



St. Helens
Council

Council Tax Information 2020/21

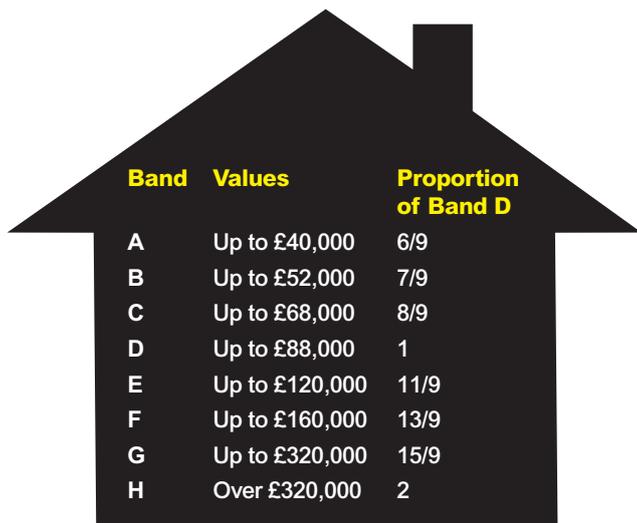




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1. The Council's Budget



Band	Values	Proportion of Band D
A	Up to £40,000	6/9
B	Up to £52,000	7/9
C	Up to £68,000	8/9
D	Up to £88,000	1
E	Up to £120,000	11/9
F	Up to £160,000	13/9
G	Up to £320,000	15/9
H	Over £320,000	2

The Council Tax you pay depends on the valuation your property has been given by the Valuation Office Agency. The amount payable is based on the market value of the property as of 1 April 1991.

Your Council Tax bill tells you which band applies to your home.

The amount of Council Tax charge for each band depends upon the tax set for band D, and is calculated using the proportions shown.

Adult Social Care Precept

In 2015 the Government created the Adult Social Care Precept which allowed Councils who provide Social Care to Adults to increase their share of Council Tax by a specified amount each year. Government announced that for the year 2020/21 Councils would be allowed to increase this by up to 2%.

The income generated from this charge is ring-fenced, meaning it can only be used for Adult Social Care services.

	2019/20	2020/21	Increase
Amount met from Council Taxpayer	£74.207m	£78.604m	5.93%
Council Tax Base (Band D equivalents)	51,317	52,272	
Band D Council Tax	£1,446.05	£1,503.75	3.99%

If you live in a Parish that charges a precept, your Council Tax will be higher. Please see Section 2 for details.

The basic Council Tax for a Band D property has been set at:



Not all Council Tax collected pays for council services, it also supports Police, the Combined Authority and the Fire and Rescue Authority too.

Basic Council Tax Payable for 2020/21

Band	St Helens (£)	Police (£)	Fire (£)	CA (£)	Total (Non-Parish) (£)
A	1,002.50	141.31	53.06	12.67	1,210.08
B	1,169.58	164.87	62.53	14.78	1,411.76
C	1,336.66	188.42	71.47	16.89	1,613.44
D	1,503.75	211.97	80.40	19.00	1,815.12
E	1,837.91	259.07	98.27	23.22	2,218.47
F	2,172.08	306.18	116.13	27.44	2,621.83
G	2,506.25	353.28	134.00	31.67	3,025.20
H	3,007.50	423.94	160.80	38.00	3,630.24

For 2020/21, the Government requires St Helens Council to hold a referendum with local residents if they propose to increase Council Tax by **4%** or more. Therefore, no referendum is required.

Revenue Spending 2020/21

Our total 2020/21 budget is **£431.8m** (Gross Revenue Expenditure).

In 2019/20, the equivalent amount was **£415.6m**.

The change in Gross Revenue Expenditure is due to a number of cost pressures, additional spend funded by non-Council Tax sources and savings made for 2020/21.

