

2020/21

A guide to council tax across Lichfield District

Lichfield
district council
www.lichfielddc.gov.uk

RECEIPT 01/04/20

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 **£3.46**
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 £3.46 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 £180 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 2.86% 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.

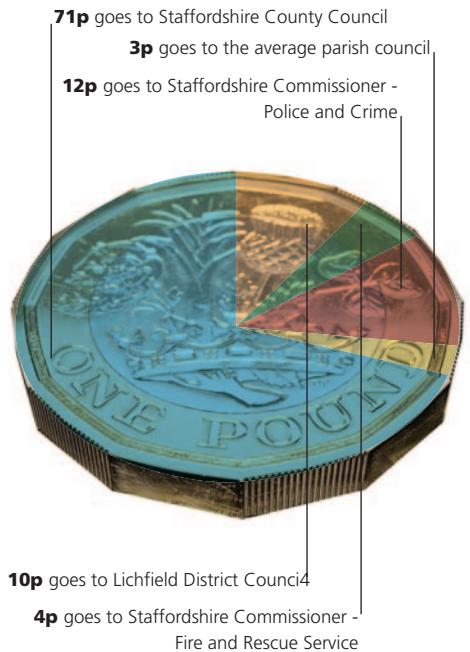
This is a huge challenge and we are reviewing how we deliver our services, moving more online, and asking local people and partners to do their bit to help us achieve our priorities.

To find out more about our vision for the district and the priorities we will focus on between 2020 and 2024, visit 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 3.99%, which is around £49.72 for a band D property. The police are increasing its charge by 3.94%, which is around £8.53 for a band D property. The fire service is increasing its charge by 1.99%, which is around £1.51 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

How much will I have to pay?

Use the table below to find out how much your council tax charge will be in the 2020/21 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	1208.06	1409.39	1610.74	1812.08	2214.77	2617.45	3020.14	3624.16
Armitage with Handsacre	1219.52	1422.77	1626.03	1829.27	2235.78	2642.29	3048.79	3658.55
Burntwood	1212.84	1414.97	1617.12	1819.25	2223.53	2627.81	3032.09	3638.50
Clifton Campville with Thorpe Constantine	1215.86	1418.49	1621.14	1823.78	2229.06	2634.35	3039.63	3647.56
Colton	1210.16	1411.85	1613.55	1815.24	2218.63	2622.02	3025.41	3630.48
Curborough & Elmhurst and Farewell & Chorley	1204.06	1404.73	1605.41	1806.08	2207.43	2608.78	3010.13	3612.16
Drayton Bassett	1220.22	1423.59	1626.96	1830.33	2237.07	2643.81	3050.55	3660.65
Edingale	1220.03	1423.36	1626.70	1830.04	2236.71	2643.39	3050.06	3660.07
Elford	1220.44	1423.85	1627.26	1830.66	2237.47	2644.29	3051.10	3661.32
Fazeley	1215.61	1418.21	1620.82	1823.41	2228.62	2633.82	3039.03	3646.83
Fradley & Streethay	1226.64	1431.08	1635.52	1839.96	2248.84	2657.72	3066.60	3679.92
Hammerwich	1198.49	1398.23	1597.98	1797.73	2197.22	2596.72	2996.22	3595.46
Hamstall Ridware	1214.52	1416.93	1619.36	1821.77	2226.61	2631.45	3036.29	3643.54
Harlaston	1224.79	1428.92	1633.06	1837.19	2245.45	2653.71	3061.98	3674.37
Hints & Canwell	1216.41	1419.14	1621.88	1824.61	2230.08	2635.55	3041.02	3649.22
Kings Bromley	1205.24	1406.10	1606.98	1807.85	2209.59	2611.34	3013.09	3615.70
Lichfield	1230.51	1435.59	1640.68	1845.76	2255.93	2666.10	3076.27	3691.52
Longdon	1210.71	1412.49	1614.28	1816.06	2219.63	2623.20	3026.78	3632.13
Mavesyn Ridware	1211.82	1413.79	1615.76	1817.73	2221.67	2625.61	3029.55	3635.46
Shenstone	1220.18	1423.54	1626.90	1830.26	2236.99	2643.71	3050.44	3660.53
Swinfen & Packington	1210.42	1412.15	1613.89	1815.62	2219.10	2622.57	3026.04	3631.25
Wall	1224.97	1429.13	1633.29	1837.45	2245.77	2654.09	3062.42	3674.90
Weeford	1197.25	1396.79	1596.33	1795.87	2194.95	2594.04	2993.12	3591.74
Whittington & Fisherwick	1217.17	1420.02	1622.89	1825.74	2231.47	2637.19	3042.91	3651.49
Wigginton & Hopwas	1208.10	1409.45	1610.80	1812.15	2214.85	2617.55	3020.25	3624.30

*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 13% 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 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

By phone: Use our 24-hour automated payment system by calling 0845 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/discounts to fill in a single person discount application form or call 01543 308900.

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

Since April 2019, unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings no longer receive a two month council tax exemption. And from April 2020, any property that has been continuously unoccupied and unfurnished between two and five years will pay an additional council tax premium of 100% - therefore paying a 200% charge. Properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished for more than five years will now pay a council tax premium of 200% - therefore paying a 300% 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/discounts

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/discounts.

