

Council Tax Information

Council Tax Charges - Enquiries

For queries concerning your charges please refer your enquiries to the relevant charging authority on the following telephone numbers:-

Nottinghamshire County Council (Customer Voice) 0300 500 8080

Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner 101

Combined Fire Authority 0115 967 0880

Rushcliffe Borough Council (Customer Services) 0115 981 9911

Parish Charges - please contact individual Parish Clerk

Valuation

The valuation of domestic property for Council Tax purposes is not carried out by Rushcliffe Borough Council. The value of your home has been assessed by the Valuation Office Agency, which is part of HM Revenues & Customs. Your home has been placed in one of eight valuation bands based on its estimated sale price on 1st April 1991. The fact that homes may be worth more today does not mean they have been put into the wrong band – the banding date was chosen in order to establish how much homes were worth relative to similar properties in the area and the bandings are not affected by any general movement in house prices. You can appeal if you think your house has been put in the wrong valuation band, but the rules are quite strict. **No appeals will be allowed if they are solely on the grounds of the general movement in house prices.**

Appeals may only be lodged if:

- there has been a material increase or reduction in the dwelling's value resulting from a physical change to the building or;
- you start or stop using part of the building to carry out a business or the balance between domestic and commercial use changes or;
- where you become the taxpayer in respect of that dwelling and less than six months have elapsed from that date.

Full details on how to appeal are available from the Listing Officer at the Valuation Office Agency (Council Tax East), Ground Floor, Ferrers House, Castle Meadow Road Nottingham, NG2 1AB. Telephone 03000 501501, or log on to www.voa.gov.uk.

Council Tax Bandings

Band A Property worth up to £40,000
Band B over £40,000 and up to £52,000
Band C over £52,000 and up to £68,000
Band D over £68,000 and up to £88,000
Band E over £88,000 and up to £120,000
Band F over £120,000 and up to £160,000
Band G over £160,000 and up to £320,000
Band H over £320,000

Discounts Allowable

Council Tax is made up of two equal parts. One part relates to the property and the other to the people who live there. The full Council Tax bill assumes that there are two adults living in a dwelling, so if there is only one adult resident in the property you may qualify for a 25% discount.

Certain groups of people are not counted when looking at the number of adults resident in a dwelling for Council Tax purposes, provided they meet certain conditions. These include:-

- Full-time students, student nurses, apprentices and Youth Training trainees
- People who are being looked after in care homes
- People who are severely mentally impaired
- People staying in certain hostels or night shelters
- 18 and 19 year olds who are at, or have just left school
- Care workers working for low pay, usually for Charities
- People caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner, or child under 18
- Members of visiting overseas forces and certain international institutions
- Members of religious communities
- People in prison (except those in prison for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine)
- Diplomats and members of international organisations headquartered in the U.K.

If you fall into one of these categories then please contact the Rushcliffe Community Contact Centre on 0115 981 9911 to check if you are entitled to a discount.

The Council has discretionary powers to vary the level of discounts awarded and has used these powers as follows:-

- Empty and unfurnished properties which need major repairs or are being structurally changed but remain empty will be limited to a discount of 50% for a period of 12 months regardless of whether the repairs or structural alterations have been completed. The discount period starts from the date the property became empty and unfurnished and subject to major repairs or structural alterations. (After 12 months 100% of the tax is due).
- Properties which have been unoccupied and unfurnished for less than 6 months will be entitled to a 50% discount. (After 6 months 100% of the tax is due).
- Properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished for more than 6 months are not entitled to a discount and council tax is charged at the full rate.

Council Tax is not payable on some dwellings

The Government has decided that Council Tax will not be payable on some properties (including those occupied only by students). Below are the main descriptions of exempt properties:

