

YOUR COUNTY COUNCIL

Your county council is committed to providing good quality services that offer value for money.

In the past year, the Care Quality Commission rated our services for older people and those with physical and learning disabilities as "excellent"; OfSTED inspectors judged our children's services to be "performing well"; our fire service was rated among the most efficient in the country; and we launched a review of the entire organisation, which has identified initiatives that will grow over the next three years to save around £110 million annually without reducing the scope or quality of our services.

We will continue to deliver services in ways that give users a greater say in shaping them – like the 2,000 people we help remain independent by giving them control of the level of care they receive through 'personal budgets'.

We are good at speaking up for Hertfordshire on the national stage and working alongside the private and voluntary sector. This was recognised last year when central government accepted our bid for a Hertfordshire-based Local Enterprise Partnership, which will give the necessary leadership to our diverse, complex and successful economy.

Communities are stronger when people take pride in their neighbourhoods and take an active part locally, therefore we shall encourage the sense that everyone has a part to play in putting something back into their local community.

One of the ways we do this is through our Locality Budget Scheme, which enables community groups and voluntary organisations to apply for funding from a £10,000 grant held by their local county councillor, to spend on projects that promote social, economic or environmental wellbeing. Now entering its third year, the scheme has seen over £1 million allocated to worthwhile projects across Hertfordshire.

For further details please visit:

www.hertsdirect.org/localitybudgets

ENQUIRIES

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

Broxbourne Borough Council	01992 785504
Dacorum Borough Council	01442 228000
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 Borough Council	01707 357000

If you have an enquiry about the county council's budget or if you would like the information in this leaflet in large print, on tape or in another language, please either:

Visit www.hertsdirect.org/counciltax
Email budget@hertscc.gov.uk
Call 0300 123 4040

For Police Authority budget information:

Call 01707 354252

BUDGET CONSULTATION

In a recent survey*, residents indicated that they were broadly supportive (49% of respondents) of the strategy of freezing council tax and reducing services, and that the council should increase charging for services in preference to raising council tax.

*The Citizens' Panel, a representative cross-section of 1,500 Hertfordshire residents, was surveyed in October and November 2010.

Council tax information 2011/12

Design ref:060669 DDPJ12404

0300 123 4040

www.hertsdirect.org/counciltax



For a second year, Hertfordshire County Council has frozen its element of the council tax. Therefore, you will not be asked to pay a penny more for the wide range of services we provide. These include:

Health and Community Services supports and promotes independence for older people, people with physical and learning disabilities, sensory needs, mental health problems and their carers. It does this through information and advice, arranging care and support in their home, in care homes or by offering funds for people to arrange their own care. Libraries, cultural and learning services, and the council's customer services centre are also part of the service.

Education and Early Intervention provides services for children and young people by supporting Hertfordshire's 523 schools and over 2,000 early years providers including childminders, pre-schools and children's centres.

Safeguarding and Specialist Services helps to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable children and young people by providing services for children with disabilities, child protection, family support and children in residential and foster care.

Environment and Commercial Services maintains roads, pavements, streetlights, signs and verges; disposes of household waste; provides passenger transport information; promotes road safety and protects and enhances the natural and built environment. It also supports economic development, manages major contracts and other business services.

Community Protection includes the fire and rescue service, a 24-hour emergency service responding to fires, road traffic collisions and other serious incidents. Other services include trading standards and consumer protection, community safety (crime / anti-social behaviour reduction initiatives) and emergency planning.

Other services include registration, coroners and support services.

For more information about the services we provide, please visit our website www.hertsdirect.org

OUR BUDGET

The gross budget is how much we spend in total to deliver services and amounts to £1,746.1 million this year, compared with £1,742.5 million for 2010/11.

The part of the budget that is financed from formula grant and council tax is known as the budget requirement. This year's budget requirement is £705.1 million compared with £738.2 million in 2010/11.

2010/11 £m		2011/12 £m
373.2	Health and Community Services	409.4
1,139.2	Education and Early Intervention Services	1,008.4
	Safeguarding and Specialist Services	116.9
149.3	Environment and Commercial Services	161.6
49.0	Community Protection	52.7
23.4	Other services	16.9
95.4	Borrowing and Interest	134.2
(87.0)	Notional Adjustments*	(154.0)
1,742.5	Gross Budget	1,746.1
	Less:	
(856.0)	Schools Grants [†]	(845.9)
(48.4)	Other Grant Income [†]	-
(85.6)	Fees and Charges	(93.5)
(14.3)	Use of Reserves	(0.5)
738.2	Net Budget	806.2
	Funded by:	
-	Other Government Grants [†]	(101.1)
738.2	Budget Requirement	705.1
499.2	Council Tax	504.4
239.0	Formula Grant and Area Based Grant [†]	200.7

***Notional Adjustments** include notional costs for the use of our assets (capital charges) and pension adjustments which have been included in the service figures. These adjustments do not affect the amount of council tax you pay.

†Grant figures are not comparable because Government has simplified funding streams.

HOW OUR NET BUDGET HAS CHANGED

This year the net budget has increased by £68.0 million. The reasons for this increase are:

- changes to the services we are responsible for and the way in which current services are funded by government will increase our net budget by £82.6 million;
- unavoidable costs such as more people receiving our services and changes in what we are required to do by law will mean we need to spend an extra £25.9 million;
- inflation relating to utility bills, business rates and contracts will increase our costs by £2.7 million;
- the council plans to save £57.0 million by finding ways to be more efficient and by reviewing charging policies and service levels;
- expenditure previously funded by the one-off use of general reserves amounting to £13.8 million.

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The 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 £1.33 million. The Environment Agency receives £0.80 million for the Thames Region and £0.06 million for the Anglian Region for flood defence.

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.



£745.89



£870.20



£994.52



£1,118.83



£1,367.46



£1,616.09



£1,864.72



£2,237.66