+£12.1m	ADDITIONAL SPEND ON ADULT'S & CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE
+£2.8m	ADDITIONAL SPEND ON OTHER SERVICES
+£2.4m	PAY INFLATION
+£2.3m	PRICE INFLATION
+£1.3m	NATIONAL LIVING WAGE
-£1.5m	REDUCTION IN SPEND AGAINST SPECIFIC GRANTS
-£3.2m	EXPENDITURE SAVINGS

2. Council Tax Charges

The table below shows the amount of Council Tax you will pay dependent on which area of the Borough you live in.

Council Tax Charges 2020/21								
Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bold	1,218.12	1,421.14	1,624.16	1,827.19	2,233.22	2,639.26	3,045.31	3,654.38
Rainford	1,227.41	1,431.98	1,636.55	1,841.12	2,250.24	2,659.38	3,068.53	3,682.24
Eccleston	1,220.04	1,423.38	1,626.72	1,830.06	2,236.73	2,643.41	3,050.10	3,660.12
Windle	1,218.38	1,421.44	1,624.51	1,827.57	2,233.69	2,639.81	3,045.95	3,655.14
Rainhill	1,222.23	1,425.93	1,629.64	1,833.35	2,240.75	2,648.16	3,055.58	3,666.70
Billinge	1,227.45	1,432.02	1,636.60	1,841.18	2,250.32	2,659.47	3,068.63	3,682.36
Seneley Green	1,234.00	1,439.66	1,645.33	1,851.00	2,262.32	2,673.65	3,085.00	3,702.00
All other parts of the council area	1,210.08	1,411.76	1,613.44	1,815.12	2,218.47	2,621.83	3,025.20	3,630.24
Adult Social Care Precept (included above)	87.19	101.72	116.25	130.78	159.84	188.91	217.97	261.56

3. Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA)

We are the public body responsible for dealing with household waste and recycling once it's been collected from your home.

Using the latest technologies we aim to make sure as much waste as possible is sustainably managed. Our Energy from Waste facility in Wilton diverts over 92% of Merseyside's non-recycled waste from landfill - and in the process saves more than £100m in current landfill disposal costs over the life of its contract.

We work hard to encourage Merseyside's householders to use less in the first place and, through our 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres and District Council kerbside collections, to recycle as much as they can. Last year, 37.8% of Merseyside's household waste was reused, recycled or composted. Recycling, alongside our waste prevention work and involvement with community projects, can help us all contribute to stopping climate change.

You can read more about our work at www.merseysidewda.gov.uk.

The Levy for St Helens Council for 2020-21 will be £9,052,415.



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

For more information contact:
 Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority
 7th Floor
 No.1 Mann Island
 Liverpool
 L3 1BP
 Tel: **0151 255 1444**
 E-mail: enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk
 Web: www.merseysidewda.gov.uk
www.recycleformerseysideandhalton.com

Financial Summary

A comparison of Expenditure and Income for 2019-20 and 2020-21 is as follows.

	2019-20	2020-21
	£M	£M
Total Net Expenditure	76.408	77.045
Contribution to Reserves	0	0.502
Total Requirement	76.408	77.547
Use of Reserves	-1.411	0
Levy	74.998	77.547
Levy per head	£52.93	£54.49

4. Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 6500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is

spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

	2019/2020 '000s	2020/2021 '000s
Gross expenditure	£63,830	£98,276
Levies Raised	£4,017	£4,097
Total Council Tax Base	2,145	2,178

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by this committee has increased by 2.0%

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £4,016,646 in 2019/2020 to £4,096,979 for 2020/2021.



5. Liverpool City Region - Metro Mayor & Combined Authority



Steve Rotheram

Liverpool City Region
Metro Mayor



METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

The Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region works as head of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) to ensure that all areas of our region share in the benefits of a fair and prosperous local economy.

As well as leading on issues such as the economy, transport, housing and skills, the Mayor is responsible for shaping the future of our region around the needs of our communities. He is your voice and the voice of the Liverpool City Region on the world stage and when lobbying government for greater funding and local decision-making.