- Properties owned by Charities which have been empty for less than 6 months.
- Properties left empty by someone going to prison.
- Properties left empty by someone going to live in a hospital, care home or a nursing home.
- Properties left empty after someone has died and probate or letters of administration have not been granted. The exemption lasts until probate is granted and for 6 months after this whilst unoccupied.
- Empty properties which the law says cannot be occupied.
- Empty properties waiting to be used by a Minister of Religion.
- Properties left empty by someone who has moved to receive care, other than to a hospital, care home or nursing home. For example, a disabled person moving to live with a caring relative.
- Properties left empty by someone who has moved to care for another person.
- Empty properties owned and last used by a student (exemption lasts as long as the person who would normally pay the Council Tax is a full-time student).
- Empty properties repossessed because of non-payment of a mortgage.
- Student Halls of Residence.
- Properties in which only full time students live.
- Properties used by the Armed Forces.
- Properties for which a member of a visiting force is liable.
- Properties for which a trustee of a bankrupt person is liable.
- A caravan pitch or boat mooring that is not used.
- Properties where only people under 18 live.
- Empty properties which are part of a bigger building and cannot be let separately because of planning rules. For example, this could apply to empty granny flats.
- Properties where only people who are severely mentally impaired live.
- Properties in which a diplomat or member of an international organisation headquartered in the UK live (as defined in regulations).
- Annexe/self-contained properties occupied by elderly or disabled relatives.

If you are getting an exemption you must tell the Council about any changes which may affect the exemption within 21 days of the change. More advice on exempt properties, including discretionary reductions, is available from the Customer Contact Centre.

Other discounts

There are the following discounts also available. If you think any are applicable to you please contact us for further details:

- Occupied annexe discounts
- Certain young people who are have been in local authority care
- Discretionary discounts following financial hardship
- Tied accommodation

Long term empty properties

The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 allows local authorities to set a Long-term Empty Property Premium for Council Tax properties that have been empty for at least 2 years. This has subsequently been amended to allow a premium to be added to the Council Tax charge of 100%, which means that the overall charge is 200%.

At the meeting of 7 March 2019 Rushcliffe Borough Council members have decided to implement this legislation with effect from 1 April 2019. This is in accordance with the Council's aim of bringing empty properties back into use.

If you are disabled

You may qualify for a one band reduction in your Council Tax banding if you, or someone who lives with you, is substantially and permanently disabled. Properties in Band A will qualify for a reduction equal to 1/9th of a Band D property charge. To qualify, the disabled person must be living in the dwelling for which the reduction is being sought and there must be:-

- a room which is predominantly used by and required for meeting the needs of the disabled person; or
- a second bathroom or kitchen adapted for the needs of the disabled person; or
- a need to use a wheelchair indoors by the disabled person.

Help & Advice

If you need any help or advice regarding your council tax, then please ring our Community Contact Centre on 0115 981 9911 or visit the Revenues pages at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk. Personal visitors can be seen at the Rushcliffe Community Contact Centre on Rectory Road, West Bridgford. We are available to help at the following times:

From 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 1pm on the first Saturday of every month.

We are also available at:

- The Cotgrave Hub, Rivermead, Cotgrave, NG12 3UQ – Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.
- Bingham Medical Centre, Newgate Street, Bingham, NG13 8FD – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am to 5pm and Wednesday 9am to 1pm.
- East Leake Parish Council offices, Main Street, LE12 6PF – Tuesday 9am to 12.30pm.

For information about paying your council tax, please see the back of your bill or visit the Council Tax pages at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk.

Business Rates

Business Rates are paid by the occupiers of commercial and industrial properties in Rushcliffe. The rates are based on the rateable value of the occupied property, multiplied by a "rate poundage" which is set annually by the Government.

The rating of business property and appeals associated with the rateable values are not dealt with by Rushcliffe Borough Council. This is the responsibility of the Valuation Officer for Nottingham and enquiries should be made directly to the Valuation Office Agency on 03000 501501 or ratingeast@voa.gsi.gov.uk.

Mandatory/Discretionary Rate Relief may apply to certain village businesses within designated areas of less than 3,000 population. Other businesses of less than £16,500 Rateable Value in these rural areas, who benefit the local community, may also qualify for discretionary rate relief.

Anyone occupying a business property with a rateable value under £15,000 may be entitled to Small Business Rate Relief. Other reliefs are available, for further information contact Revenues Services on 0115 981 9911 or visit our website www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

Complaints

If you have a problem or complaint about any of the services provided by Rushcliffe Borough Council, please contact the Executive Manager concerned. If you cannot resolve your complaint with the relevant Executive Manager you may lodge a complaint under Rushcliffe's official complaints procedure and our Complaints Officer will carry out an independent investigation. If the matter still cannot be resolved you may contact the Local Government Ombudsman who is appointed by the Government. Your local Councillor is also available to offer help and advice. Leaflets on the Rushcliffe complaints procedure and the Ombudsman Service are available from the Community Contact Centre, or telephone 0115 981 9911 and speak to a Customer Services Advisor alternatively visit our website - www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

Council Tax Recovery

If you have arrears, then please contact us to discuss this. It should be noted that the Council will proceed to the issue of a summons, without further notice, if a reminder has already been issued in a financial year and it remains unpaid.

