularly challenging. While the government recognised the need for additional resources for policing, they once again failed to provide it. Instead, they made it clear that local people should be asked to contribute more. I therefore had no choice other than to ask the public to support an increase in the police precept. I am pleased that over 75% of those who responded to my budget consultation did so.

Consequently, with the help of the Chief Constable I have been able to set a balanced budget for 2018/19. In doing so the Chief Constable has identified savings of £7.0m, I have had to raise the precept by the maximum allowable, resulting in an additional £4.4m of precept income, and I plan to utilise £0.6m of reserves. In council tax terms the new precept is £118.65 per property per year at Band A and £177.97 at Band D, an increase of £8.00 and £12.00 respectively on the 2017/18 levels.

The Chief Constable has had to reduce the number of budgeted police officer posts by 111 compared to 2017/18. If I had not increased the precept by the maximum allowable the Chief Constable would have been forced to cut a further 87 Police Officer posts, a potential total loss of 198 police posts.

Despite balancing the budget in 2018/19 there still remains a very significant financial and policing challenge for the Police Service in the years ahead. Consequently, I am working closely with the Chief Constable to continuously review activity across all areas of police business, ensuring Merseyside has the most resilient and effective force possible within the budget available to us.

Rt Hon Jane Kennedy
Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside



Police and Crime Commissioner Budget

2017/18		2018/19	
£m		£m	
315.792	GROSS EXPENDITURE	320.544	
(1.811)	Income	(2.655)	
(5.541)	Specific Government Grants	(4.637)	
308.440	NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	313.252	
(0.150)	Contribution from Reserves	(0.150)	
308.290	NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	313.102	
(120.756)	Less: Police General Grant	(120.756)	38.6%
(111.263)	DCLG Formula Funding	(111.263)	35.5%
(14.103)	Local Council Tax Support Grant	(14.103)	4.5%
(1.538)	Legacy Council Tax Freeze Grant	(1.538)	0.5%
(0.795)	Collection Fund Surplus	(0.479)	0.2%
59.835	COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	64.963	20.7%
360.517	Tax base	365,022	
£165.97	Band D Equivalent	£177.97	
£3.17	Increase in Band D Equivalent	£12.00	7.23%

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside

Why has the Gross Expenditure Changed?

	£m
Gross Expenditure 2017/18	315.792
Net Committed Growth	2.366
Recruitment of 20 Additional Firearms Officer	1.300
Pay and Prices Inflation	5.406
Cost of 1% non-consolidated 2017 pay award	2.700
Removal of Previous Years One-off Commitments	(1.789)
One-off Commitments for 2018/19	1.785
Merseyside Police Savings	(7.016)
Gross Expenditure 2018/19	320.544

Why has the Council Tax Requirement Changed?

	£m
Council Tax Requirement 2017/18	59.835
Increase in Tax base	0.748
Increase in Band D Equivalent	4.380
Council Tax Requirement 2018/19	64.963



7. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

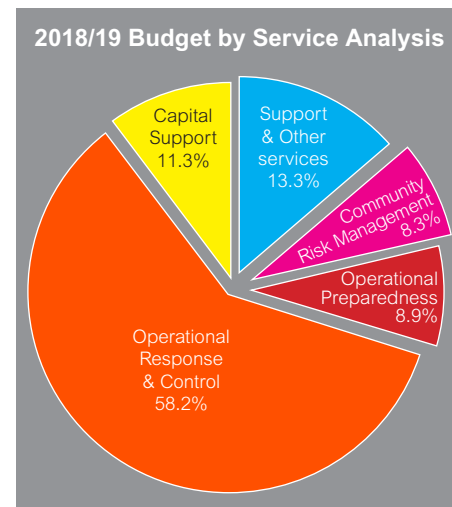
Historically the Authority has relied upon Government grants to fund a significant proportion of its revenue budget (over 63% in 2010/11). In 2010 the Government announced an austerity plan to reduce national debt and manage the crisis in public finances. The plan incorporated significant reductions in Government grants paid to fire and rescue authorities. Compared to 2010/11 the Authority's 2018/19 Government grant support has been cut by £15.5m or nearly 50% in real terms and further grant reductions have been announced up to 2019/20.

After taking into account unavoidable future cost pressures and the impact of the reduction in the Government grants the Authority identified an £11m financial challenge for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20. In 2016 the Authority approved a four year financial plan (2016/17 – 2019/20) that would deliver the £11m saving by 2019/20. The plan was prepared on the basis that the Authority's priority is to minimise the impact of grant reductions on frontline services by cutting management, technical and support costs in the first instance. In determining the saving options the

Authority, after identifying £9.1m from technical and support areas, was left with no alternative but to find £1.9m savings from operational response. The 2018/19 approved budget will deliver the £11m required savings by 2019/20 although some small self-balancing adjustments were required within the £9.1m non-operational savings and technical assumptions.

Approximately 75% of the budget remains committed to delivering operational response and preventative services as these functions have been recognised as priority areas by the public following extensive consultation.

As a consequence of the financial challenge facing the Authority it must adhere to its approved financial plan and increase council tax by just below 3% (the maximum allowable without holding a public referendum). The Band D Council Tax is therefore now £76.56. Most council taxpayers in Merseyside will pay Band A Council Tax of £51.04 about 14p per day towards their Fire and Rescue Service.



The Authority has set a budget of £59.701m for 2018/19, £0.2m higher than that in 2017/18. The main changes between this year's budget and last year's are:

Reductions in support service, management & other costs	(£0.2m)
Unavoidable cuts in front line staffing	(£0.9m)
Forecast inflationary cost increases	£1.3m
	£0.2m

Summary of Revenue Budget & Council Tax Requirement

2017-18		2018-19
£000		£000
77,181	Gross Expenditure	75,269
-9,732	Net Contribution from Reserves	-4,802
-7,959	Income & specific Grants for services	-10,766
59,490	Budget Requirement	59,701
-221	Collection Fund & Business Rates Surplus	-336
-32,468	Government Grant & Business Rate Funding	-31,419
26,801	Council Tax Requirement	27,946
360,517	Tax-base	365,022
£74.34	Band D Equivalent	£76.56

The Authority has issued a precept on the five Merseyside District Councils of £27.946 million, which is equivalent to a Council Tax of £76.56 for a Band D property. St Helens contribution to expenditure financed by precept is £3.871 million, which represents 14% of the total precept.

Contact Us

The Authority values the opinions of the people it serves. If you wish to comment about the services of the Authority please contact Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters on 0151 296 4000.

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