

Your 2020/21 services

Swale Borough Council



How your Council Tax helps pay for the services we provide





About your Council Tax

Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority together deliver most of the local services in your area. If you live in an area with a parish/town council, it too provides some local services. This leaflet provides information from each of these authorities.



The Council Tax you pay is collected by Swale Borough Council on behalf of all the above authorities. The total amount is then divided between these authorities (see table on page 7).





Calculation of the Council Tax



Last May saw control of Swale Council passing from the Conservatives to a Coalition of parties. This inevitably led to new priorities: controlling speculative housing growth but investing in affordable housing for local people and tackling homelessness, improving public health, engaging with the community and meeting the challenge of climate change.

Whilst maintaining sound financial management, we have found the resources to improve the public facilities experienced by the community, making improvement grants to Faversham Pool and Sheppey Borough Hall, improving play areas and parks and bringing forward new and improved public toilets.

Given the uncertainties that will face Councils over the next few years I do have to ask for an increase of £4.95 a year for Band D Council tax. I know very well that this is only a small part of the Council tax that you have to pay, with substantial rises from other preceptors, and I only ask for this to enable us to sustain our core services.

Cllr Roger Truelove, Leader, Swale Borough Council.

	2019/20 £	2020/21 £
Swale Borough Council Net Expenditure (Budget Requirement)	16,138,754	17,487,795
Less: Revenue Support Grant	-113,000	-115,000
Business Rates	-7,768,000	-8,750,000
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale	8,257,754	8,622,795

This amount is then divided by the Tax Base* for Swale which is	47,344.08	48,072.67
Giving a Swale Council Tax for a Band D property of	£174.42	£179.37
To which is added		
Kent County Council Tax of	£1,299.42	£1,351.26
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Tax of	£193.15	£203.15
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority Tax of	£77.76	£79.29
Giving a total Council Tax for a Band D property of	£1,744.75	£1,813.07

*The Tax Base is the equivalent number of Band D properties in the area after allowing for the relative proportions payable by all other bands and the fact that some of those properties may pay a reduced amount because of discounts.



Your Council Tax Bill

Valuation bands

Most homes whether rented or owned have to pay Council Tax. The Valuation Office Agency has placed every property into one of eight valuation bands according to its estimated open market capital value on 1 April 1991.

Valuation Band range of values

A	Up to £40,000
B	£40,001 - £52,000
C	£52,001 - £68,000
D	£68,001 - £88,000
E	£88,001 - £120,000
F	£120,001 - £160,000
G	£160,001 - £320,000
H	More than £320,000

If you think that your property band is wrong, you need to contact the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and ask to have your band reviewed. Your local office can be contacted via www.gov.uk/voa/contact

Empty Properties

If your home is empty, for a period of up to 1 month you may be able to claim a discount. If your property is empty for more than 2 years you may be charged a premium of 100%. If your property has been empty for more than 5 years, the premium will be 200% from 1 April 2020.

For more information please visit www.swale.gov.uk/exemptions-discounts

Discounts

If only one adult over the age of 18 lives in a property as their main home, the Council Tax bill can be reduced by 25%. Some people do not count towards the number of adults resident in a property including people who are:

- Full time students / student nurses
- In hospital or care homes
- Severely mentally impaired
- Detained in prison

Disabled Person Relief

If you or someone who lives with you has a disability, you may be entitled to a reduction. For more information please contact the Council Tax team.



Your Council Tax 2020/21



Exemptions

Any property that falls within one of the following classes will be exempt from Council Tax:

A	Vacant and unfurnished for up to 12 months. Property which requires structural alteration or major repair
B	Vacant up to 6 months and owned by a charity
D	Property left empty by someone who has been detained in prison
E	Property left empty by someone who has moved into a care home or hospital
F	Property left empty by the estate of a deceased person for up to six months after grant of probate
G	Occupation is prohibited by law
H	Vacant and being held available for a Minister of Religion
I	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to receive personal care
J	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to provide personal care
K	Vacant but previously occupied by students
L	Vacant where mortgagee is in possession
M	Student Halls of Residence
N	Property occupied solely by students

O	Properties owned by Secretary of State for Defence - Armed Forces accommodation
P	Properties occupied by members of Visiting Forces
Q	Property where liable person is a trustee in bankruptcy
R	Vacant pitch or mooring
S	Property solely occupied by under 18s
T	Vacant annexe that cannot be let separately without breaching planning conditions
U	Occupied solely by the severely mentally impaired
V	Occupied by a Diplomat, who is not a British Citizen
W	Separately banded annexe occupied by a dependant relative

For full details of all discounts and exemptions now available (and the qualifying conditions) please contact the Council Tax team or visit www.swale.gov.uk/exemptions-discounts



Appeals

If you think that you should not be billed for Council Tax, or the Council has made a mistake in calculating your bill or your Council Tax Support, you can appeal. Appeals should initially be made in writing to the Council. The Council will look at your appeal first and try to resolve any issues. If you are not happy with our decision, we will provide you with details of how to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal Service who are independent from the Council. You should keep paying your bill even if you have appealed.

Council Tax Support

For further information on Council Tax Support please view our Council Tax Support page. If you are on a low income or living with other adults on a low income, you may be entitled to some help to pay your Council Tax. To find out if you are entitled to Council Tax Support contact our Benefits Team or view our Benefits page.