The Mayor is accountable to, and represents the people of, all six boroughs in Liverpool City Region: Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral.

In accordance with the Combined Authorities (Finance) Order 2017, the Metro Mayor is seeking to set a Mayoral precept for 2020/21 of £19 per Band D property - which is a freeze on the last year's precept and the lowest rate in the country. Most Council Tax payers across the City Region will pay a Band A Council Tax rate of £12.67 per year.

This funding will help the Metro Mayor and Combined Authority to keep delivering for you - as it has with the £400m of investment across the city region, the 9000 jobs and 5500 apprenticeships it has helped to create and the almost £50m it has invested in local colleges. The precept will enable LCRCA to ensure its long-term financial sustainability, and see that the Mayoral objectives - a London-style integrated transport network, a fairer, more inclusive local economy and a green industrial revolution - are delivered.

The movement in the gross expenditure budget is detailed below:

	£'000
Gross Expenditure 2019/20	159,935
Allowance for pay inflation	256
Increase in Merseytravel and Tunnels operating grants	347
Passport Special Rail Grant	94,557
Change in debt servicing costs	-1,428
Capital and capacity payments to Merseytravel	8,282
CA additional capacity and one off election costs	5,202
Halton Differential Levy	3,200
Gross Expenditure 2020/21	270,351

2019/19 £'000		2020/21 £'000
159,935	Gross Expenditure	270,351
(42,945)	Income and Specific Grants	(143,105)
(95,400)	Income from Levy	(97,403)
(13,915)	Contributions from Reserves	(21,828)
7,675	Council Tax Requirement	8,015
405,624	Tax Base	412,268
19.00	Band D Equivalent	19.00

For more information, visit:

www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Transport Funding

The LCRCA's transport responsibilities are funded through transport levies across each of the six councils.

This funds concessionary travel, subsidised bus services, the Mersey Ferries and a range of other services.

The transport levy 2020/21 for each of the Merseyside Councils within the LCRCA is:

	Transport Levy 2019/20 £000	Transport Levy 2020/21 £000
Knowsley	10,006	10,240
Liverpool	33,095	33,869
St Helens	12,073	12,321
Sefton	18,490	18,851
Wirral	21,736	22,123
Total	95,400	97,404

For historical and legal reasons Halton Council currently provide transport activities directly within the boundaries of the borough of Halton.

This is funded through a differential transport levy collected by Halton on behalf of the LCRCA which will be £3.2m for 2020/21.



Mayor Steve Rotheram

Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region



Mr John Fogarty, B.A. Hons, C.P.F.A.

Director of Corporate Services: Liverpool City Region Mayoral Combined Authority



6. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Merseyside

I have a statutory duty to ensure an efficient and effective police service is delivered by the Chief Constable on behalf of the public. Similarly I have a responsibility to produce an annual budget, including setting the council tax precept requirement for the police service on Merseyside. The council tax precept requirement provides the balance of funding not covered by government grant and is raised entirely and only for the police service.

The Government have finally recognised that they have cut police funding too far and consequently Police Officer numbers. To address this issue they have introduced a policy to recruit 20,000 Police Officers nationally by the 31st March 2023, referred to as 'Operation Uplift'. To support this policy, the Government has provided additional grant funding in 2020/21 to enable forces to meet their officer recruitment targets for the first stage of 'Operation Uplift'. Merseyside's first stage recruitment target is an additional 200 Police Officers by March 2021. It is currently envisaged that the Force will be required to recruit a

further 460 Police Officers by 31st March 2023.

However, the Government have not provided any additional grant to fund local inflationary pressures, commitments and pay awards. This funding gap will have to be met through the precept and efficiencies from the Force. The Government has increased the precept referendum threshold to allow all PCCs to increase their precepts by up to £10 on a Band D Equivalent Property without the need to hold a referendum.

