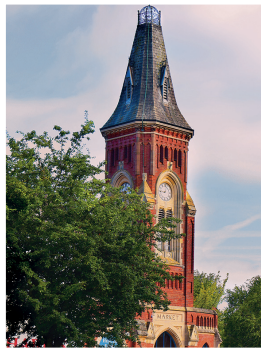


Your 2023/24 Council Tax Explained



Take a look inside...



Foreword from the
Leader of the Council



Facts about your
Council Tax



Who does what?



Where does your
money go?

Foreword from the Leader of the Council



I am aware that receiving a demand for Council Tax payment is not going to be popular with residents right now, especially with the cost of living crisis, which is why it is important to inform you what Cannock Chase Council does with its share of your Council Tax payment as my Foreword explains.

Council Tax in 2023/24

In this next 12 months our wide range of services will be provided to you for **£4.56 a week (based on an average Band D property)**. About 11.5% of your overall Council Tax bill goes to Cannock Chase Council to provide our services. The remainder is collected on behalf of Staffordshire County Council and the Staffordshire Commissioner (Police & Crime and Fire & Rescue) to fund their own services.

“ For our contribution - costing about **65p a day** we deliver services in over **40 different areas**. They include collecting and recycling your waste, providing leisure and cultural facilities and services (via our partner Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles), award-winning parks and green spaces, housing and homelessness services, planning and building control, and environmental health services. ”

Council Tax will increase by 2.99% from 2023/24 which will make a Band D property's Council Tax charge £236.92 for the next year.

We believe this small rise in our share is necessary to protect the frontline services and our range of discretionary services that you depend upon.

What we achieved over the last 12 months

- Successfully staged the Commonwealth Games' mountain biking event at Cannock Chase Forest and the Queen's Baton Relay - legacies coming this year include new interpretation and signage for the Cannock Chase Heritage Trail;
- Progressed the £20m project for Cannock town centre, securing land and buildings we need, shaping our designs and consulting on our vision;
- Achieving six Green Flags for our parks and green spaces - putting us among the best in the West Midlands;
- Secured £3m from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which will fund a range of economic and community initiatives;
- Published a climate change action plan to become carbon neutral by 2030;
- Launched a new dual stream service to improve recycling rates;
- Ran a Binworld theatre in education project to encourage the next generation of recyclers;
- Agreed to refurbish several play areas and Elmore Park toilets in Rugeley;
- Staged several community engagement events with partners in Rugeley, Cannock and Hednesford; and
- Agreed to share a single management team and our services with Stafford Borough Council, to be more efficient and maximise the impact we can make locally, regionally and nationally;

Looking ahead to 2023/24

What is certain in the next 12 months is that there will be a degree of uncertainty. Who could have predicted we would be welcoming refugees from Ukraine, that energy prices would soar and, with it, inflation? But what is certain is that councillors and officers alike will do all they can to deliver value for money and good services, whatever the challenges.

Key activities will be:

- Development of town centres;
- Allocating the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with all parts of the District benefitting;
- Launching a new Council website and customer relationship management system to improve the way we serve you;
- Doing our bit to become carbon neutral and encouraging residents and businesses to follow suit;
- Making a success of shared services working with Stafford Borough Council, by transforming the way we work to attract new funds and to be influential while also protecting our own identity

These key activities apart, there are a multitude of service tasks and planning going on each day to provide the services you rely on. Many are rather 'unsung' but they all matter and contribute to living and working successfully in our District. They will all be part of our work in 2023/24.

Our Budget to fund work in 2023/24

From its General Fund the Council aims to spend £14.941m (net income) in 2023/24. This money will be spent on providing Council services (as shown in the next page).

Our separate Housing Revenue Account has a £20m budget to fund the District Council's Housing Services and comes from the rent that tenants pay us. The Council has a 30-year sustainable Business Plan for its housing stock. An HRA Housing Investment Fund exists and amounts to £12.9m and is there to build new Council houses for those in high priority need.

