

Whilst your council continues to face a difficult financial climate, we are on schedule to save almost £40m by March 2012. However, with other budget savings still to be made, all councillors agree the need for services to deliver value for money, for the council to become as efficient as possible and use savings to protect front line services. Budgets have been agreed for the next three years, and as we continue to reorganise the council to meet your priorities, we remain committed to delivering the high quality services the people of Kirklees deserve.

Find out more about your council's budget – see page 4.



Pay less Council Tax

You could get money off your bill depending on your circumstances – for example, if you live alone or have low income. **Don't miss out.** See page 2 and the back page for more information.

If you have difficulty paying your bill

Contact us immediately and we'll do our best to help. We may be able to agree a different payment arrangement, such as smaller, regular payments or a different payment date. We can also check you are receiving everything you are entitled to. See below on how to contact us.

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council.tax@kirklees.gov.uk
Call us on 01484 414900 or visit
www.kirklees.gov.uk/counciltax

**Circumstances changed?
Tell us now.
It could reduce your bill**

Our performance and achievements for 2011/12

Our Innovation and Efficiency programme is central to the council becoming as efficient as possible and at the end of the financial year has delivered budget savings of £13.4m as well as meeting your priorities. **During the year we:**

- Saw Kirklees students exceed the national average in gaining five or more A*-C grade GCSEs
- Maintained 1200 miles of road and resurfaced seven village centres
- Supported local companies in applying for Regional Growth Fund grants for future investment plans, resulting in over £5.3m being awarded to companies
- Helped make Kirklees safer by increasing the number of Police Community Support Officers
- Delivered 5.3m meals across 190 schools, identified more children eligible for free school meals
- Negotiated the building of over 650 new homes, including 35 designed specifically for wheelchair users and 140 extra care properties
- 50 apprenticeships for local 16-24 year olds have been created by businesses across Kirklees thanks to the Apprentice Incentive Scheme.

Our plans for 2012/13

In the coming year, Kirklees Council will review all that we do to ensure that we provide value for money. **We will:**

- Provide services that are effective, productive and focussed on the needs of the community
- Continue to prioritise help for families and businesses feeling the effects of the recession to make sure we have a stronger economy and with better paid jobs
- Help people to live healthy, active lifestyles, supporting independent living for the elderly
- Working in partnership to improve life chances for young people and help them to reach their full potential.

Are you on a low income?

If so, you may qualify for help through the Council Tax Benefit and Housing Benefit schemes. These schemes help families on a low income to pay their council tax and/or rent.

To qualify you must be:

- responsible for paying council tax, rent or both, **and**
- on a low income, **and**
- have less than £16,000 in savings, unless you are over 60 and receiving the Guaranteed Credit of Pension Credit.

There's only one application form to complete, so you can even claim help with your council tax and rent at the same time.

For an application form, or more information go to www.kirklees.gov.uk/claimbenefit

Get a benefit estimate. Use our online calculator www.kirklees.gov.uk/benefitcalculator

How much you pay

The council tax for each property in Kirklees for 2012/13 for each valuation band is as follows:

Valuation Band	Holme Valley	All other areas of Kirklees
A	£934.25	£934.31
B	£1,089.96	£1,090.03
C	£1,245.66	£1,245.75
D	£1,401.38	£1,401.47
E	£1,712.79	£1,712.91
F	£2,024.20	£2,024.34
G	£2,335.62	£2,335.78
H	£2,802.74	£2,802.94

In 2012/13 the Holme Valley Parish Council will provide certain services which, elsewhere, will be provided by Kirklees Council. This means that the council tax for band D properties in other areas of Kirklees will be 9p higher than for properties in the Holme Valley Parish Council area. The council tax bandings have been adjusted accordingly.

Areas where there is a Parish Council

If you live in an area where there is a Parish Council your council tax will be increased to take into account the parish precepts for those areas. The amounts of the precepts for each area are as follows:

	2012/13 £	2011/12 £
Denby Dale Parish Council	112,836	108,915
Holme Valley Parish Council	127,000	127,000
Kirkburton Parish Council	122,000	122,000
Meltham Parish Council	45,200	41,500
Mirfield Parish Council	52,600	52,600
	£459,636	£452,015

The Parish Council charges are:

Valuation Band	Denby Dale £	Holme Valley £	Kirkburton £	Meltham £	Mirfield £
A	12.96	8.46	8.99	10.60	5.11
B	15.12	9.87	10.49	12.37	5.96
C	17.28	11.28	11.99	14.13	6.81
D	19.44	12.69	13.49	15.90	7.66
E	23.76	15.51	16.49	19.43	9.37
F	28.08	18.33	19.48	22.96	11.07
G	32.40	21.15	22.48	26.50	12.77
H	38.88	25.38	26.98	31.80	15.33

