



**ESBC COUNCIL TAX
FROZEN FOR
2017/18**

**THREE "IN-BLOOM"
GOLD AWARDS**

**SELF-BUILD SCHEME
FOR LOCAL PEOPLE**

**DEVELOPER IN
PLACE FOR
BARGATES SCHEME**

**TOWN CENTRE
REGENERATION
PROGRAMME**

COUNCIL TAX 2017/18 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 eighth 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**

**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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Plans for 2017/18

Brewhouse and Town Hall Improvements

Having introduced the Brewhouse and Town Hall development plans in 2016/17, the Council will now start to refine its approach to the delivery of the programmes that are on offer at these facilities.

Leisure and Cultural Service Delivery Review

Following Cabinet approval, the Leisure and Cultural Services Delivery Review will begin. The review will consider the Council's leisure centres, sports development, Brewhouse and arts provision, Burton Market Hall and the Civic Function Suite.

Market Hall Development

The Council will continue to improve and develop all aspects of the Market Hall including trader / tenant arrangements, revised tariff schedules and marketing and promotion of the Market Hall. The Council will also look to hold at least 20 events throughout the year.

Retain three "In Bloom" awards

In 2017/18 we will seek to achieve three "In Bloom" awards in Burton, Uttoxeter and Winshill as well as three Green Flags for key parks across East Staffordshire.

Consider a Self-build Scheme

We have invited prospective purchasers to secure a plot and build their dream home.

Deliver Three Job Fairs

East Staffordshire boasts one of the lowest rates of unemployment in the West Midlands. However, the Council will continue to improve this position even further by working with partners to deliver at least three jobs fairs before March 2018.

Neighbourhood Fund

The new Neighbourhood Fund will come into operation in April 2017 and will seek to provide residents and interested groups with the opportunity to develop significant projects that will have a real and long lasting impact on our local communities.



Plans for 2017/18

Neighbourhood Plans

Parishes in East Staffordshire have been very proactive in shaping their local areas. There are 17 Parishes who have either had their Neighbourhood Plans made (adopted) by East Staffordshire Borough Council or who are currently writing them, and we will take at least two new plans through to referenda during the year.

Deliver East Staffordshire Town Centres Regeneration Programme

By working together, East Staffordshire Borough Council, 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 to East Staffordshire's town centres.

Improve Car Parking Facilities

As part of our Town Centres Improvement Programme, working with the County Council, the Council will look at improving Coopers Square and the Maltings Car Parks and will assess the viability of a payment on exit solution through both coins and contactless payments. As part of this improvement work, we will also find a way to bring electric car charging to Burton.



Host a Tourism Event

The Council, working in partnership with Destination Staffordshire, will host an event to provide a greater understanding of the ways in which we can strategically support local businesses operating in the tourism industry.

Selective Licensing Scheme

Subject to an extensive consultation process, the Council may adopt a selective licensing pilot scheme in parts of Anglesey, where there is a proven need for its introduction.

Improve Electronic Service Provision

The Council will continue to campaign, promote and improve the website in order for it to become the preferred point of contact for resident enquiries. It will build on the previous year's activity, once again focusing on the Council's self-service facilities in high contact areas, such as Council Tax, Housing Benefits and Planning.

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 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 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?

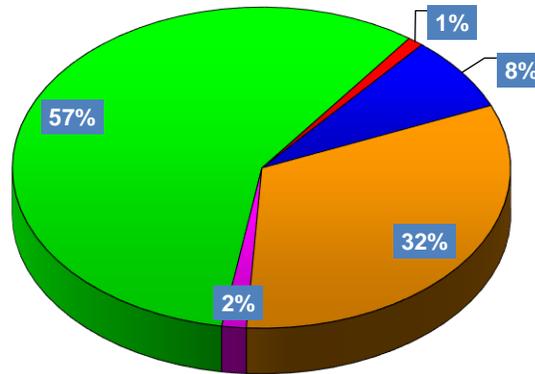
Before you start you will need an email address, a password and security question, claim reference or account number and postcode. Landlords will need their creditor ID number.

Next go to www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/e-services

About your Council Tax Bill

The Council's total budgeted expenditure for 2017/2018 amounts to £47.4m compared to £50.1m in 2016/17. This is divided amongst the main services of the Council as follows:

- Central Services £3.6m
(2016/17 £3.4m)
- Cultural, Environmental & Planning Services £15.3m
(2016/17 £16.4m)
- Highways, Roads & Transportation £0.7m (2016/17 £0.7m)
- Housing Services (primarily Housing Benefits) £27.3m
(2016/17 £29.7m)
- Trading Services £0.5m
(2016/17 £0.5m)



Where the budget comes from (East Staffordshire Borough Council's share only):

	2017/18 £'000	2016/17 £'000
Gross expenditure (analysed above)	47,431	50,715
Income	(35,231)	(38,161)
Reversal of capital charges and IAS19 pension costs included above (to ensure no impact on council tax charge)	(1,618)	(1,315)
Budget requirement	10,582	11,239
<i>Less</i>		
Central Government support	(828)	(1,523)
Council Tax surplus from previous year	(210)	(188)
Retained Business Rates	(3,084)	(3,200)
Special Expenses	(446)	(446)
To be raised from Council Tax	6,014	5,882
<i>Divided by</i>		
Tax Base	35,950.33	35,159.73
<i>To give</i>		
Tax Rate for a Band D Property (£)	167.30	167.30

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 eighth 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 2016/17.

	£'000
Raised from Council Tax in 2016/17	5,882
Significant Savings	
- Organic Waste Review	(280)
- Debt Repayment	(78)
- Staffing savings across the authority	(154)
- Procurement, other savings and increased income generation	(643)
Significant Pressures	
- Local Service Income Pressures (Recycling, Planning, Markets)	411
- Core Government Funding Reductions	636
- Pay inflation and pension contributions	240
Raised from Council Tax 2017/2018	5,882

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 Council's below are included as an example.

Stretton Parish Council

	2016/17 Expenditure		2017/18 Expenditure	
	£ Gross	£ Net	£ Gross	£ Net
Highways	15,000	15,000	16,000	16,000
Planning & Economic Development	-	-	-	-
Recreation & Tourism	123,650	81,487	161,588	87,339
Environmental Health	6,850	6,850	7,912	7,912
Corporate and Other Income	84,700	58,700	101,700	58,929
Amount of Precept		162,037		170,180

Uttoxeter Town Council

	2016/17 Expenditure		2017/18 Expenditure	
	£ Gross	£ Net	£ Gross	£ Net
Highways	8,418	8,418	8,536	8,536
Planning & Economic Development	40,615	13,323	40,949	19,503
Recreation & Tourism	144,639	107,019	145,893	103,491
Environmental Health	111,474	64,708	112,884	65,926
Corporate Management	133,939	99,296	129,916	89,880
Amount of Precept		292,764		287,336

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 contact us if you would like to request we increase your instalments from 10 to 12 each year.