



## Council Tax Information 2006/07

### How to contact Revenues and Benefits

By email:  
[ben\\_rev@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:ben_rev@harrogate.gov.uk)

Website:  
[www.harrogate.gov.uk/revenuesandbenefits](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/revenuesandbenefits)

By telephone:  
**Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates**  
**01423 556677**

Housing and Council Tax Benefit:  
**01423 556455**

*Opening hours for telephone enquiries:*  
Monday to Thursday: 8.30am to 5.15pm  
Friday 8.30am to 4.45pm

In person to:  
**Scottsdale House, Springfield Avenue**  
**Harrogate HG1 2HR**

*Opening hours for enquiries in person:*  
Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm

Writing to:  
**Revenues and Benefits Division,**  
**PO Box 13, Scottsdale House,**  
**Springfield Avenue, Harrogate HG1 2SD**

### How can you help us?

Please inform us straight away if you move home or if there is any change in your circumstances that will affect the amount shown on the demand notice or if you are unhappy with our service. When contacting us please quote your account number or benefit claim reference.

### 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 15% 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 2006/07 for a Band D property are:			
Band D Tax	Increase	%	
North Yorkshire County	£899.47	£42.02	4.9
North Yorkshire Fire	£53.94	£1.36	2.6
North Yorkshire Police	£180.00	£4.00	2.3
Harrogate Borough	£194.36	£8.20	4.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,327.77</b>	<b>£55.58</b>	<b>4.4</b>

Since 1993 when Council Tax was introduced the Harrogate Borough Council element of the bill at Band D has risen from £139.92 to £194.36 for 2006/07. This is a thirteen year rise of 39% (or £54) compared with a 113% increase in the national average of Council Tax bills.

#### Harrogate Borough Council's Spending Plans

Harrogate Borough Council's spending this year has risen by 9.9% to cover the cost of inflation, rising costs and a variety of new government and local initiatives (e.g. concessionary fares, rising energy costs and increased cost of homelessness). The Council has kept the increase in Council Tax to 4.4% by making savings through improving efficiency and increasing charges for services and because of an above average increase in its grant from central Government. The grant per head still remains well below the average for a District Council.

The average number of full-time equivalent staff Harrogate Borough Council expects to employ to provide local services is 1,267 for 2006/07, an increase of 35 from 2005/06. Additional staff are being taken on mainly to improve Leisure facilities across the District, to meet Planning targets, expand the Concessionary Travel Scheme and set up a new Customer Services Unit.

*2006 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 13 December*

*2007 10 January, 14 February, 14 March*

**Masham - second Thursday of the month 9.30-12.00**

- Community Office, Little Market Place, Masham

*2006 13 April, 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December*

*2007 11 January, 8 February, 8 March*

Further information can be obtained from the Revenues & Benefits Division or visit [www.harrogate.gov.uk/revenuesandbenefits](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/revenuesandbenefits) for dates and opening times of the offices

### Are you paying too much Council Tax?

#### Council Tax Benefit

This benefit is for people on a low income which can be a wage, benefits or a pension. Your savings and investments must not be higher than £16000.

#### Second Adult Rebate

If you are not on a low income and you share your home with another adult who is on a low income you may be able to claim this benefit on their income.

#### Discounts

A full Council Tax bill is based on two adults aged 18 or over living in a dwelling. If only one adult lives in a dwelling the council tax bill will be reduced by 25%.

People who meet certain conditions are not counted when looking at the number of adults resident in a dwelling and this can result in discounts of 25% if only one resident is counted, or 50% if none of the residents are counted.

#### Unoccupied Properties

Properties which are unoccupied and unfurnished will pay a full Council Tax bill, once they have been empty for 6 months.

#### Second Homes and Holiday Homes

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

### What Do These Services Include?

#### Cultural and Related Services (£48 per head)

- Parks and Gardens, Swimming Pools, Sports and Leisure Centres, Museums and Galleries and the net surplus on Conferences and Exhibitions.

#### Environmental Services (£44 per head)

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

#### Planning and Development Services (£20 per head)

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

#### Housing Services (£59 per head)

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

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

- Footpath and highway maintenance, concessionary travel, surplus on car parking, traffic management and road safety. North Yorkshire County Council largely refunds the cost of highway maintenance to the Council.

#### Central Services (CR £31 per head)

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

Overall, the Council plans to spend £146 per resident on its services in 2006/07. Of this, £11 comes from Government Grant, £55 from redistributed business rates and £80 from Council Tax, which is just over £1.50 per week per resident.