I therefore decided to ask the public to support an increase in the precept and I am pleased that over 83% of those who responded to my budget consultation did so. Consequently, I have raised the precept by the maximum allowable, resulting in an additional £5m of precept income. In council tax terms the new precept is £141.31 per property per year at Band A (the majority of taxpayers on Merseyside) and £211.97 at Band D, an increase of £6.67 and £10.00 respectively on the 2019/20 levels.

Maximising the precept will not only enable me to set a balanced budget in 2020/21, but will maximise the funding available to enable the Chief Constable to recruit the 200 Police Officers required under the first phase of 'Operation Uplift', and additionally bring forward the anticipated recruitment of a further 300 Police Officers under 'Operation Uplift' by the end of March 2021.

Despite balancing the budget in 2020/21 there remains a very significant financial and policing challenge for the police service in the years ahead. An organisational strategy aimed at addressing this challenge is currently being developed by the Chief Constable.

Rt Hon Jane Kennedy
Police and Crime Commissioner
for Merseyside



Police and Crime Commissioner Budget

2019/20		2020/21	
£m		£m	
336.449	GROSS EXPENDITURE	370.193	
(2.600)	Income	(2.790)	
(7.723)	Specific Government Grants	(17.097)	
326.126	NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	350.306	
1.659	Net Contribution to/(from) Reserves	0.066	
327.785	NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	350.372	
(123.383)	Police General Grant	(133.069)	38.0%
(113.509)	DCLG Formula Funding	(121.553)	34.7%
(14.103)	Local Council Tax Support Grant	(14.103)	4.0%
(1.538)	Legacy Council Tax Freeze Grant	(1.538)	0.4%
(0.387)	Collection Fund Surplus	(0.216)	0.1%
74.865	COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	79.893	22.8%
370,674	Tax base	376,909	
£201.97	Band D Equivalent	£211.97	
£24.00	Increase in Band D Equivalent	£10.00	

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside

Why has the Gross Expenditure Changed?	£m
GROSS EXPENDITURE 2019/20	336.449
Operation Uplift	18.707
Allowance for Pay and Price Inflation	8.491
Violence Reduction Partnership Expenditure	3.370
Net Committed Growth/(Savings)	2.583
Increase in Other Specific Grant Expenditure	0.404
None Achievement of Savings from Previous Year	0.189
GROSS EXPENDITURE 2020/21	370.193

Why has the Council Tax Requirement Changed?	£m
Council Tax Requirement 2019/20	74.865
Increase in Tax base	1.259
Increase in Band D Equivalent	3.769
Council Tax Requirement 2020/21	79.893



7. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

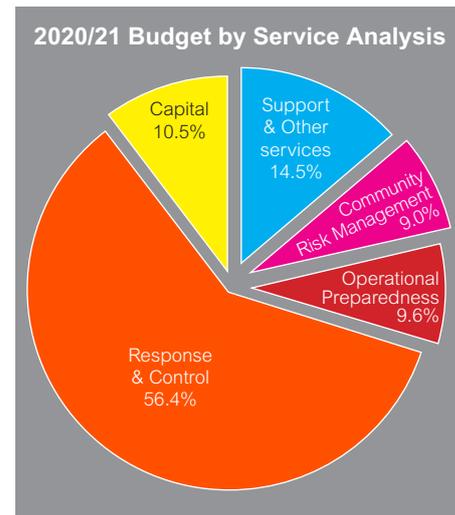
In 2010/11 63% of the Authority's budget was funded by a Government grant. Between 2010/11 and 2020/21 the Government cut the grant support it gives to the Authority by approximately 32% (50% in real terms). As a consequence over the same period the Authority's budget reduced by £11.365m or 15.5% (approximately 35% in real terms) from £73.326m to £61.961m. Unfortunately due to the level of cut in Government funding the Authority was left with no alternative but to find savings from its operational response services that resulted in significant reductions in firefighters, appliances and fire stations.

