

A guide to your Council Tax 2011/12



Why not pay by Direct Debit see inside for details...

If you need to contact Revenues and Benefits

www.harrogate.gov.uk/revenuesandbenefits

By email: ben_rev@harrogate.gov.uk

Telephone:
Council Tax Enquiries
01423 556677

Housing and Council Tax Benefit:
01423 556455

Opening hours for telephone enquiries:
Monday to Thursday: 8.30am to 5.00pm
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Visit us at:
Scottsdale House, Springfield Avenue,
Harrogate HG1 2HR

Opening hours for visits
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Write to us at:
Revenues and Benefits Division,
PO Box 13, Scottsdale House,
Springfield Avenue, Harrogate HG1 2SD

How can you help us?

Tell us if you move home or if there is any change in your circumstances that will affect the amount shown on your demand notice.

Council Tax and What it Pays For

Harrogate Borough Council collects Council Tax on all domestic properties to help pay for the cost of local services. In the coming year Harrogate Borough Council will keep just 14% of your Council Tax to help provide the full range of its own services. The rest is paid over to the North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire Police Authority, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority and various Parish Councils. Each authority sets its own tax level and the Borough Council collects the total due for all the authorities.

The changes in the overall tax bill for 2011/12 for a Band D property are:

	Band D Tax	Increase	%
North Yorkshire County	£1,057.48	£0.00	0.0
North Yorkshire Fire	£62.10	£0.00	0.0
North Yorkshire Police	£204.55	£0.00	0.0
Harrogate Borough	£219.56	£0.00	0.0
TOTAL	£1,543.69	£0.00	0.0

Harrogate Borough Council's Spending Plans

Harrogate Borough Council's spending this year has reduced by 11.6% mainly due to the transfer of responsibility for Concessionary Travel to North Yorkshire County Council. The net cost of this in the 2010/11 budget was nearly £2m. Government Grant has reduced by 25%. This includes an adjustment for the transfer of Concessionary Travel. Grant per head remains 10% below the average for a District Council.

In order to achieve a Council Tax freeze the Council has increased its charges for services, made savings totalling £0.9m through improved efficiency and agreed service cuts of £0.25m. These savings have helped the Council to cover the cost of inflation, the reduced trading surplus on Conference & Exhibitions, increased employer's pension and national insurance contributions and a variety of government and local initiatives eg the cost of Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme.

Parishes over £140,000:

Harrogate has no parishes with precepts over £140,000 in 2011/12.

a lower amount. You must notify us within 21 days of any change to your circumstances and if you fail to do so you can be liable to a penalty of £50.

Payment Difficulties

Please contact us if you are finding it difficult to pay your Council Tax. Don't wait until you are in debt as this will make it more difficult to help you.

Are you paying too much Council Tax? Council Tax Benefit/Second Adult Rebate

This can help towards the cost of your Council Tax. You may be entitled if you are on a low income - wages, benefits or pensions - and have savings/ investments of less than £16,000. If your income is not low but you share your home with another adult who is on a low income, you may be able to claim benefit based on their income instead.

Second Homes and Holiday Homes

If no-one lives in a property and it remains furnished the Council Tax will be reduced by 10%. This will apply to most second homes and holiday homes, and can in some circumstances be reduced by 50%.

What Do These Services Include?

Cultural and Related Services (£50 per head)

- Parks and Gardens, Swimming Pools, Sports and Leisure Centres, Museums and Galleries, Holiday Tourism and Conferences and Exhibitions.

Environmental Services (£49 per head)

- Refuse Collection, Recycling, Public Toilets, Licensing, Food Safety, Street Cleansing, Control of Dogs, Pests and Noise, Cemeteries and Crematorium, CCTV and Community Safety.

Planning and Development Services (£17 per head)

- Forward Planning, Development Control, Building Control, Economic Development, and Regeneration Schemes.

Housing Services (£16 per head)

- Homelessness, Housing Advice, Housing Benefits and Housing Improvement Grants. Council Housing is in a separate account.

Highways, Roads and Transport (CR £6 per head)

- Surplus on Car Parking, Street Furniture and Parish Lighting.

Central Services (£17 per head)

- Council Tax Collection, Payment of Benefits, Land Charges, Electoral Registration, Elections, and Grants to Voluntary Organisations. Also included are capital financing charges and balance transfers.