### Financial Standing

Harrogate Borough Council had total external loans of £16.1m at 31 March 2005 compared with external investments of £26.9m and a total insurance value of its assets of £480m.

### Parishes over £100,000

Ripon City Council's gross spending for 2006/07 is £139,701 offset by income of £24,000, giving a parish precept of £115,701. This is an increase of 12% on 2005/06.

#### Your responsibilities

If you are receiving one of the above discounts you must advise the Revenues and Benefits Division if, for any reason, you think you no longer qualify for the discount or should be entitled to a lower amount. You are required to make this notification within 21 days of any change and if you fail to do so you can be liable to a penalty of £50.

#### Exempt Dwellings

Some properties may be exempt from Council Tax if they are unoccupied. Some occupied properties can also be exempt.

#### People with Disabilities

You may be entitled to a reduction if you, or someone who lives in your property, have a disability and your property has:

- A room that is not a bathroom, kitchen or toilet that is mainly used by the disabled person and is essential for their needs
- An extra bathroom and kitchen that is essential for their needs
- Extra space inside the property so that a wheelchair can be used.

#### 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 the Council in writing so that your case can be considered. 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 determination of your case you may appeal to the Valuation Tribunal. Further information about the tribunal and it's procedures can be obtained by visiting their website at: [www.valuation-tribunals.gov.uk](http://www.valuation-tribunals.gov.uk)

#### Further information

More details about Benefits, Discounts, Exemptions and Reductions can be obtained by contacting the Revenues & Benefits Division as shown in this leaflet or by visiting our website at: [www.harrogate.gov.uk/revenuesandbenefits](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/revenuesandbenefits) where you will also be able to request an application form.

### Budget 2006/2007

2005/06 (Restated)		2006/07		
Gross Cost £'000	Net Cost £'000	Services	Gross Cost £'000	Net Cost £'000
1,845	1,150	Council Tax Collection	1,906	1,212
9,490	550	Other Central Services to the Public	10,751	1,203
17,578	5,984	Cultural & Related Services	19,447	7,349
4,562	3,491	Refuse Collection	4,832	3,714
4,897	2,910	Other Environmental Services	5,089	3,013
6,088	2,475	Planning & Development	6,465	3,088
34,249	6,698	Housing Services	38,343	9,047
3,607	292	Highways, Roads & Transport	4,288	970
3,331	2,921	Corporate Costs & Overheads	3,196	3,045
85,647	26,471	<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>94,317</b>	<b>32,641</b>
9,169	-6,437	Capital & Financing Costs	6,635	-10,617
94,816	20,034	<b>BOROUGH COUNCIL SPENDING</b>	<b>100,952</b>	<b>22,024</b>
438	438	<b>PARISH PRECEPTS</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>461</b>
95,254	20,472	<b>BOROUGH AND PARISH SPENDING</b>	<b>101,413</b>	<b>22,485</b>
<i>Funded By:</i>				
	4,375	Government Grant		1,631
	4,414	Redistributed Business Rates		8,452
	10	Collection Fund Surplus		83
	438	Council Taxpayers (Parish Element)		461
	11,235	Council Taxpayers (Harrogate Borough Element)		11,858
	20,472			22,485

### 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 £194.36 has to be increased as follows:

Parish Names	Parish Band D Council Tax - £	Parish Precept 2006/07 - £	Parish Precept 2005/06 - £
Arkendale, Coneythorpe & Clareton	13.75	2,600	2,600
Asenby	9.96	1,300	1,265
Azerley and Winkley	10.21	2,500	2,500
Baldersby	13.08	1,620	1,570
Bewerley	14.04	4,500	4,000
Bilton-in-Ainsty with Bickerton	16.27	3,360	3,360
Birstwith	10.84	4,000	4,000
Bishop Monkton	13.36	5,210	4,910
Bishop Thornton and Warsill	7.10	1,800	1,500
Boroughbridge	20.77	27,000	26,000
Burton Leonard	17.19	5,500	5,500
Cattal, Hunsingore and Walshford	11.58	1,850	1,775
Clint-cum-Hamlets	15.74	3,700	3,500
Dacre	14.23	4,500	4,100
Dishforth	13.34	3,600	3,600
Dunsforths	6.07	650	600
Farnham	10.09	940	920
Fearby, Healey and District	11.06	1,950	1,500
Felliscliffe	17.89	2,750	2,500
Ferrensby	1.65	150	150
Follifoot and Plompton	13.53	5,000	5,000
Fountains Abbey	9.03	1,050	1,000
Goldsbrough and Flaxby	7.55	2,200	2,200
Grantley and Sawley	6.75	1,500	1,500
Great Ouseburn	21.82	5,700	5,567
Green Hammerton	18.18	5,000	4,075
Hampsthwaite	15.66	7,245	6,473
Hartwith-cum-Winsley	10.81	4,500	4,500
Haverah Park	12.14	2,500	2,500
and Beckwithshaw			
Hewick and Hutton	4.46	790	790
High and Low Bishopside	11.51	10,800	10,600
Kearby-with-Netherby	4.72	500	500
Killinghall	8.35	12,510	16,070
Kirby Hill and District	16.79	4,400	4,400
Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton & Dallowgill	13.17	6,400	4,440
Kirkby Overblow	11.15	2,800	3,500
Kirk Deighton	7.33	1,673	1,673

