

Borough's share 26p a day for band D

All the information given in this leaflet refers to council tax in a band D property that doesn't have a parish council. The total charge for the borough council for the band D council tax payer for 2006/07 is shown below.

Gross expenditure on services	£1,507.94
Less: income and use of reserves	-£1,257.75
Budget requirement	£250.19
Less: government funding	-£155.80
To be met by council tax payers	£94.39

Your bill shows which band your property is in and the exact charge to you. We've also included information on the council tax for a property in each band in the borough's towns and parishes.

If you think you may be entitled to council tax benefits or discounts or need more information about paying your bill, phone **01256 358555**.

See the bigger picture visit

www.basingstoke.gov.uk

This leaflet is intended to give you a snapshot of how our part of your council tax is spent by us and our budget plans.

If you want to find out more about our plans and finances, further information can be found in:

- **the Detailed Budget Book** – giving a breakdown of the council's budget
- **the Council Plan** – outlining our future priorities and plans
- **the Statement of Accounts** – detailing our past performance.

All are available on the website or from our Civic Offices in London Road, Basingstoke, or by calling our customer contact centre on

01256 844844.

If you require a large print version of this leaflet, please contact us on **01256 358555**.

Putting you in the picture...



...about your council tax

2006/2007



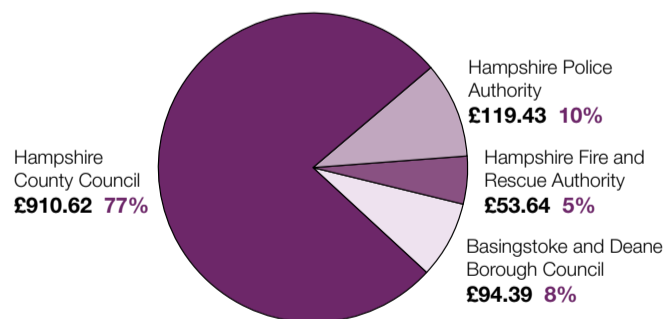
Close up on your council tax

Where does your council tax go?

You pay your council tax bill to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, but the money doesn't all go to us.

Our share of the council tax is only about **8%** - the equivalent of **26p** per day for a band D property in the borough.

The council tax we collect goes to:



How much is our share of council tax this year?

Our share of the council tax has only increased by **2.5%** to allow for inflation, for the fourth year in a row.

This means that people in Basingstoke and Deane not living in a parish will pay **£94.39** council tax at band D for borough provided services. Those living in rural areas may pay an additional sum to cover the services provided by their town or parish council.

The borough council has agreed to pay a grant of up to **£1,025** to each parish council. Parish councils needing more can raise the extra through council tax. If this applies to you, details of the amount your parish council requires to be raised through council tax will be shown on your bill and on the total council tax information sheet enclosed.

What do you get for this money?

Our portion of the council tax goes towards providing local services to the **157,000** residents of our borough.

Everyday services we provide include rubbish collection, planning and building control, community safety, housing and housing benefits, prevention of homelessness, environmental health, car parking, leisure, sport, culture and the arts, licensing and council tax collection.

Planning to get the most for your money

We work hard to get the best possible value from your council tax.

The council has a three year plan and budget strategy that focuses our resources (money and staff) on key priority areas:

- getting value for money in all we do, providing everyday services
- giving people access to decent homes in areas that they want to live in, with a strong community spirit
- making sure the borough's streets are clean and safe for residents, businesses and visitors
- giving everyone equal opportunities to reach their full potential, by breaking down barriers to learning and training



New and improved services

Efficiency savings are being put into new and improved services. The three new initiatives for this year are:

- expanding the successful community warden scheme into new areas
- starting a new green garden waste collection and recycling service
- bringing green recycling bins to rural areas

But we will also continue to improve the high quality services that people of the borough rely on every day.

The total amount we need to spend on our services in **2006/07** is **£90.6 million** (more details on this inside).

Where else do we get our money from?

The services we provide for the borough aren't just paid for by council tax – which contributes **6%** of our funding.

We also get funding from:

General government grants	10%
Housing benefit grant from the government	36%
Income from our property (mostly in rents from commercial buildings)	14%
The interest we get from our investments	8%
Money from fees and charges (for example, parking)	6%
Other income	3%
Capital reserves (amounts set by to pay for capital spending)	9%
Revenue reserves (amounts set by to pay for service spending on specific items)	8%

A snapshot of your services...

