



Your Guide To Your Council Tax 2016/17

www.testvalley.gov.uk



TestValleyBC



@TestValleyBC

Welcome to your Council Tax guide 2016/17

We all use public services. Some are provided by authorities covering the whole of Hampshire, others are provided by local borough or district councils.

Some of the funding for these services comes from government grants and a share of locally retained business rates. The rest is paid for by income from resources including your Council Tax and income generated by, for example, rents, investments and service charges. Information about the authorities funded by your Council Tax is

included in this leaflet to give you an overview of the services provided.

Part of your Council Tax funds services such as waste collection and kerbside recycling, street cleaning, housing, community and leisure services, provided by **Test Valley Borough Council**.

Test Valley Borough Council

£131.41

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire

£160.46

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

£62.60

Hampshire County Council

£1,079.28



Your Council Tax helps fund services from **Hampshire County Council**, such as:

- support for children and families
- street lighting and highways care
- waste disposal
- care and support for older people and people with disabilities
- adult social care.

The **Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire** is responsible for overseeing and scrutinising policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and is part funded from Council Tax.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority also receives a proportion of Council Tax to prevent fires and other risks, to protect life and property and to respond to emergencies.

The total amount payable for a property in Council Tax Band D this year is **£1,433.75**. A summary of **how your council tax is divided** between these organisations is shown on your Council Tax bill. Web links with further information for each organisation are included at the end of this leaflet.

These figures exclude parish precepts, which are shown separately on pages 10 and 11.

Council Tax Guide – Introduction from the Head of Finance

The Council's budget for 2016/17 will support its key priorities to ensure the Borough remains a great place to:

- **Live**, where the supply of homes reflects local needs
- **Work** and do business
- **Enjoy** the natural and built environment
- **Contribute** and be part of a strong community

The financial environment remains a challenge for the Council. Over the past four years we have seen the money we receive from central government reduce by nearly 40% and it is anticipated that the next three years will be even more challenging as central government continues to cut funding to local government.

Budgeting involves an extremely difficult balancing act between investing in essential services and maintaining the financial stability of the Council. For four out of the last five years, we have frozen Council Tax and found efficiencies, savings and additional income totalling £5.4Million. Despite our best efforts, it has been necessary to increase Council Tax in order to balance the budget for 2016/17.



The increase in the Borough Council's element of the Council Tax is 3.96%, which will mean a cash increase of £5 per year or 10p extra per week for a Band D property.

In setting the Band D tax for the District at £131.41 for 2016/17, Test Valley Borough Council will continue to have one of the lowest district Council Tax levels in the whole of England.

The budget figures are summarised on the following pages.

William Fullbrook CPFA
Head of Finance

Each property in Test Valley is placed in a property band from A to H. Your total bill is worked out based on a fraction of the band D Council Tax as shown below. For example, if your bill shows that your property is in band B your total Council Tax will be 7/9 of the band D Council Tax.

Band	Fraction of Band D Council Tax
A	6/9
B	7/9
C	8/9
D	9/9
E	11/9
F	13/9
G	15/9
H	18/9

Querying Your Council Tax Band

If you think your Council Tax band could be wrong, contact your local Valuation Office:-

Email: ctwest@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 501501

Valuation Office Agency
 Council Tax West
 Overline House
 Blechynden Terrace
 Southampton
 SO15 1GW

Your Council Tax Band

The Council uses the Council Tax band allocated to your home to work out your Council Tax bill, but it is not responsible for allocating the band. The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) does this, based on what the value of your home was, or would have been, at 1 April 1991. The values for each band are as follows:-

Band	Range of Values
A	Up to £40,000
B	£40,001 to £52,000
C	£52,001 to £68,000
D	£68,001 to £88,000
E	£88,001 to £120,000
F	£120,001 to £160,000
G	£160,001 to £320,000
H	£320,001 and above

Please bear in mind that if your home is already in Band A, the lowest band, the VOA cannot reduce the band further. Check with the Council to see whether you are eligible for any discount on your bill.



Discounts and Exemptions

Single Person Discount

Your Council Tax bill assumes that there are at least two adults living in your property. If you live alone the Council Tax bill may be reduced by 25%.

Second Home Discount

Your bill may be reduced by 50% if you have to maintain two homes because of your job. This could be because you are liable for another property which is provided by your employer (such as service personnel living in MOD accommodation), or you are liable for another property where you are required to live because of your contract of employment (such as a publican who has to live in licensed premises as a tenant).

Discount for Unoccupied and Unfurnished Properties

If your property has become unoccupied and unfurnished, you may be entitled to a 100% discount for a maximum of three months. If your property remains empty for more than three months the full Council Tax will be due for the relevant period. You may be liable to pay an additional Empty Homes Premium if your property remains unoccupied and unfurnished for two years. Please see page 7 for further information.