Where your council's budget comes from

1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013

	2012/13	2011/12
	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	£m	£m
Kirklees approved budget	350.8	343.9
Funded from:		
Formula grant and Pooled grants	184.2	189.4
General fund balances	10.2	-1.0
Council tax	156.4	155.5
	350.8	343.9
Other sources of income:		
Dedicated schools grant and other school grants	281.6	304.5
Other government grants	164.9	157.9
External income	134.1	126.2
Gross expenditure	931.4	932.5

Kirklees - changes in requirements from 2011/12 to 2012/13

The cost of services provided has changed from 2011/12 for the following reasons:

	£m
Net expenditure 2011/12	321.3
Unringfenced grants moved out of services	22.6
Updated net expenditure	343.9
a) Inflation, price increases and contingencies movement	18.6
b) Net changes in service budgets	-1.4
c) Efficiencies	-10.3
Net expenditure 2012/13	350.8

Where your council's money goes

The amounts that the council intends to spend on the various services that it provides are shown below, together with the comparative figures for 2011/12. The figures are adjusted for capital charges.

Service	2012/13		2011/12	
	Gross £m	Net £m	Gross £m	Net £m
Children & Young People	408.1	90.0	444.1	90.3
Well Being and Communities Place	163.9	116.4	159.4	115.5
Resources	88.7	53.6	93.1	55.7
Capital charges, contingency and other items	205.0	25.2	181.3	28.2
WY Passenger Transport Authority	46.0	45.9	34.5	34.1
Other joint committees	17.4	17.4	17.7	17.7
	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Total Kirklees expenditure	931.4	350.8	932.5	343.9
Plus: parish council precepts	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	931.9	351.3	933.0	344.4

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority



The fire authority will freeze its precept for 2012/13, which means that local taxpayers will have nothing extra to pay for their fire and rescue service next year.

A one-off central government grant of £1m alongside continued non recruitment will enable the authority to balance its books.

This grant enables us to undertake restructuring of front line and support services which should begin this spring and be complete by April 2013. More than 150 posts have already been shed through retirements and voluntary severance so far but the review is likely to lead to significantly more.

Where possible we will try to ensure that these changes do not affect our basic emergency fire and rescue capability,

We will continue with our policy of prudent financial management, however, the medium term financial forecast remains bleak with potential budget cuts of £9.7m in 2013/14 and £12.7m in 2014/15. That is why the restructuring exercise is so important in preparing us for what may be to come.

Spending on traditional fire and rescue operations account for most of the budget.

Budget 2012/13

Gross Expenditure	2011/2012 £m	2012/2013 £m	Per head
	93.172	91.969	
Less income	-4.273	-3.830	
	88.899	88.139	
Less contribution from reserves	-839		
Budget requirement	88.060	88.139	38.35
Less Revenue Support Grant	-12.328	-997	-0.43
Less Redistributed Non-Domestic Rates	-39.886	-51.402	-22.37
Proportion of Collection Fund Surpluses(-) Deficits (+)	-89	217	0.09
Council tax requirement	35.757	35.957	15.64

What are the changes from last year	2012/2013 £m
Standstill brought forward	88.060
Inflation	1.244
Government grants	125
Changes in quantity or quality of service	-2.326
Difference in fees and charges	197
Changes in uses of reserves	839
	88.139

West Yorkshire Police Authority



After extensive debate at our seminars and final budget meeting, members decided to accept the one-off £2.7m grant offered by the Government in order to freeze the police element of the council tax for a second year. Members have always tried to keep the police council tax as low as possible, mindful of people on low or fixed incomes and the impact of pay restraint on many others across the area. This is why West Yorkshire residents pay the third lowest police council tax of all force areas in England and Wales, which we believe offers value for money.

Through our decisions on the police budget we have supported the Chief Constable in his desire to start recruiting some new police officers during 2012/13. We share his concern that stopping police officer recruitment for a lengthy time can harm the organisation in both the short and long term, such as reducing training and support structures and restricting movement through the ranks. Since you also tell us each year in our budget consultation that maintaining police officer numbers is one of your top priorities, we were keen to lift the recruitment freeze as soon as possible and leave a strong financial and governance legacy.

This will be the final budget and police council tax precept set by West Yorkshire Police Authority (WYPA), as it will be abolished and replaced by an elected Police and Crime Commissioner from 22 November 2012.

