

2019/20

# A guide to council tax across Lichfield District

**Lichfield**  
district council  
www.lichfielddc.gov.uk

**RECEIPT 01/04/19**

**YOU WERE SERVED TODAY BY  
LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Your bin emptied and household waste recycled  
More than 900km of local streets cleaned regularly  
Fly tipping responded to in 24 hours  
Support for economic development  
Leisure services and access to parks and green spaces  
Local restaurants checked for cleanliness and food safety  
Homeless advice and support  
Planning, building control, and business support services  
And much more...

**For around £3.37  
a week\***

The rest of the money you pay is passed to Staffordshire County Council, the police and fire services and parish councils.



## Lichfield District Council Services

We deliver a wide range of local services in your area for around £3.37 a week\*.

In this leaflet you will find out more information about how much you will pay, how we spend the money we get, and council tax discounts and exemptions.

\*Based on an average band D property

## Paying for your district council services

We keep around 10% of the money you pay each month in council tax to fund local services. The rest goes to the county council, fire and police services and parish councils. An average local home\* in the district will pay £175 this year towards the district services we deliver, such as your weekly bin collections, local parks, leisure services and more.

To make sure we can continue to deliver good local services, we have increased our part of the bill by 2.99% this year. This increase will mean an average local home\* will pay around 42p more a month, or £5 extra a year, for the services we provide.

\*Based on an average band D property



## Facing the future

Like other councils across the country, we are facing significant cuts in the funding we receive from central government, which has previously helped us to deliver key local services.

We no longer receive any core government funding and need to be independently financially sustainable.

This is a huge challenge and our Fit for the Future transformation programme has been designed to help us achieve this. We are reviewing how we deliver our services, moving more online, and asking local people and partners to do their bit to help us achieve our priorities.

To find out more about our vision for the district and the priorities we will focus on between 2016 and 2020, visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/strategicplan](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/strategicplan).

## County, police, fire and parish increases

Your council tax also funds other local services, including the county council, fire, police and parish councils. Staffordshire County Council is increasing its charge by 2.95%, which is around £35.71 for a band D property. The police are increasing its charge by 12.46%, which is around £24 for a band D property. The fire service is increasing its charge by 2.99%, which is around £2.20 for a band D property. Parish council increases are shown on page 7.

## Where does my money go?



To find out more about council tax, exemptions and discounts, and the ways you can pay, visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/counciltax)

## How much will I have to pay?

Use the table below to find out how much your council tax charge will be in the 2019/20 financial year. The amount you pay depends on where you live (your parish area) and the value of your home (your valuation band). The figures do not include any discounts you may receive.

Your house is placed in one of eight council tax bands (A to H), using the valuation carried out by the District Valuer in 1991. The amount of council tax you pay will depend on the value of your property. Band D (highlighted below) is used to calculate the council tax for each property and to compare ourselves to others.

	Band A (6/9)*	Band B (7/9)*	Band C (8/9)*	Band D (1)*	Band E (11/9)*	Band F (13/9)*	Band G (15/9)*	Band H (2)*
Alrewas	1164.84	1358.99	1553.13	1747.27	2135.54	2523.83	2912.11	3494.53
Armitage with Handsacre	1176.79	1372.93	1569.06	1765.19	2157.44	2549.72	2941.97	3530.37
Burntwood	1167.66	1362.28	1556.89	1751.49	2140.70	2529.93	2919.15	3502.98
Clifton Campville with Thorpe Constantine	1174.62	1370.40	1566.17	1761.93	2153.46	2545.02	2936.55	3523.86
Colton	1171.05	1366.23	1561.41	1756.58	2146.92	2537.28	2927.62	3513.15
Curborough & Elmhurst and Farewell & Chorley	1158.47	1351.56	1544.65	1737.72	2123.87	2510.04	2896.19	3475.43
Drayton Bassett	1176.15	1372.19	1568.22	1764.23	2156.28	2548.34	2940.38	3528.46
Edingale	1176.73	1372.86	1568.99	1765.10	2157.33	2549.59	2941.83	3530.20
Elford	1174.97	1370.81	1566.64	1762.46	2154.11	2545.78	2937.43	3524.91
Fazeley	1169.94	1364.94	1559.94	1754.92	2144.89	2534.89	2924.86	3509.84
Fradley & Streethay	1183.26	1380.48	1577.69	1774.90	2169.31	2563.74	2958.16	3549.79
Hammerwich	1155.37	1347.95	1540.51	1733.06	2118.18	2503.32	2888.43	3466.12
Hamstall Ridware	1170.56	1365.67	1560.76	1755.85	2146.03	2536.23	2926.41	3511.70
Harlaston	1181.58	1378.53	1575.46	1772.38	2166.24	2560.11	2953.97	3544.76
Hints & Canwell	1172.63	1368.08	1563.52	1758.95	2149.82	2540.70	2931.57	3517.89
Kings Bromley	1161.74	1355.37	1548.99	1742.61	2129.85	2517.11	2904.34	3485.22
Lichfield	1184.39	1381.80	1579.20	1776.59	2171.39	2566.20	2960.99	3553.19
Longdon	1165.56	1359.83	1554.09	1748.34	2136.85	2525.38	2913.89	3496.68
Mavesyn Ridware	1173.23	1368.79	1564.33	1759.86	2150.93	2542.02	2933.09	3519.71
Shenstone	1177.30	1373.53	1569.75	1765.96	2158.39	2550.83	2943.26	3531.92
Swinfen & Packington	1167.55	1362.15	1556.75	1751.33	2140.51	2529.71	2918.88	3502.66
Wall	1181.80	1378.78	1575.75	1772.70	2166.63	2560.58	2954.50	3545.41
Weeford	1153.55	1345.82	1538.08	1730.32	2114.83	2499.36	2883.87	3460.65
Whittington & Fisherwick	1172.20	1367.57	1562.94	1758.30	2149.03	2539.77	2930.50	3516.60
Wigginton & Hopwas	1167.31	1361.88	1556.43	1750.97	2140.07	2529.19	2918.29	3501.95

