

Council tax information 2008/09

ENQUIRIES

Enquiries about payments, rebates or benefits should be made to your local district or borough council:



Broxbourne Borough Council
01992 785577

Dacorum Borough Council
01442 867860

East Hertfordshire District Council
01279 655261

Hertsmere Borough Council
020 8207 7407

North Hertfordshire District Council
01462 474000

St Albans District Council
01727 819204 / 819205

Stevenage Borough Council
01438 242875

Three Rivers District Council
01923 776611

Watford Borough Council
01923 226400

Welwyn Hatfield Council
01707 357000

If you have an enquiry about the county council's budget:

Visit www.hertsdirect.org/counciltax
Email budget@hertscc.gov.uk
Call 01438 737555 / 01923 471555

For Police Authority budget information:
Call 01707 354252

If you would like the information in this leaflet in large print, on tape or in another language please call 01438 737555 or 01923 471555.

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The county council has to contribute to the funding of these two organisations. The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority develops, preserves and manages an area next to the River Lee as a regional park and receives £1.34 million. The Environment Agency receives £0.81 million for the Thames Region and £0.06 million for the Anglian Region.

DID YOU KNOW?



You can save time by using our online facilities – the easiest and most flexible way to access the services you need. Our most popular online services are:

Libraries: Almost 30,000 renewals or requests for books or CDs are made each month

School applications: 10,000 applications for secondary schools were made online in 2007. That's more than half our applications

Hertfordshire Highways: Your reports of problems are logged immediately and dealt with promptly

Job applications: Hundreds of job applications are made online every month

Certificates: Almost three hundred copies of birth, marriage and death certificates are requested each month

Visit www.hertsdirect.org/interactive to see the full range of online services available.

You can also call our customer service centre from 8am to 8pm weekdays and 9am to 4pm on Saturdays on 01438 737555 or 01923 471555 if calling from area codes 01923 or 0208.

OUR SERVICES

Your county council provides a wide range of services to make Hertfordshire an even better place to live and work. These include:

Adult Care Services supports and promotes independence for older people and people with disabilities or mental health problems through information and advice, arrangement of support in the home, community or care homes or by offering funds for people to arrange their own care.

The Crime and Drugs Strategy Unit leads the county council's work on reducing crime.

Children, Schools and Families works closely with a wide range of organisations to provide services for children and young people. This includes support for Hertfordshire's 534 schools and services to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children; including services for special needs, fostering, adoption, residential care, child protection and youth service.

Libraries, Culture and Learning provides 47 public libraries offering a wide range of services to the community, a schools library service and a specialist centre for local studies and family history services.

Environment maintains around 5,000 km (3,107 miles) of roads (including pavements, streetlights, signs and verges), disposes of 560,000 tonnes of household waste each year, works to protect and enhance the natural and built environment and provides services such as road safety education and passenger transport information.

Fire and Rescue is a 24-hour emergency service operating from 30 fire stations. It also runs a number of community fire safety initiatives and educational programmes.

Other services include registration, emergency planning, trading standards and consumer protection.

OUR BUDGET

2007/08		Service	2008/09	
Gross £m	Net £m		Gross £m	Net £m
333.9	237.0	Adult Care Services	345.4	257.5
967.4	184.9	Children, Schools & Families	1,046.3	205.9
22.7	21.2	Libraries, Culture & Learning	24.1	22.4
152.3	112.2	Environment	161.2	119.6
43.9	42.7	Fire and Rescue	43.7	42.5
24.3	13.1	Other services	23.8	12.4
73.8	68.8	Central items	68.6	68.1
(66.6)	(66.6)	Notional adjustments	(71.7)	(71.7)
1,551.7	613.3	Total	1,641.4	656.7
(10.0)	(10.0)	Use of reserves	(6.7)	(6.7)
(830.0)	-	Specific/other grants*	(873.4)	-
(108.4)	-	Fees and charges	(111.3)	-
603.3	603.3	Budget requirement	650.0	650.0
		Funded by:		
	150.4	Central Government		170.8
	449.8	Council tax		476.5
	3.1	Collection fund		2.7
	603.3	Total funding		650.0

* Includes Dedicated Schools Grant from Government paid directly to schools (£621.5 million in 2008/09).

The net budget is funded from central government grant and council tax. The **gross budget** also includes expenditure funded from specific grants, income from fees and charges and reserves.

Central items are items that are not allocated to specific services, such as interest on balances and borrowing costs.

Notional adjustments: The notional cost of using our assets (capital charges) and a pension adjustment reflecting reporting requirements of Financial Reporting Standard 17 have been included in the service figures. In order to ensure these do not affect the amount of council tax you pay, an offsetting adjustment is required.

HOW OUR BUDGET HAS CHANGED

Continuing efforts to deliver services more efficiently have reduced costs by £18.3 million, but our budget requirement is still £46.7 million higher than last year. This will add 4.5% to the county council's element of the council tax or £46.99 for a Band D household.

The gross budget has increased by £89.7 million. This comprises:

- an increase of £45.7 million in schools related grants, and a decrease in other grant funding of £2.3 million
- a decrease of £3.3 million in the use of reserves
- an increase of £2.9 million in income from fees and charges
- an increase of £46.7 million in the budget requirement. The reasons for this change are:
 - unavoidable costs such as more people receiving our services and changes in what the law requires us to do. This will mean we need to spend an extra £27.8 million
 - inflation has increased our costs by £19.3 million
 - changes to the services we are responsible for and the way in which they are funded have increased our costs by £17.7 million
 - we have saved £18.3 million by finding ways to be more efficient and a further £0.4 million by making changes to services
 - increased investment of £7.3 million to improve our services
 - in order to reduce the impact of our spending on council tax, we will be using £6.7 million of our general reserves

COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND These are the amounts collected on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council for each valuation band. The full amount you pay is on your bill.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£720.75	£840.87	£961.00	£1,081.12	£1,321.37	£1,561.62	£1,801.87	£2,162.24