

Council tax in Christchurch 2015/16



A guide to the 2015/16 council tax in Christchurch.

This section explains some of the financial information relating to Council Tax with specific relevance to the Christchurch Borough Council area. It shows how the council's budget is allocated and compares this year's expenditure to last year's.

As well as paying for services from your local borough council as outlined on this page, the council tax you pay goes towards paying for services provided by Dorset County Council, Dorset Fire Authority and Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner.

Why council tax has changed

Christchurch Borough Council is sensitive to the strength of public feeling relating to increases in taxation. However, the council is facing significant financial challenges in setting the annual budgets due to reductions in government funding and exposure to risks concerning the Localisation of Council Tax Support and Retention of Business Rates.

Christchurch Borough Council is expecting levels of Revenue Support Grant funding from the Government to reduce from £1,003,000 in 2014/15 to £221,000 in 2019/20, a reduction of £782,000 or 78%. The funding pressures that the council faces and will continue to face are significant but are at present forecast to be managed through a wide combination of measures which include setting a Council Tax increase strategy, achieving savings through the shared service programme, and fundamental budget reviews. The shared service programme has resulted in revenue savings of over £1,000,000 per annum and has allowed the council to balance its books without cutting services.

Christchurch is increasing its Council Tax by 1.95% for 2015/16 as a result of the financial challenges it faces. This equates to an increase of £3.54 per annum or £0.07 per week for a Band D property. A Band D property in Christchurch will pay £184.99 for Christchurch's element of their Council Tax bill.

The Government has offered a grant to councils that freeze their Council Tax and is worth the equivalent of a 1% increase. Whilst Christchurch Borough Council froze Council Tax in 2011/12 and 2012/13, the council believes that to accept further freeze grants would not support a long term financial strategy needed by the council to maintain services.

Despite the financial challenges the council remains ambitious and will continue to seek opportunities to provide further resilience to its financial position in order that services are protected.

Spending on major projects

The council plans to spend £6.350m on major projects over the next five years. This includes £1.056m for coast protection, £0.450m on Christchurch Quay, £0.939m on affordable housing and £0.987m on Disabled Facility Grants.

Where the money is spent

2014/15 NET £000s	Where is the money spent	2015/16 Expenditure £000s	2015/16 Income £000s	2015/16 NET £000s
642	Growth & Economy	1,198	(569)	629
1,577	Finance	18,410	(16,752)	1,658
191	Property & Engineering	3,341	(3,044)	297
1,460	Housing & Health	1,971	(504)	1,467
1,691	Community & Leisure	4,946	(3,282)	1,664
786	Legal & Democratic	800	(5)	795
39	Organisational Development	31	0	31
290	Pension Lump Sum Payment	290	0	290
6,676	Cost of Providing Services	30,987	(24,156)	6,831
(1,605)	Reverse Capital Charges	N/A	N/A	(1,768)
(60)	Investment Income	N/A	N/A	(60)
392	Transfer To / (From) Reserves	N/A	N/A	580
(50)	Staff Vacancy Factor	N/A	N/A	(50)
2	Parish & Town Council Support Grant	N/A	N/A	1
5,355	Net Expenditure	N/A	N/A	5,534
(1,003)	Revenue Support Grant	N/A	N/A	(700)
(887)	Net Retained Business Rates	N/A	N/A	(1,272)
3,465	Expenditure Met from Council Tax	N/A	N/A	3,562

Why demand on council tax has changed

Met by Council Tax payments in 2014/15	3,465
Net increase Retained Business Rates	(385)
Savings arising from joint working	(221)
Savings identified through budget process	(198)
Increases in income	(193)
Investment in services	530
Reduction in Revenue Support Grant	304
Decreases in income	260
Met by Council Payers in 2015/16	3,562

Parish precepts

Within each valuation band, the tax required by Dorset County Council, the Dorset Police Authority, the Dorset Fire Authority and Christchurch Borough Council remains constant throughout the Borough. However, tax levels differ between parishes because some town and parish councils make additional charges for parish purposes. The table below gives a breakdown of the calculation for each town and parish in respect of a property allocated to Valuation Band D.

Parish	Precept	Band D	Band D
--------	---------	--------	--------

	Parish / Town	Parish / Town	Council Tax Totals
	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16
Burton	19,700.00	13.07	1,668.30
Hurn	6,100.00	26.87	1,682.10

Full council tax amounts

Valuation Bands	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Town / Parish	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Burton	1,112.20	1,297.57	1,482.94	1,668.30	2,039.03	2,409.77	2,780.50	3,336.60
Hurn	1,121.40	1,308.30	1,495.20	1,682.10	2,055.90	2,429.70	2,803.50	3,364.20
Christchurch	1,103.49	1,287.40	1,471.32	1,655.23	2,023.06	2,390.89	2,758.72	3,310.46