If you suspect someone is committing benefit fraud, please let us know. You can report a suspected fraud in confidence, by phoning the Benefit Fraud Hotline on 0800 854440 or report it online www.swale.gov.uk





Expenditure 2020/21

	Gross Expenditure 2019/20 £000	Net Expenditure 2019/20 £000	Gross Expenditure 2020/21 £000	Net Expenditure 2020/21 £000
Corporate & Democratic Services	3,678	2,558	3,693	2,704
Local tax collection, Elections, Land Charges, etc.	2,148	1,203	2,187	1,206
Cultural, Environmental and Planning Services	16,427	12,610	16,716	13,131
Highways, Roads & Transportation Services	1,700	-1,049	2,031	-729
Housing Services	48,525	2,237	50,427	2,841
Other Services		1,806		816
Total Expenditure		19,365		19,969
Contributions to/(from) funds		-1,351		-848
New Homes Bonus		-1,875		-1,633
Revenue Support Grant & Business Rates		-7,881		-8,865
Council Tax Requirement		8,258		8,623

Joint Council Tax Breakdown

House Band	Kent County Council £	Kent Police & Crime Commissioner £	Swale Borough Council £	Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority £	Total Council Tax (excluding parish precepts) £
A	900.84	135.43	119.58	52.86	1,208.71
B	1,050.98	158.01	139.51	61.67	1,410.17
C	1,201.12	180.58	159.44	70.48	1,611.62
D	1,351.26	203.15	179.37	79.29	1,813.07
E	1,651.54	248.29	219.23	96.91	2,215.97
F	1,951.82	293.44	259.09	114.53	2,618.88
G	2,252.10	338.58	298.95	132.15	3,021.78
H	2,702.52	406.30	358.74	158.58	3,626.14



Statement of Parish Precepts for 2020/21

Parish/Town Council	Parish Precept 2019/20 £	Parish Precept 2020/21 £	Tax Base 2020/21	Parish Band D Council Tax 2020/21 £
Bapchild	12,125	12,489	460.15	27.14
Bobbing	19,806	20,046	1,004.80	19.95
Borden	59,000	59,542	1,085.28	54.86
Boughton-under-Blean	56,635	59,897	699.83	85.59
Bredgar	10,121	10,273	286.02	35.92
Doddington	8,732	8,732	228.60	38.20
Dunkirk	12,027	14,907	518.27	28.76
Eastchurch	34,362	39,125	827.07	47.31
Eastling	5,116	5,259	150.27	35.00
Faversham Town Council	368,684	496,710	6,363.72	78.05
Goodnestone & Graveney	11,127	11,230	189.28	59.33
Hartlip	8,000	8,000	369.11	21.67
Hernhill	10,000	10,500	288.91	36.34
Iwade	51,470	51,478	1,452.95	35.43
Leysdown	25,000	35,890	1,150.39	31.20
Lower Halstow	37,000	37,740	460.80	81.90
Luddenham	0	0	43.81	0.00
Lynsted	17,049	17,049	473.79	35.98
Milstead	5,500	5,500	88.73	61.99
Minster	152,459	197,471	5,642.03	35.00
Newington	47,842	51,542	939.69	54.85
Newnham	5,295	5,464	159.34	34.29
Norton & Buckland	6,320	6,696	187.57	35.70
Oare	8,825	9,000	173.40	51.90
Ospringe	7,500	7,500	284.62	26.35
Queenborough Town Council	65,000	68,500	901.75	75.96
Rodmersham	10,500	10,500	246.97	42.52
Selling	20,254	13,000	369.87	35.15
Sheerness Town Council	139,962	139,962	2,831.98	49.42
Sheldwich, Leaveland & Badlesmere	8,600	8,600	346.34	24.83
Stalisfield	2,925	2,929	100.53	29.14
Teynham	49,480	49,480	907.45	54.53
Throwley	3,098	3,408	140.89	24.19
Tonge	2,200	2,200	439.07	5.01
Tunstall	20,212	22,021	707.92	31.11
Upchurch	50,177	55,915	1,025.96	54.50
Warden	15,000	15,000	508.30	29.51





Contact information

If you have any comments or questions about the information provided, please contact:

Swale Borough Council

Telephone: **01795 417850**

Email: **csc@swale.gov.uk**

Write to:

**Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street,
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT**

Website: **www.swale.gov.uk/your-services**

Kent Police & Crime Commissioner

Telephone: **01622 677055**

Email: **contactyourpcc@pcc.kent.pnn.police.uk**

Write to:

**Office of the Kent Police & Crime
Commissioner,
Kent Police Headquarters,
Sutton Road, Maidstone ME15 9BZ**

Website: **www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/spending**

Kent County Council

Telephone: **03000 41 41 41**

Email: **council.tax@kent.gov.uk**

Write to:

**Kent County Council, Room 3.08,
Sessions House, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1XQ**

Website: **www.kent.gov.uk/counciltax**

Kent and Medway

Fire and Rescue Authority

Telephone: **01622 692121**

Email: **KFRSFinance@kent.fire-uk.org**

Write to:

**Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue
Authority Headquarters, Straw Mill
Hill, Tovil, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6XB**

Website: **www.kent.fire-uk.org/about-us/financial-information/council-tax/council-tax-2020-21/**

If you have a question about paying your council tax bill or claiming council tax support, please contact Swale Borough Council using the details above.



How to pay • Help and advice • Benefits information • Get in touch
and much more from Kent County Council,
Swale Borough Council, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority