Your Council Tax
2016/17
A brief summary

Budgets and spending plans for Bournemouth’s local services
bournemouth.gov.uk
Introduction

Dear Resident,

After five years of maintaining frozen Council Tax bills in Bournemouth, we have reluctantly had to increase your Council Tax for 2016/17 by 3.99% which has allowed us to set a gross expenditure budget of £425M for the forthcoming year.

This difficult decision was taken in response to government policy, increasing demand for services, particularly social care, and yet more reductions to our Revenue Support Grant which has been cut by £7.6M in 2016/17 with a further £6.9M cut expected in 2017/18.

The increase in Council Tax is made up of two parts: - a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and the addition of a new 2% Adult Social Care (ASC) precept option introduced by the Government. Your Council has decided to take up this option to support our most vulnerable adults. This new ASC precept will be identified separately on your Council Tax bill from Bournemouth Council.

Since 2007, the Council has adopted a strategy of strong, proactive financial management, securing efficiencies and delivering service improvements through innovation. This has allowed us to make significant savings of over £222M since 2007, which in turn has enabled us to protect the services valued by our residents.

In order to supplement your Council’s income, we have established a number of commercial businesses in building maintenance (Seascape) and adult social care (Tricuro) allowing us to commercially trade those services and use any surplus income to support the budget. We have also decided to bring back in-house services provided under the Kier partnership – this will enable us to remain agile and unfettered by contractual arrangements as we explore the options with other Dorset councils to establish a new local authority for the urban conurbation of South East Dorset.

Our underlying strategy of ‘Building a Better Bournemouth’ will continue to address the issues that are of greatest importance to residents; making Bournemouth safer, protecting the vulnerable, helping to stimulate the local economy, improving amenities, increasing the availability of affordable housing, and tackling the issues of social deprivation.

We continue to be ambitious and are determined to improve the local economy and the quality of life for Bournemouth residents. For example, the Seafront Strategy and Town Centre Vision will deliver more improvements in 2016/17, including extending redevelopment along the seafront following the works at Pier Approach. Additionally, our housing strategy will continue to deliver new homes for Council tenants, affordable homes for local people to buy, and measures to improve standards in the private rental sector.

We have also made great strides to improve access to the Council by making it easier for you to find out more about our services, apply and pay for them, or report an issue - all online through our award winning website.

Your Council is committed to do more than ever to deliver the quality of services you rightly expect. Although there is still much to do and further improvements to be made, I have been greatly encouraged by the results of the latest residents’ survey (the Bournemouth Opinion Survey), which indicates that you feel we are on the right track and making a positive difference to the wellbeing, safety and prosperity of Bournemouth’s residents, businesses and communities.

Councillor John Beesley
Leader of Bournemouth Council
Finances

Where the money comes from

The pie chart opposite shows the percentage mix of funds your Council receives which it uses to provide local services.

- Council Tax: 19.8%
- Business Rates: 7.6%
- Revenue Support Grant: 4.5%
- Other Government Grants: 21.2%
- Corporate Funding: 9.4%
- Housing Benefit Subsidy: 19.8%
- Leasing, Renting and Hire Charges: 6.9%
- Service Fees and Charges: 10.8%
- Adult Social Care: 18.1%
- Children’s Social Care: 6.7%
- Community Learning & Commissioning: 15.3%
- Children & Young People: 6.1%
- Environment, Highways and Regeneration: 4.4%
- Refuse Collection and Disposal: 1.6%
- Housing Benefits: 19.8%
- Business Support: 9.3%
- Corporate Items: 3.4%
- Planning, Transport & Regulation: 4.5%
- Housing, Parks & Bereavement: 8.7%
- Tourism: 2.1%

The percentages depicted in these pie charts reflect the gross income and expenditure for Bournemouth Council of £425M for 2016/17.

Where the money is spent

The pie chart below shows the percentage mix of what we spend on local services.

- Adult Social Care: 18.1%
- Children’s Social Care: 6.7%
- Community Learning & Commissioning: 15.3%
- Children & Young People: 6.1%
- Environment, Highways and Regeneration: 4.4%
- Refuse Collection and Disposal: 1.6%
- Housing Benefits: 19.8%
- Business Support: 9.3%
- Corporate Items: 3.4%
- Planning, Transport & Regulation: 4.5%
- Housing, Parks & Bereavement: 8.7%
- Tourism: 2.1%
Easy ways to pay your bill

There are a number of ways you can pay your Council Tax and Business Rates, including by 12 instalments. Let us know if you want to do so.

**Pay by Direct Debit**
You can pay on the 1st, 8th, 15th or 22nd of each month (for Business rates you can pay on the 1st or 15th). Use the form on the bill or call us on 01202 451597 to set this up for you.

**Pay Online**
at www.bournemouth.gov.uk/pay

**Pay by Phone**
By calling our automated payment line 24/7 on 01202 454748

For other ways to pay, please see details on the back of your Council Tax bill.
In any correspondence with the Council, please remember to quote your Council Tax reference number which you can find on the front of your bill.

**For more information**

Your Council Tax bill shows the total charge for your property, including the separate charges made by Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Bournemouth Council.

For more information on the Police and Fire precepts, please visit:

Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner -
www.dorset.pcc.police.uk

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority -
www.dwfire.org.uk

To request a hard copy of the Council Tax information available on our website, please write to the address at the bottom of this page.

**Different language?**

**Polish**
Niniejsze informacje dotyczą Podatku Lokalnego i wydatków na usługi lokalne. Skróconą wersję dla łatwego przetłumaczenia na Państwa język można znaleźć pod adresem: bournemouth.gov.uk/counciltax

**Portuguese**
Esta informação é sobre o Conselho Fiscal e os gastos em serviços locais. Uma versão resumida para fácil tradução para seu idioma pode ser encontrada em: bournemouth.gov.uk/counciltax

**You can find a large print and audio summary online at:**
www.bournemouth.gov.uk/counciltax

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