

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL 2008/09 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX FACTSHEET

The 2008/09 revenue budget for North Hertfordshire District Council is £17.7million, (expenditure of £61.5 million and income of £43.8 million). This is a £131,000 higher than for last year.

The reasons for this change are:

- (a) Inflation has increased costs by £790,000 (net of fee increases).
- (b) Other unavoidable costs including changes in the law and regulations have increased costs by £102,000. These are for:
 - Implementing measures to control environmental health and licensing matters.
 - Implementing measures to reduce homelessness and the use of temporary accommodation.
- (c) In addition to the above we plan to spend £63,000 next year to meet our commitments to you in meeting our strategic objectives which are detailed in your council tax and performance leaflet.
- (d) Changes to the budget for interest paid and received and other adjustments have decreased our budgeted spend by £282,000
- (e) Efficiency savings of £232,000 were achieved through reviewing our budgets.
- (f) Further savings of £310,000 have been made through changes to services which includes reductions in staff costs of £163,000.

Where does the money come from?

Each year the Government calculates the amount of general grant to give every local authority by taking into account factors like population, social structure and the number of residential properties. The difference between our net budget and the general grant received from government is funded either from council tax or by using reserves.

The amount of general government grant for North Hertfordshire District Council in 2008/09 was set at £7.74 million an increase of 2.4% on last year.

Why has council tax increased?

The Council has made savings of £542,000, however, it has still not been possible to cover all the additional costs of inflation and legislative pressures from the 2.4% increase in government funding. Although reserves of £0.9 million have been used to reduce expenditure the balance can only be met by council tax, giving rise to a 4.5% per cent increase.

When you look at your Council Tax bill you will notice that for non parish or town council areas North Hertfordshire District Council accounts for only 13.3% of your council tax bill, in addition there is a charge from Hertfordshire County Council (77.0%) and Hertfordshire Police (9.7%). If you have a Parish/Town precept, you will have a further charge. **On a Band D property your council tax bill will have increased per week by 15p –North Hertfordshire District Council, 90p- Hertfordshire County Council and 13p- Hertfordshire Police. There is a further increase if you have a Parish/Town precept.**