Overall, the Council plans to spend £143 per resident on its services in 2011/12. Of this, £12 comes from Government Grant, £41 from redistributed business rates and **£90 from Council Tax, about £1.73 per week per resident.**

BUDGET 2011/12

2010/11		Service	2011/12	
Gross Cost £'000	Net Cost £'000		Gross Cost £'000	Net Cost £'000
1,952	1,146	Council Tax Collection	1,904	1,128
11,926	1,274	Other Central Services to the Public	11,939	860
20,856	7,426	Cultural & Related Services	20,312	7,897
6,804	4,532	Refuse Collection	6,479	4,483
5,970	3,146	Other Environmental & Regulatory Services	6,005	3,312
6,667	3,164	Planning & Development	6,301	2,730
45,035	1,716	Housing Services	47,774	2,588
5,169	882	Highways, Roads & Transport	2,098	CR 918
3,858	3,568	Corporate Costs & Overheads	3,807	3,582
108,237	26,854	COST OF SERVICES	106,619	25,662
CR 980	CR 1,982	Financing costs and Balance transfers	2,084	CR 3,625
107,257	24,872	BOROUGH COUNCIL SPENDING	108,703	22,037
552	552	PARISH PRECEPTS	560	560
107,809	25,424	BOROUGH AND PARISH SPENDING	109,263	22,597
1,429		<i>Funded By:</i> Government Grant	1,995	
9,839		Redistributed Business Rates	6,454	
0		Collection Fund Deficit	DR73	
552		Council Taxpayers (Parish Element)	560	
13,604		Council Taxpayers (Harrogate Borough Element)	13,661	
25,424			22,597	

How Your Council Tax Bill is Calculated

Your bill shows separately the amounts due for North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire Police Authority, and North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority, which are explained in their separate leaflets.

The Harrogate Borough Council element of the Council Tax is calculated by dividing the total needed from local taxpayers (£13,661,442) by the equivalent number of Band D dwellings (62,222), to give a tax of **£219.56** per Band D dwelling.

The amounts due from dwellings in each Band are statutory ratios of this Band D Tax (see below).

The additional amounts needed from Band D dwellings to reflect any Parish spending plans (£560,282) are shown in the separate table.

Non-Domestic Rates

Although Harrogate Borough Council collects the non-domestic rates, the rate in the pound is set by Central Government. This is 43.3p for 2011/12 (42.6p for small businesses). The Council expects to collect about £54.5m from ratepayers in 2011/12.

The sums are paid into a national pool. The proceeds are redistributed as part of the grant from Central Government. There is no relationship between the amount of rates collected in the Harrogate area and the amount redistributed to this area, which in 2011/12 will be:

North Yorkshire County Council	£25.0m
North Yorkshire Police Authority	£5.0m
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority	£1.9m
Harrogate Borough Council	£6.5m

Council Tax Valuation Bands

Your property is placed in one of eight valuation bands to enable the Council to calculate your Council Tax

Band	Value of Property at 1 April 1991	Proportion of Band D	Borough Council Tax
A	Not more than £40,000	6/9	£146.37
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9	£170.77
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9	£195.16
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9/9	£219.56
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9	£268.35
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9	£317.14
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9	£365.93
H	Over £320,000	18/9	£439.12

The Council Tax in your Parish Area

In areas where Parish Councils levy a precept, the basic Harrogate Borough Council Band D Council Tax of £219.56 has to be increased as follows:

