

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Guide to Council Tax 2023/24

For details of how to pay please see the reverse of your council tax notice.



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Hinckley Hub • Rugby Road • Hinckley
Leics LE10 0FR

Tel: 01455 238141 Fax: 01455 251172

Online contact form: www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/generalQ

Website: www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

**If you want this information in larger print or
audio versions please telephone 01455 238141**

Guide to Council Tax

What is Council Tax?

Each year the Government expects local authorities to raise money to help pay for the cost of providing local services. Some of this money comes from residents of the borough and is collected by the council in the form of council tax.

Where does the money go?

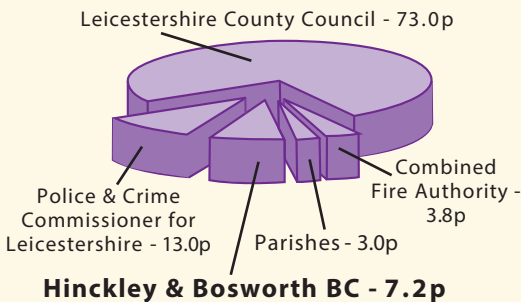
The money we collect from you is not all for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. **In fact we keep only 7.2p in every pound.** The rest of the money is collected by us on behalf of a number of other authorities who also provide services in your area. These are:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Combined Fire Authority
- Police & Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire
- Local parish councils

In addition to the money collected from council tax payers we also receive:

- government grants
- rates paid by businesses
- fees, charges and other income

HOW EVERY POUND COLLECTED IS DISTRIBUTED



Paying council tax over 12 months

Council tax instalments can now be spread over 12 months instead of 10. Following your request the number of payments will be dependant on the number of months remaining in the financial year. Your request for 12 monthly instalments will automatically apply to the next financial year. If you would like to pay your council tax over 12 instalments please email your request detailing your name, address and reference number to revenues@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk or contact the Customer Services Team on **01455 238141**.

Council tax, benefits and business rates online

Once registered, customers will be able to view their own council tax account, benefit claim or business rates account online. You can register online at the following website www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/paperfree

Council tax appeals

If you do not agree with the band for your home and you wish to make an appeal please contact the Valuation Office.

Tel: 03000 501501

For further information regarding banding appeals see the Valuation Office website <https://www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands> or visit our website www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Other appeals

If you wish to appeal against any other matter regarding your council tax please do so in writing to the Council Tax Team.

If you are appealing against any matter regarding your council tax, you should continue to pay your original council tax bill whilst your appeal is outstanding. Any overpayment will be refunded to you or offset against any outstanding balance.

Discounts and exemptions

Council tax assumes there are at least 2 adults living in the home. If you live on your own you are entitled to a 25% discount.

Discounts on empty and furnished properties:

1) Properties that are in need of, or undergoing major repair work or structural alteration -

These properties will be entitled to a 50% discount from council tax for up to twelve months.

2) Properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished -

These properties will be entitled to a one month discount of 100%.

3) Annexe discount -

Annexes meeting certain criteria will be entitled to a 50% discount. To qualify for a discount the annexe must be occupied by a relative of the person liable to pay council tax on the main home or if it is unoccupied the annexe must be being used as part of the main home. If you wish to apply we will send you an application form.

NB - Properties that are unoccupied and furnished do not receive a discount. A full charge will apply.

From 1 April 2020 properties that are empty and unfurnished for more than two years will now be subject to an additional charge for empty homes premium. Further information regarding this can be found at: <https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/counciltax>

Some properties may be exempt from council tax and the following is a broad description.

Class	Unoccupied properties	Entitlement
B	Owned by a charity	Up to 6 months
D	Left empty by someone who has gone to prison	
E	Previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care	
F	Waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted	Up to 6 months after probate is granted
G	Empty because occupation is forbidden by law	
H	Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion	
I	Left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness	
J	Left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person	
K	Owned by a student and last occupied by a student	
L	Subject to a Repossession Order	
Q	The responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee	
R	A site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring	
T	Granny annexes or similar type of property	

Class	Occupied properties
M/N	All the residents are students
O	Used for UK armed forces accommodation
P	At least one liable person is a member of a visiting force
S	All residents are less than 18 years old
U	All residents are severely mentally impaired
V	At least one liable person is a foreign diplomat
W	It is annexed to a family home and occupied by that family's elderly or disabled relatives

If you think you may be entitled to a discount or may be exempt please contact the council tax section on 01455 238141.