Fraud Prevention

To help prevent fraudulent claims for council tax discounts, council tax data will be shared with the Audit Commission and other organisations for comparison with their records.

Help us to help you

You are required to inform the Council, in writing, within 21 days, of any changes in your circumstances which may affect your entitlement to any discounts, exemptions and disabled reductions. Failure to do so may result in a penalty of £70 being imposed in the first instance and £280 for each subsequent failure.

Any notification should be addressed to Revenues Services, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7YG.

Alternatively, if you are unsure of the effect of a change, you may visit the Customer Services Centre or speak to a Customer Services Advisor on 0115 981 9911.

What Do You Get For Your Money?

Rushcliffe Borough Council provides a wide range of services for the Rushcliffe community costing a household living in a band D property £2.65 per week. In fact due to the types of property within Rushcliffe more than 55% of households will pay less.

The Borough Council administers the following services.

Protecting the environment and the community through:

Environmental Initiatives

Pollution Control

Health and safety

Food safety / Hygiene

Pest Control

Control of Development

Consideration of Planning Applications

Emergency Planning

Collection and recycling of refuse

Street cleaning

Licensing Regulations

Crime prevention and Community Safety

Community areas and leisure facilities including

Recreation Facilities - which consist of

5 Leisure Centres

Edwalton Municipal Golf Course

Rushcliffe Country Park

Maintenance of open spaces

Promoting special events

Electoral Registration and Elections

Responsibility for housing

Improving housing

Homelessness

Miscellaneous

Collection of income - Council Tax, Business

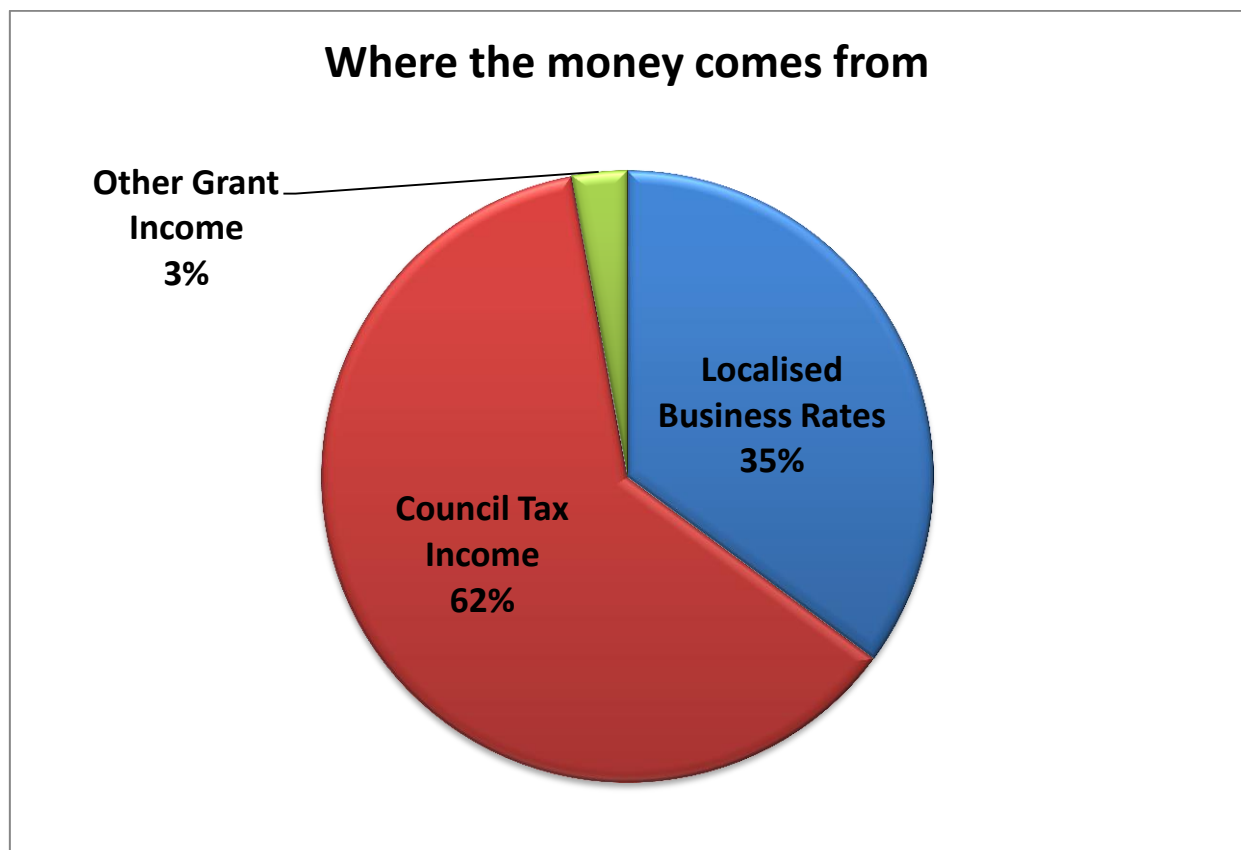
Rates and invoices for chargeable services

Administration of Benefits

RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL EXPENDITURE & INCOME 2019-20

2018-2019	Service	2019-2020			
Net		Gross	Gross	Net	per head
Expenditure £'million		Expenditure £'million	Income £'million	Expenditure £'million	£
2.66	Communities	6.34	(3.59)	2.75	23.72
3.19	Finance & Corporate Services	24.40	(21.01)	3.39	29.26
5.96	Neighbourhoods	16.25	(9.74)	6.50	56.08
(0.12)	Transformation	7.03	(6.86)	0.17	1.5
11.69	Net Service Expenditure	54.02	(41.19)	12.82	110.55
(2.23)	Depreciation	(2.33)	0.00	(2.33)	(20.11)
0.13	Revenue Contribution to Capital	0.13	0.00	0.13	1.14
1.00	Debt Repayment	1.00	0.00	1.00	8.62
(0.98)	Transfer to/(from) reserves	0.00	(1.19)	(1.19)	(10.3)
9.61	Cost of services for council tax purposes	52.82	(42.39)	10.43	89.9

The net service expenditure is £10.428m, the chart below illustrates where this money will come from in 2019-20.



- Central Government Grant
£NIL 2019/20 (£130,000 2018/19)
- Council Tax
£6,645,900 2019/20 (£6,345,800 2018/19)
- Retained Business Rates including Small Business Rate Relief
£3,767,000 2019/20 (£2,989,800 2018/19)
- Other Grant Income
£314,300 2019/20 (£138,700 2018/19)

The amount to be raised from the Council Tax represents a band “D” rate of £137.79 for Borough Council Services and an average Band “D” tax rate of £204.08 including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses

Special Expenses

In West Bridgford there is no Parish Council. Local recreation and community facilities that are provided by Parish Councils elsewhere are provided by Rushcliffe Borough Council at a cost of £683,000. A small amount - £9,100 – is spent by Rushcliffe in the Parishes of Ruddington and £4,200 in Keyworth. Special charges are made to cover these expenses. The special charge on a band D property in West Bridgford is £48.51, in Keyworth it is £1.60 and in Ruddington it is £3.37 with other amounts payable in different bands.

Capital Investment

The Council has approved a Capital Programme for this year (2019/20) of £16.258m. Schemes include Bingham Leisure Hub, Cotgrave regeneration, Crematorium and development at Fairham Pastures.

Parish Expenditure

The table below shows the amount each Parish Council requires from its own local residents to pay for services in the Parish. The precept shown is for both 2019/20 and the preceding year, together with the additional council tax rate that applies to a band D property in the area.