Parish Names	Parish Band D Council Tax £	Parish Precept 2011/12 £	Parish Precept 2010/11 £	Parish Names	Parish Band D Council Tax £	Parish Precept 2011/12 £	Parish Precept 2010/11 £
Arkendale, Coneythorpe & Claretton	13.34	2,600	2,600	Knarborough	15.44	90,633	90,633
Asenby	9.99	1,350	1,350	Langthorpe	2.84	1,000	5,000
Azerley and Winksley	15.55	4,000	4,200	Little Ouseburn	14.23	2,500	2,400
Baldersby	21.18	2,630	2,400	Little Ribston	10.06	837	1,041
Bewerley	14.92	5,110	5,110	Littlethorpe	9.42	2,130	2,130
Bilton-in-Ainsty with Bickerton	23.07	4,810	4,810	Long Marston	8.33	2,100	2,500
Birstwith	10.63	4,000	4,000	Lower Washburn	14.17	5,750	5,500
Bishop Monkton	14.67	5,820	6,115	Markington with Wallerthwaite	8.49	2,250	2,250
Bishop Thornton and Warsill	6.93	1,800	1,800	Marton-cum-Grafton	13.03	3,300	3,300
Boroughbridge	23.96	32,000	32,000	Marton-le-Moor	23.67	2,000	1,900
Burton Leonard	17.72	5,500	5,500	Melmerby and Middleton	16.07	2,920	2,700
Cattal, Hunsingore and Walshford	13.55	2,189	2,074	Menwith-with-Darley	17.31	8,080	7,700
Clint-cum-Hamlets	16.34	3,970	3,970	Mid-Wharfedale	8.91	3,270	3,270
Dacre	17.75	5,974	5,800	Moor Monkton	27.55	4,000	3,000
Dishforth	21.51	5,900	5,600	Newall-with-Clifton	7.51	500	500
Dunforth	9.59	1,100	1,200	Nidd	23.03	1,500	1,500
Farnham	13.46	1,350	1,300	North Deighton	27.31	1,035	1,007
Fearby, Healey and District	13.13	2,505	2,255	North Rigton	29.09	6,800	5,700
Felliscliffe	19.18	2,900	2,900	North Stainley-with-Slensingford	23.35	6,766	6,766
Ferrensby	1.71	150	150	Nun Monkton	56.22	7,750	7,750
Follifoot and Plompton	15.62	5,700	5,700	Rainton-with-Newby	26.08	4,250	4,250
Fountains Abbey	4.81	550	500	Ripley	19.42	2,400	2,400
Goldsborough and Flaxby	9.53	2,800	2,750	Ripon	21.11	124,000	124,000
Grantley and Sawley	27.22	6,223	6,223	Roecliffe and Westwick	31.12	3,445	3,445
Great Ouseburn	25.27	6,600	6,600	Scotton	11.52	3,250	3,250
Green Hammerton	27.31	8,000	8,000	Scriven	20.36	2,680	2,680
Grewelthorpe	20.09	4,390	4,390	Sharow	13.31	3,360	3,360
Hampsthwaite	19.03	9,300	9,300	Skelton	27.63	4,345	1,600
Hartwith-cum-Winsley	14.38	6,300	6,300	Spofforth-with-Stockeld	15.43	8,348	8,185
Haverah Park and Beckwithshaw	13.03	2,713	2,662	Staveley and Copgrove	18.96	5,318	5,318
Hewick and Hutton	8.32	1,600	1,500	Thornthwaite-with-Padside	5.31	475	475
High and Low Bishopside	12.68	12,043	12,043	Thruscross	9.06	440	440
Kearby-with-Netherby	4.69	500	500	Tockwith and Wilstrop	37.26	25,000	25,000
Killinghall	7.30	10,810	5,805	Upper Nidderdale	14.03	3,160	3,060
Kirby Hill and District	15.71	4,400	4,400	Washburn	18.74	4,750	4,500
Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton & Dallowgill	15.77	7,988	7,768	Wath and Norton Conyers	33.79	3,600	3,600
Kirkby Overblow	16.78	4,400	4,300	Weeton	7.45	3,500	3,500
Kirk Deighton	10.25	2,415	2,414	Whixley	16.84	6,000	5,000
Kirk Hammerton	17.45	3,750	3,950	Wighill	7.78	700	700

Council Tax Appeals

You may appeal against various Council Tax matters e.g. because:

- You are not the resident or owner
- You think your property should be exempt
- You think you should get a discount you have not been allowed

If you wish to appeal you must notify us in writing. You must not withhold payment of Council Tax but if your appeal is successful you will receive a refund. If you are not satisfied with the Council's decision you may then appeal to the Valuation Tribunal.

For more information visit the following website:
www.valuation-tribunals.gov.uk

Further information

More details about Benefits, Discounts, Exemptions and Reductions can be obtained by contacting us or from our website at:
www.harrogate.gov.uk/revenuesandbenefits

Paying made easy Direct Debit

The safe and easy way to pay your Council Tax, and guaranteed by your bank or building society.

If you are not already paying this way telephone us with your bank details on 01423 556677.

Alternatively complete the instruction on the front of your demand notice.

Telephone

Debit and credit card payments can be made for Council Tax and other council services, at any time, by telephoning our 24hr automated payment line on 0845 129 55 99.

Internet

Debit and credit card payments can be made at any time via the council's website:
www.harrogate.gov.uk/easypay

BACS

Send payments to: Harrogate Council Collection Account, sort code 62-31-10, bank account number 00000000. Quote your 11-digit account reference number.

Post

By cheque payable to Harrogate Borough Council at Revenues and Benefits Division, PO Box 13,

Scottsdale House, Springfield Avenue, Harrogate HG1 2SD. Please quote your 11-digit account reference on the back of the cheque.

In person

At a council cash office. Details are on our website:
www.harrogate.gov.uk/counciltax or telephone us for details of opening dates and times.

Data Protection

Your personal data may be shared with other sections in the council to help improve our services to you. We comply with the Data Protection Act so if you do not want this to happen please contact us.

Use of Information

Your name and address may be passed to the Valuation Office Agency to help with the valuation of property or with appeals against banding. We may also share this information with other organisations for the purposes of preventing or detecting fraud.

Your responsibilities

If you receive a discount/exemption you must advise us if for any reason, you think you no longer qualify for the discount or should be entitled to