Summary:

- There will be no increase to the annual police council tax precept.
- Band D households will continue to pay £130.50 per year for policing during the coming year (£2.51 per week).
- 64% of residents are in Bands A and B and will continue to pay £87 and £101.50 respectively (£1.67 and £1.95 per week).

Budget	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m
Gross Expenditure	509.169	492.364
Council Tax requirement	89.035	89.536
Difference	420.134	402.828
Made up of		
Income (including specific grants)	71.676	73.634
Government Formula Grant	343.535	322.735
Use of balances	4.700	7.000
Collection fund surplus/ (Deficit)	223	(541)
	420.134	402.828

As the police authority has agreed to accept the Government's Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2012/13, gross expenditure has been reduced to reflect the overall available funding. The increase in council tax requirement reflects an increase in the number of households in the county, but the police council tax is unchanged at £130.50 for a Band D property.

For more detailed information, visit our web site at www.wypa.org or contact: Fraser Sampson, Chief Executive and Solicitor, West Yorkshire Police Authority, Ploughland House, 62 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1DL. Telephone (01924) 294000 or e-mail edf@wypa.pnn.police.uk

West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority



Metro – Putting the Passenger First 2012/2013

Although Metro has already made significant reductions in a number of areas including its own accommodation and staffing costs the central government squeeze on public spending means it is facing a further £9m of budget reductions over the next two years. Metro has delivered the high standards of the other Passenger Transport Executives, at a lower cost with fewer staff, for some years, which makes finding these further savings more difficult.

Among the initiatives to find savings, Metro is reviewing the 20% of West Yorkshire bus journeys which it spends £17m to support each year because the bus companies don't consider them profitable. Metro believes those bus companies should bear more of the costs of these services and is carrying out a district by district analysis. Services in Bradford, Keighley and Wakefield have already been evaluated and consultations with passengers in Kirklees, Leeds, Calderdale and Wakefield City will take place during 2012.

Metro also made the difficult decision to change the rail fare through the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme to a half fare, although over 60s and disabled people still enjoy free off-peak bus travel throughout England. Despite the challenges it faces, Metro will continue to lead the way in transport developments. These include new stations at Apperley Bridge, Kirkstall Forge and Low Moor, enhancing information provision for passengers, improvements to stations across West Yorkshire, working to introduce smartcard ticketing and making sure the county's transport network is ready for high-speed rail when it arrives.

Funding of Transport Budget	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m
Gross expenditure	207.0	210.4
Budget requirement (gross expenditure minus income)	169.6	172.9

Where the money comes from

Government grants	72.1	75.4
Transport levy	97.5	97.5
Other	37.4	37.5

How your money will be spent in 2012/13

	£m		£m
Rail Support	75.4	Passenger services	13.7
Concessionary fares	50.1	Development and other support	10.5
Prepaid tickets	29.0	Financing and contingency	8.0
Subsidised and AccessBus services	22.3	Pensions	1.4

More information is available on the Authority's website: www.wyita.gov.uk

All information and/or documents will be provided in braille, large type or another language on request.

Money off your council tax bill?

Depending on your circumstances you could get money off your bill. If you think any of the following apply to you please contact us immediately on **01484 414900** or for benefit queries **01484 414950**, or visit our website www.kirklees.gov.uk/counciltax

You must tell us immediately if your circumstances change and you are no longer entitled to receive a discount or exemption. Failure to do so could result in prosecution and a civil penalty of between £70 and £280.

Do you live alone?

You may qualify for a 25% single person discount. Remember to tell us straight away if another adult moves in with you.

Is your house unoccupied?

You may qualify for a discount if your house is empty, for example, because it is a second home, having repairs carried out, been repossessed, or because you are in prison, hospital, a nursing home or a residential care home.

Are you a full time student, apprentice or trainee or is someone in your home a student, apprentice or trainee? You could get money off your bill.

Is someone in your house disabled?

If so and your home has been altered you may get a reduction in your council tax band.

www.letshelpyou.co.uk

The new and fast way to find private rented property across Kirklees and West Yorkshire – take control and log in now!

Combating Fraud

Fraudulent claims for benefits or discounts can deny those who genuinely need help. If you know, or think, someone is committing fraud, please call free on 0800 168 7451. Calls will be treated confidentially, you may remain anonymous if you prefer.

If you have evidence the council tax band of your home is wrong, contact the Valuation Office on 03000 501 501, or write to them at King William House, Market Place, Hull HU1 1RT or email ctnorth@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Warning! Some companies will offer to revalue your home for a fee – the Valuation Office will look into your query for FREE.