



# COUNCIL TAX 2018/19 0% INCREASE

“Our robust financial management has allowed the Council to once again freeze its portion of the Council Tax bill. This will be the ninth financial year in a row that East Staffordshire Borough Council has either reduced or not increased its share of Council Tax.

“This booklet outlines how we plan to spend the money raised from your Council Tax this year, how Council Tax is calculated and what discounts are available. Please take a few minutes to read through this information.”



CLLr Richard Grosvenor  
Leader of the Council



**ESBC COUNCIL TAX  
FROZEN FOR  
2018/19**

**MAINTAIN AND  
IMPROVE OPEN  
SPACES**

**SMARTER COUNCIL  
SERVICES**

**DELIVER MIXED USE  
SCHEME ON  
BARGATES**

**BURTON TOWN  
REGENERATION  
PROGRAMME**

**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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# Plans for 2018/19

## **Brewhouse, Arts and Town Hall Developments**

As part of the Town Centre Regeneration Programme a project plan for the delivery of public art will be progressed during this year. This will include both permanent and temporary art work pieces as well as looking at the feasibility of moving the Malt Shovel artwork from its current position to a more prominent "gateway" location.

## **Leisure and Cultural Service Delivery Review**

The Leisure and Cultural Services project will enter into the final stages for the Leisure Centres and Sports Development Team, Brewhouse, Arts Provision and Civic Function Suite services.

## **Campaigning for Improvements to Burton Train Station**

This year the Council will work closely with key partners to get everyone together locally to agree an action plan in order for partners to campaign for improvements to the train station in Burton.

## **Maintain and improve our Open Spaces**

The Council will look to expand the "In Bloom" federation membership into other areas of the Borough, and strive to achieve three "In Bloom" golds and five silver gilt awards or above for parks and cemeteries, in addition to two Green Flag awards.



## **Delivering Better Services to Support Homelessness**

The Council will introduce the new demands placed on the service through the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act. This will include proactive homelessness prevention work and ensuring that every applicant that is accepted for a new homeless duty receives a personal housing plan, and link where appropriate into our Jam Jar Account initiative.

## **Support the Delivery of Three Job Fairs**

Although unemployment levels in East Staffordshire continue to be better than the average for the West Midlands, the Council will keep supporting the delivery of job fairs through its local partnership with key organisations with an emphasis of promoting not only more jobs but quality jobs and careers.

## **Smarter Services – A Digitised Council**

The Council will look to adopt a Digital Strategy that provides an overarching vision for how customers can use Council services via digital means. This new strategy will include the investigation into options for services that are not currently available through fully electronic means, and developing web based self-service forms.

# Plans for 2018/19

## **Delivering Improvements to the Washlands**

The Council, through its Planning Policy team, will this year develop a Washlands Strategy which will outline the type of features and enhancements it wishes to see created and developed on this locally important and popular floodplain. The Council's Enterprise Team will develop a business case for delivering improvements to the Washlands area to create a more aesthetically appealing and interesting attraction for residents and visitors.

## **Burton Town Regeneration Programme**

The Council will continue its work on the Burton Town Regeneration Programme. Working with Staffordshire County Council and a wide range of external partners and stakeholders will ensure that project plans turn into tangible regeneration improvements that will benefit residents, businesses and visitors. The Council will commission consultative support as part of Phase 2 of the Regeneration Programme in order to produce a thought provoking forward view of what improvements and changes need to be undertaken to create the right conditions for liveability and growth over the next 30 years in the short, medium and long term to ensure "a Better, Brighter Burton".

## **Delivering a Mixed Use Scheme on Bargates**

As a scheme for the Bargates site has now been identified, the Council will look to complete the sale of Bargates to Jessup Brothers Limited who, subject to planning approval, will deliver a mixed use development on the site.



## **Promoting Tourism in East Staffordshire**

The Council will continue to work with its Strategic Tourism Partners, such as the National Forest, in promoting tourism in the area.