Discount for Unoccupied and Unfurnished Properties that require major repairs or structural alteration

If your property is unoccupied and

unfurnished because it requires, or is undergoing, major repairs or structural alterations to make it habitable you may be entitled to a 100% discount for a maximum of 12 months. If your property remains empty for more than 12 months the full Council Tax will be due for the relevant period. You may be liable to pay an additional Empty Homes Premium if your property remains unoccupied and unfurnished for two years. Please see page 7 for further information.

Annexe Discount

A discount of 50% may be applicable to a separately assessed annexe if:

- a) it is unoccupied but being used by you as part of your main property
- b) you live in the annexe and are related to the Council Tax payer at the main property.

For further information on how to apply please contact the Council or visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/counciltax

Discount Disregards

Certain people will not be counted when looking at the number of adults living in a property, so your bill could be reduced even if you do not live alone. These people include full-time students, care workers on low pay (usually for charities) and people with a severe mental impairment. For a full list please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/counciltax

Exemptions

Some properties are exempt from Council Tax, for example where all the residents are full-time students or severely mentally impaired. For a full

list please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/counciltax

If you receive a discount or exemption, you must tell the Council about any change in circumstances that affects your entitlement.

The Council regularly reviews the discounts and exemptions applied to Council Tax accounts to ensure they remain applicable.

Empty Homes Premium

If your property remains unoccupied and unfurnished for two years or more you may become liable to pay an Empty Homes Premium, in addition to the full Council Tax. The Premium charged will be 50% of the full Council Tax. There are exemptions from this Premium including empty properties that would be the residence of a person who is currently living in accommodation provided by the MOD because of their employment or if the property is an annexe being used as part of the main property.

Reductions For Disabled People

The Council Tax bill may be reduced if the property has a special feature required to meet the needs of a disabled resident, such as an extra bathroom or additional space to allow a wheelchair to be used.

Council Tax Support

Council Tax Benefit has been replaced by Council Tax Support. This is available to resident taxpayers who are on a low income, to help them pay their Council Tax bill.

For further information on discounts, exemptions, reductions for disabled residents and Empty Homes Premiums please contact Customer Services on 01264 368000; email counciltax@testvalley.gov.uk or visit our website www.testvalley.gov.uk. For further information on Council Tax Support please contact the Benefits Team on 01264 368000; email benefits@testvalley.gov.uk or visit our website.

If you want to appeal against a decision relating to a discount or exemption you should do so, in writing, directly to the Head of Revenues at the address at the end of the leaflet.

Monthly Instalments

It is possible to pay your instalments over a maximum of 12 months. If you wish to do so, please email counciltax@testvalley.gov.uk or write to the Revenues Service at the address at the end of the leaflet.

Financial Information

If you would like to see financial information relating to Council Tax please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/counciltax. You will find links to the relevant web pages for Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire. This information will be available in a large print format on request.

Financial Reports

Council Tax Requirement

2015/16			2016/17		
£'000	£/Head	%	£'000	£/Head	%
6,589			4,483		
1,160			1,344		
(4,436)			(4,320)		
3,871			6,240		
7,184			7,747		
47,039	391.35	73.5	50,121	405.99	73.5
7,131	59.33	10.9	7,452	60.36	10.9
7,184	59.77	11.2	7,747	62.75	11.3
2,782	23.15	4.4	2,907	23.55	4.3
64,136	533.60	100.0	68,227	552.65	100.0

Variation in Gross Expenditure between years

2014/15 & 2015/16		2015/16 & 2016/17	
£'000		£'000	
6,668	Total TVBC requirement - previous year	6,589	
693	Increased services / budgetary pressures	555	
(845)	Savings in services and income generation	(779)	
502	Base changes	(1,089)	
385	Inflation	376	
41	Changes in investment income / borrowing costs	(60)	
(849)	New Homes Bonus grant income	(1,221)	
(6)	Changes to other specific government grants	112	
6,589	Test Valley Borough Council gross expenditure	4,483	



Net Expenditure on Services

2015/16				2016/17		
Total Expend £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expend £'000	Service	Total Expend £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expend £'000
5,049	1,123	3,926	Community and Leisure	4,728	1,121	3,607
7,649	3,020	4,629	Environmental	7,641	2,845	4,796
5,543	9,279	(3,736)	Estates and Economic Development	5,353	9,571	(4,218)
4,148	1,581	2,567	Housing and Environmental Health	3,830	1,572	2,258
2,888	1,806	1,082	Planning and Building	2,928	1,805	1,123
3,514	3,492	22	Planning Policy and Transport	3,534	3,711	(177)
33,786	32,818	968	Revenues and Benefits	33,310	32,354	956
5,376	928	4,448	Support Services	5,213	779	4,434
0	7,317	(7,317)	Other Income and Expenditure	981	9,277	(8,296)
67,953	61,364	6,589	Total Test Valley Borough Council	67,518	63,035	4,483

Financial Details of those Councils with a precept over £140,000

Romsey Town Council	2015/16		2016/17		
	Total £	Committees	Gross Expenditure £	Total Income £	Net
	85,150	Staffing and Administration	93,615	0	93,615
	72,364	Buildings	163,647	99,903	63,744
	20,053	Town	48,265	14,300	33,965
	0	Allotments	2,800	2,800	0
	16,200	Finance	15,150	50	15,100
	0	Transfer from Reserves	0	816	(816)
	193,767	Precept Demanded	323,477	117,869	205,608

Andover Town Council	2015/16		2016/17		
	Total £	Committees	Gross Expenditure £	Total Income £	Net
	77,393	Staffing and Administration	98,143	0	98,143
	9,000	Buildings	85,620	0	85,620
	32,580	Town	44,860	0	44,860
	7,920	Allotments	36,860	22,200	14,660
	10,400	Finance	18,550	150	18,400
	(4,810)	Transfer from Reserves	0	31	(31)
	132,483	Precept Demanded	284,033	22,381	261,652

Band D Council Tax in each parish area for 2016/17

Parish Area	Parish Amount			TVBC including Parish		Total Band D Council Tax £	Last Year		
	Tax Base	Precept £	Tax at Band D £	At Band D £	% Change from 2015/16		Parish £	TVBC £	Total £
Abbotts Ann	989	32,000	32.36	163.77	6.5	1,466.11	27.33	126.41	153.74
Ampfield	761	33,902	44.55	175.96	3.8	1,478.30	43.17	126.41	169.58
Amport	536	11,500	21.46	152.87	3.4	1,455.21	21.46	126.41	147.87
Andover Town	13,063	261,652	20.03	151.44	10.5	1,453.78	10.58	126.41	136.99
Andover Special Expenses Levy *	13,063	301,102	23.05	23.05	-2.0	23.05	23.52		23.52
Appleshaw	272	9,500	34.93	166.34	-0.5	1,468.68	40.82	126.41	167.23
Ashley	37	0	0.00	131.41	4.0	1,433.75	0.00	126.41	126.41
Awbridge	339	8,635	25.47	156.88	3.4	1,459.22	25.28	126.41	151.69
Barton Stacey	380	18,129	47.71	179.12	5.4	1,481.46	43.57	126.41	169.98
Bossington	20	0	0.00	131.41	4.0	1,433.75	0.00	126.41	126.41
Braishfield	337	12,500	37.09	168.50	5.7	1,470.84	33.03	126.41	159.44
Broughton	504	21,943	43.54	174.95	4.6	1,477.29	40.80	126.41	167.21
Buckholt	9	0	0.00	131.41	4.0	1,433.75	0.00	126.41	126.41
Bullington	55	1,750	31.82	163.23	2.4	1,465.57	33.02	126.41	159.43
Charlton	792	14,500	18.31	149.72	3.3	1,452.06	18.57	126.41	144.98
Chilbolton	534	13,500	25.28	156.69	4.4	1,459.03	23.72	126.41	150.13
Chilworth	642	30,000	46.73	178.14	3.1	1,480.48	46.44	126.41	172.85
East Dean	95	3,350	35.26	166.67	2.4	1,469.01	36.41	126.41	162.82
East Tytherley	91	3,507	38.54	169.95	3.1	1,472.29	38.45	126.41	164.86
Enham Alamein	338	9,083	26.87	158.28	3.3	1,460.62	26.87	126.41	153.28
Facombe	47	0	0.00	131.41	4.0	1,433.75	0.00	126.41	126.41
Fyfield	131	4,750	36.26	167.67	2.9	1,470.01	36.54	126.41	162.95
Goodworth Clatford	408	17,316	42.44	173.85	3.7	1,476.19	41.23	126.41	167.64
Grateley	245	7,700	31.43	162.84	3.3	1,465.18	31.17	126.41	157.58
Houghton	196	9,000	45.92	177.33	7.9	1,479.67	37.88	126.41	164.29
Hurstbourne Tarrant	368	14,850	40.35	171.76	2.5	1,474.10	41.14	126.41	167.55
Kimpton	163	8,000	49.08	180.49	1.9	1,482.83	50.63	126.41	177.04
King's Somborne	696	33,040	47.47	178.88	3.2	1,481.22	46.99	126.41	173.40
Leckford	58	0	0.00	131.41	4.0	1,433.75	0.00	126.41	126.41
Linkenholt	25	0	0.00	131.41	4.0	1,433.75	0.00	126.41	126.41
Little Somborne	41	0	0.00	131.41	4.0	1,433.75	0.00	126.41	126.41

Parish Area	Parish Amount			TVBC including Parish		Total Band D Council Tax £	Last Year		
	Tax Base	Precept £	Tax at Band D £	At Band D £	% Change from 2015/16		Parish £	TVBC £	Total £
Lockerley	365	12,622	34.58	165.99	2.5	1,468.33	35.46	126.41	161.87
Longparish	333	17,500	52.55	183.96	3.2	1,486.30	51.93	126.41	178.34
Longstock	212	6,000	28.30	159.71	3.4	1,462.05	28.04	126.41	154.45
Melchet Park & Plaitford	126	3,000	23.81	155.22	2.8	1,457.56	24.59	126.41	151.00
Michelmersh & Timsbury	431	15,500	35.96	167.37	2.8	1,469.71	36.38	126.41	162.79
Monxton	135	5,700	42.22	173.63	5.1	1,475.97	38.81	126.41	165.22
Mottisfont	147	6,574	44.72	176.13	3.0	1,478.47	44.58	126.41	170.99
Nether Wallop	392	12,500	31.89	163.30	3.4	1,465.64	31.52	126.41	157.93
North Baddesley	2,429	97,000	39.93	171.34	3.3	1,473.68	39.53	126.41	165.94
Nursling and Rownhams	2,072	55,000	26.54	157.95	3.3	1,460.29	26.43	126.41	152.84
Over Wallop	759	32,000	42.16	173.57	10.5	1,475.91	30.70	126.41	157.11
Penton Grafton	342	9,800	28.65	160.06	0.4	1,462.40	33.03	126.41	159.44
Penton Mewsey	175	6,000	34.29	165.70	2.9	1,468.04	34.68	126.41	161.09
Quarley	78	2,600	33.33	164.74	5.3	1,467.08	30.00	126.41	156.41
Romsey Extra	1,931	42,153	21.83	153.24	3.4	1,455.58	21.83	126.41	148.24
Romsey Town	5,545	205,608	37.08	168.49	4.0	1,470.83	35.66	126.41	162.07
Sherfield English	322	10,000	31.06	162.47	4.1	1,464.81	29.69	126.41	156.10
Shipton Bellinger	513	27,000	52.63	184.04	8.7	1,486.38	42.97	126.41	169.38
Smannell	1,120	20,523	18.32	149.73	3.5	1,452.07	18.32	126.41	144.73
Stockbridge	317	16,000	50.47	181.88	3.7	1,484.22	48.93	126.41	175.34
Tangley	288	8,000	27.78	159.19	2.8	1,461.53	28.47	126.41	154.88
Thrupton	288	10,500	36.46	167.87	2.9	1,470.21	36.71	126.41	163.12
Upper Clatford	649	14,000	21.57	152.98	3.9	1,455.32	20.77	126.41	147.18
Valley Park	2,995	35,000	11.69	143.10	3.6	1,445.44	11.75	126.41	138.16
Vernham Dean	284	10,000	35.21	166.62	5.1	1,468.96	32.14	126.41	158.55
Willow	1,497	65,000	43.42	174.83	4.8	1,477.17	40.35	126.41	166.76
West Tytherley & Frenchmoor	285	9,500	33.33	164.74	1.5	1,467.08	35.94	126.41	162.35
Wherwell	237	8,500	35.86	167.27	4.5	1,469.61	33.61	126.41	160.02

* The special expenses levy in Andover meets the expenses incurred by the Borough Council in performing those functions not transferred to Andover Town Council.

Test Valley Borough Council
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Weyhill Road
Andover
SP10 3AJ

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Minicom: 01264 368052
E-mail: info@testvalley.gov.uk
www.testvalley.gov.uk/counciltax



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Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester
SO23 8UJ

Tel: 0300 555 1375
E-mail: info@hants.gov.uk
(general enquiries)
budget@hants.gov.uk
(budget enquiries)

For more Council Tax information see:
www.hants.gov.uk/counciltax2016-17

Police and Crime Commissioner for
Hampshire
St George's Chambers
St George's Street
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8AJ

Tel: 01962 871595
E-mail: opcc@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

For more Council Tax information see:
www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/counciltax

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
SO50 9SJ

Tel: 023 8064 4000
E-mail: reception@hantsfire.gov.uk
(general enquiries)
finance@hantsfire.gov.uk
(budget enquiries)

For more Council Tax information see:
www.hantsfire.gov.uk/how-we-are-performing/our-performance/