### 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 (£11,858,000) by the equivalent number of Band D dwellings (61,010), to give a tax of **£194.36** 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 (£461,000) 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 2006/07 (42.6p for small businesses). The Council expects to collect about £46.3m from ratepayers in 2006/07.

The sums are paid into a national pool. The proceeds are redistributed as standard amounts per resident of each type of authority.

There is no relationship between the amount of rates collected in the Harrogate area and the amount redistributed to this area, which in 2006/07 will be:

North Yorkshire County Council	£17.3m
North Yorkshire Police Authority	£5.3m
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority	£2.2m
Harrogate Borough Council	£8.5m

### 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	£129.57
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9	£151.17
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9	£172.76
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9/9	£194.36
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9	£237.55
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9	£280.74
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9	£323.93
H	Over £320,000	18/9	£388.72

The valuation is undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency, which is part of the Inland Revenue. One bill is issued per property.

### Appeals against banding

If you think the valuation of your property is wrong you can only appeal for one of the following reasons:

- Within six months of buying the property or having the band changed by the Listing Officer
- Demolition, conversion of houses to flats, physical changes in the locality etc that may affect value.

For more information please contact the District Valuer, Valuation Office Agency, Windsor House, Cornwall Road, Harrogate HG1 2PW. Tel: 01423 830800 or visit the VOA website at [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk)

### Use of Information

To levy and collect Council Tax requires details of your name and address to be held on a computer. This information may be passed to the District Valuer to assist with the valuation of properties or with appeals against banding. If you do not wish these details to be divulged to the District Valuer please contact the Revenues & Benefits Division by one of the methods shown in this leaflet.

### When to Pay Your Council Tax

Council Tax is payable by a maximum of ten monthly instalments due on or before the 1st of each month as shown on your bill. Please note amounts owing from previous years are not included in the instalment plan and must be paid immediately unless an alternative arrangement has been agreed.

You may pay other than monthly by paying multiple instalments in advance e.g. five to pay half yearly.

If payments are received late a reminder will be sent and on the 3rd occasion, your right to pay by instalments will be withdrawn. The whole sum outstanding then becomes due. Failure to pay any reminder notice will result in the issue of a summons for the full outstanding balance and substantial costs.

### Payment Difficulties

If you have any difficulties regarding payment of your Council Tax, please contact the Revenues and Benefits Division as quickly as possible.

### How to Pay Your Council Tax

#### Direct Debit

Telephone the Council on 01423 556677 with details of your bank account or complete the instruction on the front of your bill.

#### Telephone

Debit and credit card payments can be made for this, and other Council services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by

telephoning the Council's automated local rate telephone payment line on **0845 129 55 99**.

#### Internet

Payments can be made via the Council's website [www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)

#### Bank Standing Order or BACS

Please send payments to sort code 30-00-00, account number 00200182 Harrogate Council Collection Account. You **must** quote your 11 digit account reference number.

#### Post

To Revenues and Benefits Division, PO Box 13, Scottsdale House, Springfield Avenue, Harrogate HG1 2SD.

Cross your cheques and postal orders and make payable to Harrogate Borough Council with your Account Number written on the back of your cheque.

#### At a Cash Office

*These offices are open every week at the times shown:*

- Scottsdale House, Springfield Avenue, Harrogate  
*Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm*
- The Town Hall, Market Square, Ripon  
*Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays: 9.00am to 4.30pm*
- Knaresborough House, High Street, Knaresborough  
*Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 9.00am to 4.30pm*

Please note that the above offices will be closed on the following dates:

**2006** 14th, 17th 18th April  
1st & 29th May  
28th August  
25th, 26th 27th December

**2007** 1st January

*The following offices are open once a month on the days and times shown:*

**Pateley Bridge - second Tuesday of the month 9.30-13.30**

- The Library, High Street, Pateley Bridge  
*2006 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November, 12 December*  
*2007 9 January, 13 February, 13 March*