## **Selective Licensing Scheme**

Following the successful introduction of the Selective Licensing Scheme pilot in a part of Anglesey ward, the Council will continue to monitor and evaluate the scheme, providing an update review at the end of the first 12 months of operation.

## **Disabled Facilities Grant Service**

The Council will adopt a new in-house Disabled Facilities Grant service from 1st April 2018, incorporating more efficient ways of working to secure faster and more cost efficient adaptations to enable residents to live independently in their own home.

# About your Council Tax

## How is Council Tax Calculated?

You'll usually have to pay Council Tax if you're 18 or over and own or rent a home.

A full Council Tax bill is based on at least 2 adults living in a home. Spouses and partners who live together are jointly responsible for paying the bill.

You'll get 25% off your bill if you count as an adult for Council Tax and either:

- you live on your own
- no-one else in your home counts as an adult

You'll usually get a 50% discount if no-one living in your home, including you, counts as an adult.

## Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Council Tax Reduction is a reduction in your Council Tax bill based on:

- your income
- the size of your family
- other adults who live with you
- the amount of Council Tax you have to pay

You can apply to get money off your Council Tax bill if you're on a low income or claiming benefits. You can apply for Council Tax Reduction whether you own your home, rent, are unemployed or working.

## What You'll Get

You can get up to 100% reduction, depending on:

- where you live
- your circumstances (e.g. income, number of children)
- your household income - this includes things like savings, pension, your partner's income
- if your children live with you
- if other adults live with you

## Are You Eligible for a Discount?

Your eligibility for a discount depends on a variety of factors including the number of adults in your house and their circumstances.

Go to [www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/council-tax) or call 01283 508030 for more information.

# Do it Online

## "Take Control" and Manage your Council Tax, Benefits and Business Rates Online

The Online Account is a secure web portal that allows residents, businesses and landlords in East Staffordshire to manage their payments with us, as well as access a range of other Council services.

**We run regular competitions which give anyone who signs up to E-Services the chance of winning £500.**

At the click of a button - anywhere, anytime – you can:

- View your bill, balance and payments
- View payments of Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support
- Get e-billing

Go to [www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/e-services](http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/e-services) for more information.

### Reasons to Register an Account

Registering an account will enable you to access information or make payments for local authority services such as:

- Council Tax
- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support
- Landlords
- Business Rates



### What is the Online Account?

The Online Account is a secure web portal similar to "online banking" that allows East Staffordshire Borough Council customers to manage their payments with us, as well as access a range of other Council services.

### Who can use the Online Account?

Any resident within the Borough who pays Council Tax or Business Rates to East Staffordshire Borough Council can sign up for an Online Account. Landlords who rent properties can also use the system to see when Housing Benefit payments are due to them.

### How do I Sign up and use the Online Account?

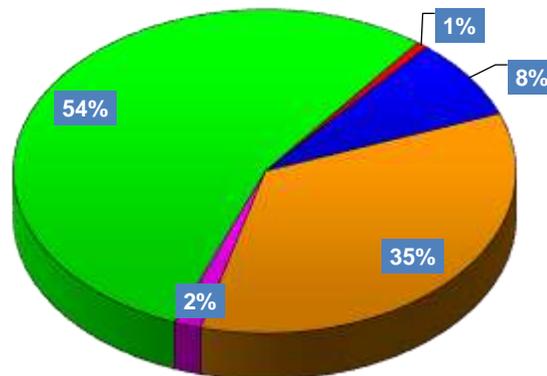
Before you start you will need an email address, a password and security question, claim reference or account number and postcode. Landlords will need their creditor ID number.