Our priority areas and performance

Last year we produced a new Corporate Plan for 2022-26 which has four priorities: Economic Prosperity, Health and Wellbeing, The Community, and Responsible Council. We are currently delivering 67 projects related to these priorities in 2022/23, with 89% already completed or on track by the end of December 2022.



The Corporate Plan and our performance information can be found on our website, visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk.



Councillor Olivia Lyons
Leader of Cannock Chase Council

Introduction

This booklet provides a brief overview of your Council Tax bill, how it might be reduced and the services you receive for your money.

In addition to this booklet, we have produced an online publication which provides further information. You can view and download a copy from the Council's website www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/counciltax

Who does what?

Each of the organisations who charge you Council Tax provide a range of different services. This section highlights the main services each organisation provides.



Cannock Chase District Council	Staffordshire County Council	Staffordshire Commissioner (Fire and Rescue)	Staffordshire Commissioner (Police and Crime)
Waste collection and recycling	Manages schools, nurseries and children's centres	Risk analysis and planning	Helps make Staffordshire safer
Collection of Council Tax & Business Rates	Childcare help		Engaging with all of our communities
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction	Provides adult social care		
Support for the homeless	Trading standards advice	Culture, leadership and learning	
Parks & open spaces	Highway maintenance		
Planning & building control	Promotes regeneration	Prevent, protect, road safety and community wellbeing	Investigates and detects crime
Maintains car parks	Provides a range of cultural services		
Environmental health	Waste disposal	Response and resilience	Works to reduce the number of casualties on our roads
Leisure services (managed by Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles)	Public health		
Election administration			

- Your Council Tax is based on the valuation band of your property and on two adults living in that property.
- Discounts, reductions and exemptions are available based on your circumstances.
- If you are unemployed or on a low wage, you may be able to get your bill reduced. If you think that you may qualify for this reduction, please see **page 7** for further details.



1 Discounts and premiums

Some unoccupied and unfurnished properties attract a discount for limited periods. Properties that have been empty for more than two years pay additional premiums. Other discounts depend on the number of adults in your house and their circumstances. If you are the only adult living in your property, you can apply for a 25% discount. Some people are not counted when looking at the number of adults in a property. These people include students and young people for whom child benefit is paid, people receiving or providing personal care, severely mentally impaired people and prisoners. The Council will consider applications for discretionary discounts based on individual circumstances.

For more information about points 1 to 4, please contact the **Council Tax team** on **01543 464285**

2 Reduction for people with disabilities

Your bill may be reduced if you (or someone who lives with you) need a room, an extra bathroom or kitchen, or extra space in your property to meet the required needs arising from a disability.

If you believe your bill to be incorrect, you can write to the Council to appeal. If you still believe the decision to be wrong, you can then appeal to the Valuation Tribunal Service.

3 Exempt properties

Some properties are exempt from Council Tax such as those occupied only by students or unoccupied properties which were previously occupied by persons who are now in residential care.

4 Payment of Council Tax

If you are receiving all of the help that you can get with your housing and Council Tax costs, we may be able to help you pay your bill more easily.

Direct Debit is the most popular method for paying Council Tax as many people find that this helps them to manage their monthly budget. We can set up a Direct Debit over the telephone.

5 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

If you are unemployed or on a low wage, you may be able to get your bill reduced. Please see **page 7** for further details.

Council Tax valuation bands

The Valuation Office Agency which is part of HM Revenue and Customs (not your local Council) has put every property into one of eight valuation bands.

A full list of valuation bands is available online at www.vo.gov.uk



Band	Range of values (based on 1991 prices)	Proportion of Band D Council Tax Payable
A	Up to £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	1
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9
H	Over £320,000	18/9

Banding appeal

You may be able to appeal against the banding if you have just moved to a property, if the property has been structurally altered, or if the area in which your property is situated has changed.

Any queries about appeals and bandings should be made direct to the **Valuation Office Agency** on **03000 501501**



What do I do if I think I am paying too much Council Tax?

Please contact the **Council Tax team** on **01543 464285**, who will be happy to discuss this with you.

For adult social care authorities, Council Tax demand notices show two percentage changes: one for the part of the overall change attributable to the adult social care precept, and one for the part attributable to general expenditure.



Local Council Tax Reduction - Banded Discount Scheme

If you are on a low income and need help paying your Council Tax you may be entitled to a reduction in the amount you have to pay.

This help is means tested and you can apply for help if you are the person who is liable for the Council Tax bill. Whilst people both of working age and pensionable age can apply, the schemes we operate are different for each group.



For those people of pensionable age we must operate a national rebate scheme, however for working age people we operate a local scheme whereby a percentage discount, based on the income of the household, is deducted from the council tax bill. This is called a Banded Discount Scheme. Most Banded Discount Scheme claims will need to be made online; for people who may find this difficult our Customer Services Team are available to help.

Families, people in low paid jobs and the disabled are at the forefront of why the Banded Scheme has been introduced. Additional help is provided by disregarding Child Benefit income, there are no deductions made for any non dependants who live in the property, for example a family member (usually a son or daughter) who is working, and an additional percentage amount is awarded to anyone who is disabled.

If you are in receipt of Universal Credit then once we receive confirmation of the award we can usually apply the discount to the Council Tax Account automatically. If you are not in receipt of Universal Credit then don't delay, apply straight away.

The cut off for people with £6,000 or more in savings will now apply to all working aged people we think this is fairer.



You can check if you qualify for this reduction by using the online calculator www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/benscalc



For more information please visit our website www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/benefits or contact our **Benefit Services Team** on **01543 464292**

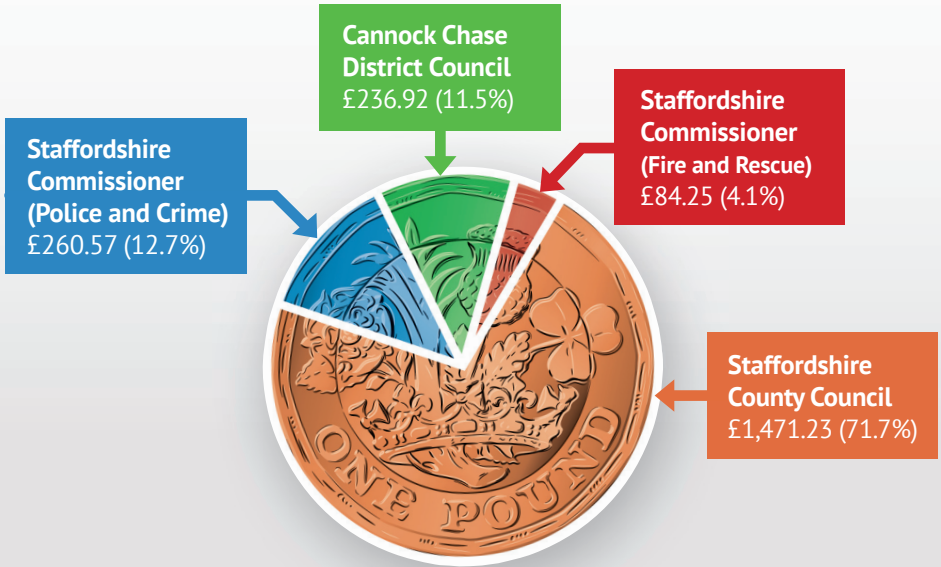




Where does your money go?

Cannock Chase Council provides its services for just **£4.56** a week.*

*Based on the average Band D Council Tax



Chase Matters
Residents magazine

Look out for the next edition!

Latest news and information

What's happening in your area...

What's inside
Controlling your dog
Cannock Chase Can continues to make a difference...
From Ukraine to Cannock Chase
Plus more...

Register to receive your electronic copy by email communications@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

For more information visit

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