If you receive a discount/exemption then you must tell the council tax section within 21 days of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement.

If the property remains unoccupied and unfurnished after any exemption expires then it will attract a 100% council tax charge.

If the property remains empty for more than two years you will now be subject to an additional charge for empty homes premium.

How to pay

Please see the details on the reverse of your bill.

Council tax support scheme

If you are under state pension age you will have to pay some of your council tax. If you are working age the maximum amount you will have to pay is 12%. **It is important that you contact us as soon as you receive your Demand Notice, if you need help and advice on how to pay your charge.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: All changes in circumstance should be reported within a month of the change occurring. Failure to do this will be dealt with as an act of Fraud.

Are you struggling to pay your rent and council tax?

If you would like to check if you would be entitled to any assistance please call the Benefits Section on 01455 238141 or check out our website for more information at www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk.

On our website we have a benefits calculator so you can work out your entitlement without having to reveal any of your income to a third party. It will not ask for your name or your address, you just put in details of your income and within a few minutes you will know whether you are entitled to any help with your rent and council tax bills.

Claim what is rightfully yours!

Have your circumstances changed?

If you receive benefits, you must inform the benefits section at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council immediately of any change in your or your household's circumstances which may affect your benefit entitlement. Advising another Government department, such as the Department for Work and Pensions or the Inland Revenue, does not mean that we will be notified of your changes.

BENEFIT FRAUD

We are committed to fighting fraud in your area but want your help, so if you suspect that someone may be claiming benefits that they're not entitled to, please call the National Benefit Fraud Hotline on

0800 854 440

or use the DWP website

<https://www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud>

or write to

NBFH, PO Box 224, Preston, PR1 1GP

Citizens Advice Bureau

Contact the CAB for impartial and independent advice which is free and confidential.

Advice line: 0300 3302111. These advice lines are open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm

Citizens Advice Leicestershire website (leicscab.org.uk)

FAQ's

I want to set up a Direct Debit to pay my council tax / business rates.

You can set up a Direct Debit using the instruction within this leaflet. Alternatively telephone customer services on 01455 238141 who will arrange this without the need to complete any paperwork. You can also set up a Direct Debit online at www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

My bill states I pay by Direct Debit do I need to do anything?

No - the payments will automatically be taken from your account on the dates shown on your bill.

I have received a council tax bill and I don't understand why the amounts have changed?

There may be various reasons why the amounts have changed. Your entitlement to a discount or Council Tax Support may be different. If it is not clear from your bill or the accompanying letter please contact customer services.

My bill says I'm in a special expense area. What does that mean?

An urban area such as Hinckley does not have a Parish Council therefore the Borough Council takes on this role. Residents in other areas of the Borough pay their Parish Council for certain services and residents of Hinckley pay 'special expenses' to the Borough Council.

I want to let you know about a change of address/change in occupancy.

Please contact customer services or you can log onto www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk and complete an on-line form.

What is an applicable amount?

This is a weekly figure set by the Government and represents the basic living needs of the customer and family. All authorities will use this amount when calculating entitlement to benefit.

I have received my Council Tax Support award letter and the amount of savings (capital) quoted is different to the amount I now have in my account(s).

The figures used in the calculation will be based upon the amount of savings you had when you last applied. If you are of working age savings below £6,000 will not be taken into account when assessing entitlement. This figure is £10,000 in respect of pensioners.

The state retirement pension/welfare benefit amount shown on my benefit award letter is not quite what I receive.

Most DWP benefits are increased by a certain percentage each year which we work out for the new financial year. If your figure is not accurate please bring in your pension/benefit award letter so that we may adjust our records.

How we will use your information

Your information will be used so that we can administer your account and collect Council Tax from you in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Under Article 6(1) (e) of the General Data Protection Regulations, we are permitted to use data for our tasks. It will be used by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and our partners to deliver and fulfil our statutory duties. We will not disclose any personal information to any other third parties unless required or allowed to do so by law. Read more about how we use personal data on our privacy notice page: <https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/privacy>

What is the money spent on?

2022/23			2023/2024			Per Band D Equivalent after funding £
Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net Spending £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net Spending £'000	
920	712	208	1,074	593	481	5.39
7,159	5,283	1,876	7,725	5,000	2,725	30.61
2,142	1,035	1,107	3,129	1,723	1,406	15.81
1,222	154	1,068	1,558	164	1,394	15.65
6,163	2,173	3,990	7,594	2,278	5,316	59.69
15,538	13,761	1,777	15,906	13,586	2,320	26.05
11,067	11,067	0	12,314	12,314	0	0.00
17,210	15,282	1,928	20,697	19,837	860	9.63
<u>61,421</u>	<u>49,467</u>	<u>11,954</u>	<u>69,997</u>	<u>55,495</u>	<u>14,502</u>	<u>162.83</u>
		(31)			(1,153)	(12.96)
		<u>11,923</u>			<u>13,349</u>	<u>149.87</u>
			Transfer to (Use of) Reserves			
			Borough Net Expenditure			
			Borough Funding *		(7,441)	
			Band D Council Tax		<u>5,908</u>	

* BOROUGH FUNDING

	£'000	Per Band D Equivalent £
Business Rates	6,919	175.51
New Homes Bonus	582	14.77
Collection Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	(60)	(1.51)
	<u>7,441</u>	<u>188.77</u>

Costs of Refuse Collection & Recycling Funded from Council Tax 2023/24

This table shows the **annual** net costs for the refuse and recycling services for 2023/24 that are being funded from council tax, expressed as cost per household and at each property band. Council tax only funds **40.9%** of our total net spending.

	per Household £p	Band D Equivalent £p	Band A £p	Band B £p
Recycling	18.35	23.73	15.82	18.45
Refuse	13.85	17.90	11.94	13.93
Total Refuse & Recycling	32.20	41.63	27.76	32.38

	Band C £p	Band D £p	Band E £p	Band F £p	Band G £p	Band H £p
Recycling	21.09	23.73	29.00	34.27	39.55	47.46
Refuse	15.91	17.90	21.88	25.86	29.84	35.81
Total Refuse & Recycling	37.00	41.63	50.88	60.13	69.39	83.27

How the charge is made up

	2023/2024 £'000	Per Band D Equivalent £
Borough Council Tax	5,908	149.87
Parish Councils	2,458	62.37
Budget Requirement	8,366	212.24
Leicestershire County Council	60,136	1,525.46
Combined Fire Authority	3,126	79.29
Police & Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire	10,771	273.23
	<u>82,399</u>	<u>2,090.22</u>

Why has the Borough Council's spending altered?

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m	Movement £m
11.954	Gross Expenditure	14.502	2.548
(0.031)	Transfer to (Use of) Reserves	(1.153)	(1.122)
11.923	Borough Net Expenditure	13.349	1.426
2.282	Parish Precepts	2.459	0.177
14.205	Budget Requirement	15.808	1.603
(5.703)	Business Rates	(6.919)	(1.216)
(0.529)	New Homes Bonus	(0.582)	(0.053)
(0.039)	Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	(0.060)	0.099
7.934	Demand on Collection Fund	8.367	0.433
Funded By:			
4.896	Borough Taxpayers	5.144	0.248
0.756	Special Expenses Taxpayers	0.764	(0.008)
2.282	Parish Taxpayers	2.459	0.177
7.934		8.367	0.433

Flood Defence Levy

The Midlands and Anglian Regions of the Environment Agency charge levies to the County Council for their flood defence functions which are included in the County's precept. Total gross expenditure for the Midlands Region for 2023/24 is £112,428m (2022/23 is £106.694m) and for the Anglian region £68.909m (2022/23 is £85.155m)

Summary of Council Tax 2023/2024

VALUATION BAND

Area/Parish	Amount required £	A (6/9) £	B (7/9) £	C (8/9) £	D (9/9) £	E (11/9) £	F (13/9) £	G (15/9) £	H (18/9) £
Hinckley	763,591.00	1,384.78	1,615.58	1,846.38	2,077.18	2,538.77	3,000.37	3,461.96	4,154.36
Bagworth	129,600.00	1,426.20	1,663.91	1,901.61	2,139.31	2,614.71	3,090.12	3,565.52	4,278.62
Barlestone	91,500.00	1,416.98	1,653.14	1,889.31	2,125.47	2,597.80	3,070.13	3,542.46	4,250.94
Barwell	270,424.00	1,404.37	1,638.44	1,872.51	2,106.57	2,574.70	3,042.83	3,510.95	4,213.14
Burbage	452,171.66	1,388.76	1,620.23	1,851.69	2,083.15	2,546.07	3,009.00	3,471.92	4,166.30
Cadeby	5,600.00	1,372.77	1,601.57	1,830.37	2,059.16	2,516.75	2,974.34	3,431.93	4,118.32
Carlton	8,575.00	1,370.72	1,599.18	1,827.64	2,056.09	2,513.00	2,969.91	3,426.82	4,112.18
Desford	154,153.06	1,397.60	1,630.54	1,863.48	2,096.41	2,562.28	3,028.15	3,494.01	4,192.82
Earl Shilton	303,415.00	1,399.89	1,633.21	1,866.53	2,099.84	2,566.48	3,033.11	3,499.74	4,199.68
Groby	237,661.00	1,398.71	1,631.83	1,864.95	2,098.07	2,564.31	3,030.55	3,496.78	4,196.14
Higham on the Hill	15,258.98	1,371.37	1,599.93	1,828.50	2,057.06	2,514.19	2,971.31	3,428.44	4,114.12
Market Bosworth	109,957.54	1,418.48	1,654.90	1,891.32	2,127.73	2,600.56	3,073.39	3,546.21	4,255.46
Markfield	157,732.00	1,400.67	1,634.12	1,867.58	2,101.02	2,567.91	3,034.81	3,501.70	4,202.04
Nailstone	20,565.00	1,400.76	1,634.23	1,867.70	2,101.16	2,568.08	3,035.01	3,501.93	4,202.32
Newbold Verdon	76,500.00	1,386.88	1,618.03	1,849.18	2,080.32	2,542.62	3,004.92	3,467.21	4,160.64
Osbaston	7,762.50	1,393.97	1,626.31	1,858.65	2,090.97	2,555.63	3,020.30	3,484.96	4,181.94
Peckleton	40,850.00	1,395.73	1,628.36	1,860.98	2,093.60	2,558.85	3,024.09	3,489.34	4,187.20
Ratby	145,284.46	1,402.05	1,635.74	1,869.42	2,103.09	2,570.45	3,037.80	3,505.15	4,206.18
Shackerstone	35,000.00	1,391.82	1,623.79	1,855.77	2,087.74	2,551.68	3,015.62	3,479.57	4,175.48
Sheepy	35,000.00	1,378.76	1,608.56	1,838.37	2,068.16	2,527.75	2,987.34	3,446.93	4,136.32
Stanton under Bardon	16,205.00	1,375.75	1,605.05	1,834.35	2,063.64	2,522.22	2,980.81	3,439.40	4,127.28
Stoke Golding	66,750.00	1,395.68	1,628.29	1,860.91	2,093.52	2,558.75	3,023.98	3,489.21	4,187.04
Sutton Cheney	19,491.44	1,393.21	1,625.42	1,857.63	2,089.83	2,554.24	3,018.65	3,483.05	4,179.66
Twycross	24,355.00	1,381.74	1,612.04	1,842.34	2,072.62	2,533.21	2,993.79	3,454.37	4,145.24
Witherley	34,760.00	1,375.19	1,604.40	1,833.61	2,062.80	2,521.20	2,979.60	3,438.00	4,125.60

Council Tax Bills will vary according to the amount which local parish councils instruct us to collect and the special expenses which are levied solely in the urban area of Hinckley. These variations cover the costs of cemeteries, parks and poop scoop schemes.