In 2019 the Authority was concerned that as a result of the; heightened terrorist threat; increasing environmental events; significant local building fires; and legislative changes stemming from the Grenfell Tower fire, that the frontline cuts had gone too far and gave a commitment to re-invest in frontline response and protection services. The Authority consulted with the public on its proposals to increase the number of available fire engines from 26 to 30 and increase the number of firefighters from 620 to 642

at an annual cost of £1.0m. The public overwhelmingly supported the planned re-investment and the 2020/21 budget now includes the proposed increase in response and protection services.

The Authority must adhere to its approved financial plan and increase council tax by just below 2% (the maximum allowable without holding a public referendum) in order to ensure the £1.0m new investment is sustainable over the longer term. This will mean the Band D Council Tax is therefore now £80.40. Most council taxpayers in Merseyside will pay Band A Council Tax of £53.60 about 15p per day towards their Fire and Rescue Service.

Approximately 75% of the Authority's 2020/21 budget remains committed to delivering operational response and preventative frontline services, as these functions have been recognised as priority areas by the public following extensive consultation. The servicing of historic capital investment funded through borrowing, 10.5%, relates mostly to previous investment in frontline activities such as fire stations, fire appliances and operational equipment.



The remaining 14.5% is on support services, of which a significant proportion relates to essential frontline service support such as insurance of vehicles and premises, the vehicle maintenance workshop and operational and fire control ICT costs.

After taking into account the expected pay and price inflation and other required budget changes the Authority has set a budget of £61.961m for 2020/21, £1.7m higher than that in 2019/20. The main changes between this year's budget and last year's budget are:

Increase in firefighter establishment to 642	£1.0m
LGPS pension deficit payment - no longer required	(£0.9m)
2020/21 forecast pay and price inflation impact	£1.5m
Unavoidable growth to cover historic lower income and higher spending levels	£0.7m
Expected saving on capital debt servicing costs	(£0.6m)
	£1.7m

The Authority has issued a precept on the five Merseyside District Councils of £30.303 million, St Helens contribution to expenditure financed by precept is £4.203 million, which represents 14% of the total precept.

Summary of Revenue Budget & Council Tax Requirement		
2019-20		2020-21
£'000		£'000
84,760	Gross Expenditure	87,977
-4,277	Net Contribution from Reserves	-5,571
-20,201	Income & specific Grants for services	-20,445
60,282	Budget Requirement	61,961
-245	Collection Fund & Business Rates Surplus	-343
-30,813	Government Grant & Business Rate Funding	-31,315
29,224	Council Tax Requirement	30,303
370,674	Tax-base	376,909
£78.84	Band D Equivalent	£80.40

Contact Us

The Authority values the opinions of the people it serves. If you wish to comment about the services of the Authority please contact Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters on 0151 296 4000.

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 Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
 Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,
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 Liverpool, L30 4YD
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Help keep council costs down



Manage your council tax online

Sign up for e-billing and help the council cut down on costly paperwork, visit:

www.sthelens.gov.uk/counciltax



Contact the council and make payments online

Online transactions cost the council roughly 32pence compared to £7.40 to speak to us. Use the self-service section of our website for fast and easy access to council services, visit:

www.sthelens.gov.uk/selfservice



Recycle more

Recycling helps protect our environment and reduces costs. Find out more on:

www.sthelens.gov.uk/recycling

Ways we can help



Energy Savings

Our Affordable Warmth team can help reduce your energy usage and save on your gas and electricity bills. Find out more at: www.sthelens.gov.uk/housing/energy-efficiency/



Work and Employment

If you are currently unemployed and would like advice or support about getting back into work call the 'Ways to Work' team on: **01744 676131**, or email: waystowork@sthelens.gov.uk



Money Advice

If you are having problems paying your Council Tax contact us immediately. Please visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/council-tax/problems-paying-your-council-tax/

Or call us on: **01744 675255**

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St.Helens Council

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