We divide our services up into 'portfolios'. These are groups of services that come under the responsibility of a councillor, who is a member of the council's decision-making cabinet. The portfolios are:

Leader and Deputy Leader

Covers 12% of the spend on services, including:

- the overall, cross-cutting areas of the council's work – setting its policies, monitoring its performance and overseeing its partnership working
- the behind the scenes services that ensure the council is run efficiently, such as legal, audit, finance, information technology, customer services and personnel and the recording of the council's decisions
- managing the council's industrial and commercial property, with responsibility for areas such as the town centre redevelopment

Forward Planning

Covers 6% of the spend on services, including:

- strategic development planning, including local plans, major development sites and the Rural Strategy
- protecting the landscape, biodiversity and the historic built environment
- environmental grants

Housing, Health and Homes

Covers 40% of the spend on services, including:

- housing and the prevention of homelessness
- the affordable and key worker housing programmes
- health partnerships
- housing benefits
- tenant protection
- housing renewal
- funding for the voluntary sector
- older people's strategy

Employment, Skills and Learning

Covers 1% of the spend on services, including:

- business development
- lifelong learning
- young people's strategy

Recreation and Culture

Covers 14% of the spend on services, including:

- sport, recreation and community facilities and activities
- arts and culture
- play areas
- parks and open spaces

Communities and Regeneration

Covers 12% of the spend on services, including:

- community safety
- street care, such as street cleaning and litter picking
- rubbish collection
- recycling
- environmental health services
- community grants
- public conveniences

Environmental Sustainability

Covers 6% of the spend on services, including:

- highway maintenance and improvement
- transport policy
- travel tokens and bus passes
- car parking

All these portfolios total 91% of the £90.6m spend on services. The other 9% is made up of capital paid for from revenue (7%) and contributions to reserves (2%).



Focus on the figures

What is spent on council services?

For 2006/2007 our net spending (referred to as the budget requirement) is **£15 million**. This is broken down as show below:

2005/06		2006/07
£m		£m
17.5	Leader and Deputy Leader	11.3
5.3	Forward Planning	5.0
10.6	Communities and Regeneration	10.8
5.6	Environmental Sustainability	5.1
1.2	Employment, Skills and Learning	0.9
34.6	Housing, Health and Homes	36.1
13.8	Recreation and Culture	13.1
1.9	Capital paid for from revenue	6.7
3.3	Contributions to reserves	1.6
93.8	Gross revenue expenditure	90.6
	Less income from:	
-31.1	Housing and council tax benefit grant	-32.9
-13.3	Property rents	-13.0
-4.6	Fees and charges	-5.1
-2.8	Other service income	-2.6
-7.5	Investments	-7.2
-18.2	Reversal of capital charges	-7.9
-1.9	Capital reserves to pay for capital spending	-6.7
-0.4	Revenue reserves	-0.2
14.0	Budget requirement (net expenditure)	15.0

The figures above exclude the parishes' budget requirements of £0.8 million.

Capital spending

As well as our day-to-day costs, we also spend money on assets that have a lasting value (for example, new buildings, major maintenance work and vehicles). This is known as capital spending.

The table below shows our planned expenditure on major schemes included in the council's capital programme for 2006/2007. This investment will create new facilities or improve or look after existing ones for the people of the borough.

Capital Schemes 2006/07	£m
Leader and Deputy Leader	
Information, communication and technology replacement programme	0.5
Other Leader and Deputy Leader schemes (under £0.2m)	0.4
Forward Planning	
Forward Planning schemes (under £0.2m)	0.1
Communities and Regeneration	
Housing renewal grants	0.8
Environmental renewal schemes	0.5
Green bins rural areas	0.2
Other Communities and Regeneration schemes (under £0.2m)	0.1
Environmental Sustainability	
Environmental Sustainability schemes (under £0.2m)	0.2
Employment, Skills and Learning	
3 EN (Generating Enterprise)	0.3
Recreation and Culture	
Sports centre swimming pool refurbishment	1.8
Tadley recreational scheme	1.4
Winklebury football scheme	1.0
Whitchurch community facility	0.9
Play areas	0.3
Community audit (Hatch Warren/Beggarwood)	0.3
Community audit (Chineham/Lychpit)	0.3
Other Recreation and Culture schemes (under £0.2m)	0.3
Total	9.4



Why spending has changed

There are reasons other than inflation why our budget has to change.

The table below shows the major changes to income and expenditure between 2005/2006 and 2006/2007.

Increased expenditure:	£m
• caused by inflation	1.5
• caused by extra demand and improved services	3.8
Offset by:	£m
• efficiency savings	1.0
• increased council income	1.8
• net contribution from reserves	1.5
Total change in budget requirement (growth in net expenditure)	£m
	1.0