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

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

It's easier to pay with Direct Debit. Fill in a form at 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	2020-21 (£m)	2019-20 (£m)	Change (£m)	Change (%)
Gross spending	£55.102m	£61.163m	(£6.060m)	(9.91%)
Parish councils	£1.998m	£1.860m	£0.137m	7.34%
Total including parish councils	£57.100m	£63.024m	(£5.924m)	(9.40%)
Income	(£45.054m)	(£51.982m)	£6.928m	(13.33%)
Retained business rates	(£3.020m)	(£2.526m)	(£0.494m)	19.56%
Total income (excluding council tax)	(£48.074m)	(£54.508m)	£6.434m	(11.80%)

Lichfield District Council	2020-21 (£m)	2019-20 (£m)	Change (£m)	Change (%)
Net expenditure (gross spending less Income)	£10.049m	£9.181m	£0.868m	9.45%
Retained business rates	(£3.020m)	(£2.526m)	(£0.494m)	19.56%
Amount to be raised from council tax	£7.029m	£6.655m	£0.374m	5.62%

Why council tax is going up this year

	Amount
Raised from council tax 2019/20	£6.655m
Change in council spending	
Inflation/savings & efficiencies/developing services	(£0.571m)
Increase in the planned transfer of money to our balances	£1.484m
Sub-total	£7.568m
Change in funding	
Retained business rates	(£0.494m)
New homes bonus	(£0.493m)
Other funding changes	£0.448m
Amount to be raised from council tax 2020/21	£7.029m

Additional amount raised from council tax	£0.374m
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Calculating the total council tax

We need to collect £7.029m in council tax to provide Lichfield District Council services this year.

Budgeted expenditure and funding	2019/20 (last year)	2020 - 21 (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 £
Enabling people* Leisure centres, community grants, environmental health, homelessness	1,528	1,480	£14.23	£37.92
Shaping place* Waste collection, recycling, pools, open spaces, street cleansing, planning policy, housing benefits, housing strategy & advice	3,259	3,570	£34.33	£91.46
Developing prosperity* Land charges, tourism, Lichfield Garrick, car parks, trade waste collection, development management & building control, economic development	(1,079)	(1,234)	(£11.87)	(£31.61)
A good council* Local tax collection, elections, corporate costs	6,186	6,302	£60.60	£161.46
Net cost of services	9,894	10,118	£97.29	£259.99
Revenue implications of the capital programme	0	229	£2.20	£5.87
Corporate expenditure	1,329	305	£2.93	£7.81
Transfer (from) or to general reserves	149	1,632	£15.69	£41.81
Net expenditure	11,372	12,284	£118.42	£314.71
Retained business rates	(2,526)	(3,020)	(£29.04)	(£77.37)
New homes bonus	(1,278)	(1,771)	(£17.03)	(£45.37)
Other grants	(636)	(134)	(£1.29)	(£3.43)
(Surplus) or deficit on the collection of council tax and business rates from the previous year	(277)	(330)	(£3.17)	(£8.45)
Amount to be raised from council tax	£6,655	£7,029	£67.59	£180.07

* This information is presented using the new strategic plan priorities for 2020 to 2024

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	2019/20 (last year)		2020/21 (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	40,645	33.68	40,645	33.73
Armitage with Handsacre	108,043	51.60	108,043	50.92
Burntwood	318,690	37.90	349,016	40.90
Clifton Campville with Thorpe Constantine*	17,692	48.34	18,000	45.43
Colton	14,150	42.99	12,279	36.89
Curborough & Elmhurst and Farewell & Chorley*	5,926	24.13	6,815	27.73
Drayton Basset	22,432	50.64	23,105	51.98
Edingale	14,000	51.51	14,000	51.69
Elford	14,000	48.87	15,000	52.31
Fazeley	61,344	41.33	67,478	45.06
Fradley & Streethay*	98,958	61.31	131,306	61.61
Hammerwich	26,400	19.47	26,400	19.38
Hamstall Ridware	6,300	42.26	6,500	43.42
Harlaston	10,863	58.79	10,863	58.84
Hints & Canwell	8,200	45.36	8,270	46.26
Kings Bromley	16,088	29.02	16,410	29.50
Lichfield	757,180	63.00	817,890	67.41
Longdon	26,170	34.75	28,525	37.71
Mavesyn Ridware	21,585	46.27	19,335	39.38
Shenstone	182,000	52.37	182,000	51.91
Swinfen & Packington	5,000	37.74	5,500	37.27
Wall	11,600	59.11	11,845	59.10
Weeford	1,595	16.73	1,685	17.52
Whittington & Fisherwick*	52,043	44.71	54,668	47.39
Wiggington & Hopwas	20,000	37.38	22,000	33.80

* grouped parishes



Parish council precepts over £140,000

	Burntwood	
	2019/20	2020/21
Administration	180,400	183,550
Other	246,498	271,329
Income	(108,208)	(105,863)
Amount of precept	318,690	349,016

	Lichfield City	
	2019/20	2020/21
Administration	757,180	817,890
Other		
Income		
Amount of precept	757,180	817,890

	Shenstone	
	2019/20	2020/21
Administration	70,000	70,000
Other	112,000	112,000
Income	0	0
Amount of precept	182,000	182,000

Increase for adult social care

- The secretary of state 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 was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional 'precept' on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the secretary of state chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

Find out more at 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

Lichfield District Council

01543 308000

www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/counciltax

Staffordshire Commissioner - Police, Fire and Rescue, Crime

01785 232385

www.staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk

Parish councils - to find out more visit www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/parishcouncils

Any questions?

Please visit 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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