Parish Area	Parish Band D Tax Rate	Parish Band D Tax Rate	Precept	Precept
	2019/20	Increases/ (Decreases)	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£	£	£
Aslockton	22.01	2.21	9,148	7,875
Barton-in-Fabis	25.92	(1.85)	3,717	3,327
Bingham	79.93	3.07	283,414	268,280
Bradmore	18.04	-	3,022	3,022
Bunny	64.69	1.51	19,000	18,500
Car Colston	-	-	-	-
Clipston	-	-	-	-
Colston Bassett	89.29	14.78	11,000	9,180
Costock	65.33	16.75	19,500	14,500
Cotgrave	93.53	0.32	219,300	214,705
Cropwell Bishop	144.58	1.42	91,735	90,835
Cropwell Butler	36.42	0.33	12,300	12,188
East Bridgford	48.29	1.29	39,634	38,288
East Leake	93.65	2.84	283,356	265,606
Elton-On-The-Hill	-	-	-	-
Flawborough	-	-	-	-
Flintham	64.68	1.87	14,250	13,260
Gotham	63.49	1.24	38,146	37,398
Granby cum Sutton	58.10	(0.01)	10,226	10,198
Hawksworth	148.28	-	9,920	9,920
Hickling	30.15	1.16	7,520	7,230
Holme Pierrepont & Gamston	34.36	(0.55)	37,300	37,900
Keyworth	67.56	0.96	176,850	173,390

Parish Area	Parish Band D Tax Rate	Parish Band D Tax Rate	Precept	Precept
	2019/20	Increases/ (Decreases)	2019/20	2018/19
Kingston-on-Soar	32.08	-	4,125	4,100
Kinoulton	15.38	-	6,500	6,500
Kneeton	-	-	-	-
Langar cum Barnstone	105.70	2.78	36,941	35,477
Newton	56.36	5.00	18,200	15,470
Normanton-on-Soar	72.55	1.34	13,603	13,351
Normanton-on-the-Wolds	47.91	-	7,296	7,296
Orston	42.21	0.75	9,211	9,046
Owthorpe	-	-	-	-
Plumtree	40.42	1.01	4,923	4,800
Radcliffe-on-Trent	93.62	-	300,118	300,118
Ratcliffe-on-Soar	-	-	-	-
Rempstone	25.20	(0.03)	5,088	5,088
Ruddington	110.93	-	299,590	297,315
Saxondale	-	-	-	-
Scarrington	8.87	-	750	750
Screveton	-	-	-	-
Shelford	86.21	10.43	10,000	8,790
Shelton	9.63	1.60	600	500
Sibthorpe	29.11	1.71	1,700	1,600
Stanford-on-Soar	80.33	(0.51)	5,125	5,125
Stanton-on-the-Wolds	33.88	5.10	7,240	6,150
Sutton Bonington	39.84	(0.09)	25,801	25,801
Thoroton	-	-	-	-
Thrumpton	49.93	0.00	3,680	3,575
Tollerton	72.25	2.90	58,674	55,950
Upper Broughton	52.50	0.00	8,500	8,500
West Leake	29.90	(0.22)	2,033	2,033
Whatton-in-the-Vale	42.08	9.46	15,815	12,035
Widmerpool	35.46	0.92	6,036	5,878
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds	38.17	0.37	10,925	10,606
Wiverton & Tithby	-	-	-	-
Wysall & Thorpe	70.76	12.38	14,300	11,798

Council Tax Charge Increases 2019-20

Band	Nottinghamshire County Council	Nottinghamshire County Council – Adult Social Care	Fire	Police	Borough	Total
A	28.29	9.46	1.53	15.96	3.30	58.54
B	33.01	11.04	1.78	18.62	3.85	68.30
C	37.72	12.61	2.03	21.28	4.40	78.04
D	42.44	14.19	2.29	23.94	4.95	87.81
E	51.87	17.34	2.80	29.26	6.05	107.32
F	61.31	20.49	3.31	34.58	7.15	126.84
G	70.73	23.65	3.82	39.90	8.25	146.35
H	84.88	28.38	4.58	47.88	9.90	175.62

The Average charge for a band D property in Rushcliffe in 2019/20 is: £1,979.27

Average Council Tax at band D:	2018/19	2019/20	Increase	
	£	£	£	%
County Council	1,328.85	1,371.29	42.44	2.99
County Council – Adult Social Care	90.58	104.77	14.19	1.00
Police Authority	195.39	219.33	23.94	12.25
Fire Authority	77.51	79.80	2.29	2.95
Borough Council	132.84	137.79	4.95	3.73
Parish Council	65.21	66.29	1.08	1.66
Total	1,890.38	1,979.27	88.89	4.70

Enquiries about the content of this leaflet or any comments about the Council's finances should be directed to the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services, at;
 Rushcliffe Borough Council
 Rushcliffe Arena
 Rugby Road
 West Bridgford
 Nottingham
 NG2 7YG
 Tel: 0115 981 9911