

Council tax in Christchurch 2016/17



A guide to the 2016/17 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 & Wiltshire 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 arising from the national deficit reduction programme, and exposure to risks concerning the Localisation of Council Tax Support and Retention of Business Rates.

The Government has confirmed that Christchurch Borough Council will see its Revenue Support Grant reduce from £700,000 in 2015/16 to zero by 2018/19, after already experiencing significant reductions in Government support over previous years. The decrease for 2016/17 is £386,878 or 55%. In addition to the cessation of Government support through Revenue Support Grant, the Government has announced that as part of the national deficit reduction programme this council will pay over a contribution of £375,000 to Central Government from 2019/20.

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, growing business rate income, 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. The council's Medium Term Financial Strategy projects further savings required of £500,000 by 2021/22 in order to balance the books.

Christchurch is increasing its Council Tax by £5.00 (2.7%) for a Band D for 2016/17 as a result of the financial challenges it faces. This equates to an increase of less than 10 pence per week for a Band D property. A Band D property in Christchurch will pay £189.99 for Christchurch's element of their Council Tax bill. The Government is no longer offering councils grants to freeze their Council Tax.

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 £6.826m on major projects over the next five years. This includes £1.389m for coast protection, £0.445m on Christchurch Quay, £0.761m on affordable housing and £0.693m on Disabled Facility Grants.

Where the money is spent

2015/16 NET £000s	Where is the money spent	2016/17 Expenditure £000s	2016/17 Income £000s	2016/17 NET £000s
629	Growth & Economy	1,138	(514)	624
1,658	Finance	18,063	(16,401)	1,662
297	Property & Engineering	3,347	(3,095)	252
1,467	Housing & Health	1,982	(484)	1,498
1,664	Community & Leisure	5,035	(3,179)	1,856
795	Legal & Democratic	754	(1)	753
31	Organisational Development	58	(5)	53
290	Pension Lump Sum Payment	305	0	305
6,831	Cost of Providing Services	30,682	(23,679)	7,003
(1,768)	Reverse Capital Charges	N/A	N/A	(1,807)
(60)	Investment Income	N/A	N/A	(55)
580	Transfer To / (From) Reserves	N/A	N/A	433
(50)	Staff Vacancy Factor	N/A	N/A	(50)
1	Parish & Town Council Support Grant	N/A	N/A	0
5,534	Net Expenditure	N/A	N/A	5,524
(700)	Revenue Support Grant	N/A	N/A	(313)
(1,272)	Net Retained Business Rates	N/A	N/A	(1,501)
3,562	Expenditure Met from Council Tax	N/A	N/A	3,710

Why demand on Council Tax has changed

Met by Council Tax payments in 2015/16	3,562
Net increase Retained Business Rates	(229)
Savings arising from joint working	(114)
Savings identified through budget process	(412)
Increases in income	(141)
Investment in services	529
Reduction in Revenue Support Grant	387
Decreases in income	128
Met by Council Tax Payers in 2016/17	3,710

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 Parish / Town 2016/17	Band D Parish / Town 2016/17	Band D Council Tax Totals 2016/17
Burton	20,000.00	12.98	1,726.76
Hurn	6,185.00	27.01	1,740.79

Full Council Tax amounts

Valuation bands	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Town/ Parish	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Burton	1,151.17	1,343.04	1,534.90	1,726.76	2,110.48	2,494.21	2,877.93	3,453.52
Hurn	1,160.53	1,353.95	1,547.37	1,740.79	2,127.63	2,514.47	2,901.32	3,481.58
Christchurch	1,142.52	1,332.94	1,523.36	1,713.78	2,094.62	2,475.46	2,856.30	3,427.56