Next go to [www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/e-services](http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/e-services)

# About your Council Tax Bill

The Council's total budgeted expenditure for 2018/19 amounts to £47.0m compared to £47.4m in 2017/18. This is divided amongst the main services of the Council as follows:

- Central Services £3.8m (2017/18 £3.6m)
- Cultural, Environmental & Planning Services £16.4m (2017/18 £15.3m)
- Highways, Roads & Transportation £0.8m (2017/18 £0.7m)
- Housing Services (primarily Housing Benefits) £25.7m (2017/18 £27.3m)
- Trading Services £0.3m (2017/18 £0.5m)



## Where the Budget comes from (East Staffordshire Borough Council's Share Only):

	2018/19 £'000	2017/18 £'000
<b>Gross Expenditure (analysed above)</b>	47,058	47,431
<b>Income</b>	(32,995)	(35,231)
<b>Reversal of capital charges and IAS19 pension costs included above (to ensure no impact on council tax charge)</b>	(3,386)	(1,618)
<b>Budget Requirement</b>	<b>10,667</b>	<b>10,582</b>
<b>Less</b>		
Central Government support	(383)	(828)
Council Tax surplus from previous year	(220)	(210)
Retained Business Rates	(3,340)	(3,084)
Special Expenses	(446)	(446)
New Homes Bonus Reserve	(132)	(0)
<b>To be raised from Council Tax</b>	<b>6,146</b>	<b>6,014</b>
<b>Divided by</b>		
Tax Base	36,736.39	35,950.33
<b>To give</b>		
<b>Tax Rate for a Band D Property (£)</b>	<b>167.30</b>	<b>167.30</b>

# About your Council Tax Bill

## How the Council has been Able to Freeze Council Tax this Year

Despite unprecedented reductions in central government funding to local authorities, the Council has been able to maintain the same Council Tax rate this year. This is the ninth year in a row where the Council has either reduced or not increased its element of the charge.

The Council has been able to achieve this whilst prioritising the protection of frontline services. The table below sets out the most significant budget pressures the authority is managing together with the savings built into the budget for 2018/19.

	£'000
<b>Raised from Council Tax in 2017/18</b>	<b>6,014</b>
<b>Significant Savings</b>	
- Office Accommodation Move	(227)
- Debt Repayment	(364)
- Staffing savings across the authority	(179)
- Procurement, other savings and increased income generation	(468)
<b>Significant Pressures</b>	
- Local Service Income Pressures (Car Parking, Leisure)	94
- Waste Collection Review	313
- Core Government Funding Reductions	340
- Scaling back of New Homes Bonus Payment	282
- Inflationary Pressures	341
<b>Raised from Council Tax 2018/2019</b>	<b>6,146</b>

# About your Council Tax Bill

## Parish and Town Councils

Parish and Town Councils tell the Borough Council how much income they need from Council Tax (their "Precept"). This is paid for from the Borough Council's General Fund and is recovered by setting a Parish Tax for each Parish / Town Council. The two councils below are included as an example.

### Stretton Parish Council

	2017/18 Expenditure		2018/19 Expenditure	
	£ Gross	£ Net	£ Gross	£ Net
Highways	16,000	16,000	-	-
Planning & Economic Development	-	-	-	-
Recreation & Tourism	161,588	87,339	194,000	100,067
Environmental Health	7,912	7,912	10,500	10,500
Corporate & Other Income	101,700	58,929	130,965	68,510
<b>Amount of Precept</b>		<b>170,180</b>		<b>179,077</b>

### Uttoxeter Town Council

	2017/18 Expenditure		2018/19 Expenditure	
	£ Gross	£ Net	£ Gross	£ Net
Highways	8,536	8,536	8,782	8,782
Planning & Economic Development	40,949	19,503	37,193	19,693
Recreation & Tourism	145,893	103,491	152,511	106,420
Environmental Health	112,884	65,926	112,818	65,833
Corporate Management	129,916	89,880	121,130	93,917
<b>Amount of Precept</b>		<b>287,336</b>		<b>294,645</b>

## Pay your Council Tax in 12 Monthly Instalments

You can choose to pay your Council Tax over 12 monthly instalments within the same financial year. Please visit <http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/council-tax/ways-pay-council-tax> if you would like to request we increase your instalments from 10 to 12 each year.