\*The bands are worked out as a proportion of the band D amount.

Direct Debit is the easiest way to pay your council tax and you are protected by the Direct Debit guarantee. See page 3.

## Frequently asked questions



### Does council tax fund all our services?

No. We receive money from a number of sources, including government grants, income from fees and charges and interest on investments, as well as from council tax. Council tax represents about 11% of what we spend delivering our services.

### When do I have to pay my council tax?

You can pay by 10 or 12 monthly or 2 half yearly instalments on the 1st day of the month. If you pay by Direct Debit you can ask for your payment to come out of your account on the 1st or 18th of every month.

### How do I pay for my council tax?

You can pay for your council tax by Direct Debit, online or over the phone. You will need your council tax number (found on your bill) and card details.

**Direct Debit:** Set up a Direct Debit by filling in a form at [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/payct](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/payct) or by calling 01543 308900. You will need your bank details ready, including your sort-code, account number and branch address.

**Online:** Pay online at [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/epay](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/epay)

**By phone:** Use our automated system by calling 0345 2340 068 or by calling our team on 01543 308900.

### How is my council tax bill calculated?

Your council tax bill is based on your property's council tax band (see page 2). It assumes there are two adults living in your home (as their main home).

### What if I live alone - do I get a discount?

Yes. If you are the only person over 18 who has their main residence at your address, you are entitled to a 25% single person discount. Visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/ctexemptions](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/ctexemptions) to fill in a single person discount application form or call 01543 308900.

### Do I have to pay council tax if I move out?

From April 2019, unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings will no longer receive a two-month council tax exemption. Also any property that has been continuously unoccupied and unfurnished for more than two years on or after April 2019, will pay an additional council tax premium of 100% - therefore paying a 200% charge. This is to encourage owners of empty properties to bring them back into use.

### What if I cannot live in my property because it's being a refurbished or repaired?

A discount may be available if a property needs or is undergoing major repair works or structural alteration. For more information please visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/ctexemptions](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/ctexemptions)

### Could I be exempt from paying council tax?

Yes. You may be eligible for a discount or may be exempt from paying council tax if you are a full-time student, you are living in permanent residential care, you are disabled, or for a range of other reasons. For full information, visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/ctexemptions](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/ctexemptions).

### What if I can't pay my council tax?

If you are struggling to pay your council tax on time, please call us straightaway on 01543 308900. If you are on a low income find out about our council tax support scheme (see page 4 for more information).

### What if I miss a payment?

We will send you a reminder which gives you 7 days to pay. If you don't pay within this time, you will lose your right to pay by instalments and will have to pay your full year's council tax balance within a further 7 days.

### What if I miss more payments within the same year?

If you make a payment after the first reminder but fall behind for a second time, we will send you a second reminder. This needs to be paid within 7 days or you will lose your right to pay by instalments and will have to pay your full year's council tax balance within a further 7 days.

If you fall behind for a third time, you will be sent a final notice and will automatically lose your right to pay by instalments and the full year's council tax balance will become due.

In all instances where the full balance becomes due, unless you pay within 7 days, you will get a summons to appear at court to explain why you haven't paid, and £70 will be added to your bill. You can choose not to attend court if you wish, however, the hearing will still proceed.

We will ask the magistrates to issue a liability order and, if granted, a further £25 will be added to your bill. The order allows us to legally collect the money you owe. We can do this by deducting money from your benefits or earnings, or by instructing an enforcement agent (formally known as bailiffs). Ultimately, you could serve time in prison.

If you are having difficulty paying your council tax, you can contact us at any time to make an arrangement to pay, except where we have instructed enforcement agents to collect the debt on our behalf. In these circumstances, you must deal with them directly. We will not enter into any alternative arrangements unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Enforcement agents will charge you a fee that has been fixed by legislation. The initial fee is £75. If they visit your home, you will be charged a minimum fee of £235. VAT may also be added to these fees. You will also be charged more fees if goods are removed from your home. If your debt is passed to enforcement agents, it is highly unlikely that we will intervene with their course of action and you must pay them direct. However, don't let it get this far. Please contact us if you are struggling to pay your council tax. Call us on 01543 308900.

### What if I'm on a low income?

You may be eligible for some help to pay your council tax. This is called council tax support (formerly council tax benefit). You will need to make an application to the council, and we will assess how much help you could get based on your income, capital and who else lives in your home. To find out more and to download an application form, visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/claimform](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/claimform)

To find out more about council tax, exemptions and discounts, and the ways you can pay, please visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/counciltax)

**It's easier to pay with Direct Debit.  
Fill in a form at  
[www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/payct](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/payct)  
or call us on 01543 308900.**

The tables below show how much Lichfield District Council (including parish councils) will spend, and the amount needed from council tax.

Lichfield District Council and parish councils	2019-20 (£m)	2018-19 (£m)	Change (£m)	Change (%)
Gross spending	£61.163m	£59.400m	£1.763m	2.97%
Parish councils	£1.860m	£1.750m	£0.110m	6.28%
<b>Total including parish councils</b>	<b>£63.023m</b>	<b>£61.150m</b>	<b>£1.873m</b>	<b>3.06%</b>
Income	(£51.982m)	(£50.569m)	(£1.413m)	2.79%
Government support and business rates	(£2.526m)	(£2.480m)	(£0.046m)	1.86%
<b>Total income (excluding council tax)</b>	<b>(£54.508m)</b>	<b>(£53.049m)</b>	<b>(£1.459m)</b>	<b>2.75%</b>

Lichfield District Council	2019-20 (£m)	2018-19 (£m)	Change (£m)	Change (%)
Net expenditure (gross spending less Income)	£9.181m	£8.831m	£0.350m	3.97%
Government support and business rates	(£2.526m)	(£2.480m)	(£0.046m)	1.86%
<b>Amount to be raised from council tax</b>	<b>£6.655m</b>	<b>£6.351m</b>	<b>£0.304m</b>	<b>4.79%</b>

## Why council tax is going up this year

	Amount
<b>Raised from council tax 2018/19</b>	<b>£6.351m</b>
<b>Change in council spending</b>	
Inflation/savings & efficiencies/developing services	£0.338m
Increase in the planned transfer of money to our balances	£0.012m
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£6.701m</b>
Additional business rates	(£0.046m)
<b>Amount to be raised from council tax 2019/20</b>	<b>£6.655m</b>
<b>Additional amount raised from council tax</b>	<b>£0.304m</b>





## Calculating the total council tax

We need to collect £6.655m in council tax to provide Lichfield District Council services this year.

Budgeted expenditure and funding	2018/19 (last year)	2019 - 20 (this year)		
	Our net spend was planned to be £'000	Our net spend is set to be £'000	Amount per person £	Amount per band D Property £
<b>A council that is fit for the future</b> Local tax collection, elections, corporate costs	6,281	6,182	£59.73	£162.64
<b>A vibrant and prosperous economy</b> Land charges, tourism, Lichfield Garrick, car parks, trade waste collection, development & building control, economic development	(652)	(1,206)	(£11.65)	(£31.73)
<b>Clean, green and welcoming place to live</b> Waste collection, recycling, pools, open spaces, street cleansing, planning policy, housing benefits, housing strategy & advice	3,427	3,463	£33.46	£91.11
<b>Healthy and safe communities</b> Leisure services, community grants, environmental health, homelessness	1,809	1,603	£15.49	£42.17
Efficiency plan and funding gap proposals	(71)	(470)	(£4.54)	(£12.36)
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>10,794</b>	<b>9,572</b>	<b>£92.48</b>	<b>£251.82</b>
Capital & earmarked reserves	(620)	1,335	£12.90	£35.12
Interest receipts/payments	105	316	£3.05	£8.31
Transfer (from) or to general reserves	27	149	£1.44	£3.92
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>10,306</b>	<b>11,372</b>	<b>£109.87</b>	<b>£299.18</b>
Business rates	(2,480)	(2,526)	(£24.41)	(£66.45)
Revenue support grant	0	0	£0.00	£0.00
New homes bonus	(800)	(1,278)	(£12.35)	(£33.62)
Other grants	(42)	(636)	(£6.14)	(£16.73)
(Surplus) or deficit on the collection of council tax and business rates from the previous year	(633)	(277)	(£2.68)	(£7.29)
<b>Amount to be raised from council tax</b>	<b>£6,351</b>	<b>£6,655</b>	<b>£64.30</b>	<b>£175.08</b>

This information is presented using the same basis as the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

## How much do parish councils get?

Your local parish, town or city council gets a proportion of money from your bill to deliver local services. This table shows how much your parish council will receive, based on the average council tax bill (band D).

Find your parish from the list below	2018/19 (last year)		2019/20 (this year)	
	Parish council tax precept (£)	Parish council tax charge (average home band D) (£)	Parish council tax precept (£)	Parish council tax charge (average home band D) (£)
Alrewas	39,270	32.89	40,645	33.68
Armitage with Handsacre	96,038	46.50	108,043	51.60
Burntwood	313,645	37.90	318,690	37.90
Clifton Campville with Thorpe Constantine*	16,520	46.09	17,692	48.34
Colton	14,810	45.29	14,150	42.99
Curborough & Elmhurst and Farewell & Chorley*	4,741	19.33	5,926	24.13
Drayton Basset	21,629	50.37	22,432	50.64
Edingale	13,000	48.11	14,000	51.51
Elford	13,000	45.65	14,000	48.87
Fazeley	57,872	39.42	61,344	41.33
Fradley & Streethay*	74,730	50.94	98,958	61.31
Hammerwich	26,333	19.48	26,400	19.47
Hamstall Ridware	5,500	37.88	6,300	42.26
Harlaston	8,863	48.09	10,863	58.79
Hints & Canwell	7,900	44.04	8,200	45.36
Kings Bromley	15,665	28.58	16,088	29.02
Lichfield	717,905	60.50	757,180	63.00
Longdon	25,280	33.82	26,170	34.75
Mavesyn Ridware	18,785	42.65	21,585	46.27
Shenstone	175,000	50.64	182,000	52.37
Swinfen & Packington	4,675	35.82	5,000	37.74
Wall	10,600	54.05	11,600	59.11
Weeford	1,625	17.36	1,595	16.73
Whittington & Fisherwick*	47,744	42.18	52,043	44.71
Wiggington & Hopwas	19,000	37.73	20,000	37.38

\* grouped parishes





## Parish council precepts over £140,000

	<b>Burntwood</b>	
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Administration	217,202	180,400
Other	180,666	246,498
Income	(84,223)	(108,208)
<b>Amount of precept</b>	<b>313,645</b>	<b>318,690</b>

	<b>Lichfield City</b>	
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Administration	717,905	757,180
Other		
Income		
<b>Amount of precept</b>	<b>717,905</b>	<b>757,180</b>

	<b>Shenstone</b>	
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Administration	68,000	70,000
Other	107,000	112,000
Income	0	0
<b>Amount of precept</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>182,000</b>

### Increase for adult social care

- The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. ('Adult social care authorities' are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)
- The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional 'precept' on its council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this "precept" at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.

The maximum Staffordshire County Council is allowed to increase the adult social care precept is 6% over three years from 2017/18 to 2019/20. Because Staffordshire County Council increased the adult social care precept element of its proportion of the council tax charge by 3% in 2017/18 and 2018/19, in this financial year (2019/20), there will be no increase to the adult social care precept.

Find out more at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/counciltax)

## Find out more

Your council tax payment helps to fund a number of organisations across the county. These include:

### Staffordshire County Council

0300 111 8000

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/counciltax)

### Lichfield District Council

01543 308000

[www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/counciltax)

### Staffordshire Commissioner - Police, Fire, Crime

01785 232385

[www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk)

### Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

0845 1221 155

[www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk)

Parish councils - to find out more visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/parishcouncils](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/parishcouncils)

## Any questions?

Please visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/counciltax) or call our team on 01543 308900 Monday – Friday, 8.45am – 5pm

If you would like this leaflet in another format such as large print, please call 01543 308900.

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