

Your 2021/22 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



As I am sure everyone understands, the last financial year has been difficult for councils like Swale. Responding to government direction, we have incurred increased costs in tackling homelessness, rough sleeping, providing community support to local people and in spreading the message to keep everyone safe. At the same time, we have inevitably lost normal income from services we provide. Overall, our revenue budget has been stretched by approximately £4 million, about 20% on top of what we planned. However, by good management and through government funding we have survived without having to touch our reserve funds.

The coming year is going to be equally challenging. However, I am determined that Swale Council must play a role in supporting recovery and resilience in our local economy and in providing people with more opportunities to enjoy themselves. I dearly hope that all the money previously borrowed by the Council for Sittingbourne Town Centre will now see a return in real opportunities for the people of Swale. We will also be moving forward with the Rainbow Housing Company which over the years to come will provide affordable housing in good locations.

Swale is better placed than many Councils, but for future financial security, we will be asking for a Council tax rise of £4.95 a year for Band D properties.

Cllr Roger Truelove, Leader, Swale Borough Council.

	2020/21 £	2021/22 £
Swale Borough Council Net Expenditure	17,487,795	17,612,755
Less: Revenue Support Grant Business Rates	-115,000 -8,750,000	-116,000 -8,642,000
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale	8,622,795	8,854,755

This amount is then divided by the Tax Base* for Swale which is	48,072.67	48,040.12
Giving a Swale Council Tax for a Band D property of	£179.37	£184.32
To which is added		
Kent County Council Tax of	£1,351.26	£1,418.76
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Tax of	£203.15	£218.15
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority Tax of	£79.29	£80.82
Giving a total Council Tax for a Band D property of	£1,813.07	£1,902.05

*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 is

200% and if it has been empty for more than 10 years the premium will be 300% from 1 April 2021.

For more information please visit www.swale.gov.uk/ctdde

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 2021/22



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	O	Properties owned by Secretary of State for Defence - Armed Forces accommodation
B	Vacant up to 6 months and owned by a charity	P	Properties occupied by members of Visiting Forces
D	Property left empty by someone who has been detained in prison	Q	Property where liable person is a trustee in bankruptcy
E	Property left empty by someone who has moved into a care home or hospital	R	Vacant pitch or mooring
F	Property left empty by the estate of a deceased person for up to six months after grant of probate	S	Property solely occupied by under 18s
G	Occupation is prohibited by law	T	Vacant annexe that cannot be let separately without breaching planning conditions
H	Vacant and being held available for a Minister of Religion	U	Occupied solely by the severely mentally impaired
I	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to receive personal care	V	Occupied by a Diplomat, who is not a British Citizen
J	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to provide personal care	W	Separately banded annexe occupied by a dependant relative
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		

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/ctdde



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 at www.swale.gov.uk/housing-council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/council-tax-support

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



Your Council Tax 2021/22



Expenditure 2021/22

	Gross Expenditure 2020/21 £000	Net Expenditure 2020/21 £000	Gross Expenditure 2021/22 £000	Net Expenditure 2021/22 £000
Corporate & Democratic Services	3,693	2,704	3,831	2,613
Local tax collection, Elections, Land Charges, etc.	2,187	1,206	2,354	1,487
Cultural, Environmental and Planning Services	16,716	13,131	17,187	13,518
Highways, Roads & Transportation Services	2,031	-729	2,102	-819
Housing Services	50,427	2,841	40,890	3,482
Other Services		816		306
Total Service Expenditure		19,969		20,587
Contributions to/(from) funds		-848		-569
Additional Grants		0		-1,377
New Homes Bonus		-1,633		-1,028
Net Expenditure		17,488		17,613
Revenue Support Grant & Business Rates		-8,865		-8,758
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale		8,623		8,855

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	945.84	145.43	122.88	53.88	1,268.03
B	1,103.48	169.67	143.36	62.86	1,479.37
C	1,261.12	193.91	163.84	71.84	1,690.71
D	1,418.76	218.15	184.32	80.82	1,902.05
E	1,734.04	266.63	225.28	98.78	2,324.73
F	2,049.32	315.11	266.24	116.74	2,747.41
G	2,364.60	363.58	307.20	134.70	3,170.08
H	2,837.52	436.30	368.64	161.64	3,804.10



Statement of Parish Precepts for 2021/22

Parish/Town Council	Parish Precept 2020/21 £	Parish Precept 2021/22 £	Tax Base 2021/22	Parish Band D Council Tax 2021/22 £
Bapchild	12,489	12,989	467.89	27.76
Bobbing	20,046	19,000	986.83	19.25
Borden	59,542	61,000	1,093.14	55.80
Boughton-under-Blean	59,897	58,645	685.20	85.59
Bredgar	10,273	10,273	287.51	35.73
Doddington	8,732	8,734	228.63	38.20
Dunkirk	14,907	13,714	510.27	26.88
Eastchurch	39,125	39,085	839.25	46.57
Eastling	5,259	5,155	147.29	35.00
Faversham Town Council	496,710	504,997	6,469.93	78.05
Goodnestone & Graveney	11,230	11,530	187.71	61.42
Hartlip	8,000	8,000	368.43	21.71
Hernhill	10,500	10,500	289.52	36.27
Iwade	51,478	51,372	1,449.96	35.43
Leysdown	35,890	35,890	1,144.60	31.36
Lower Halstow	37,740	37,740	456.94	82.59
Luddenham	0	0	45.44	0
Lynsted	17,049	17,049	469.41	36.32
Milstead	5,500	5,500	90.58	60.72
Minster	197,471	196,246	5,607.04	35.00
Newington	51,542	54,256	989.17	54.85
Newnham	5,464	5,241	152.83	34.29
Norton & Buckland	6,696	7,087	187.86	37.72
Oare	9,000	10,000	173.51	57.63
Ospringe	7,500	7,875	280.61	28.06
Queenborough Town Council	68,500	68,500	899.90	76.12
Rodmersham	10,500	10,500	244.91	42.87
Selling	13,000	13,000	372.15	34.93
Sheerness Town Council	139,962	139,962	2,782.62	50.30
Sheldwich, Leaveland & Badlesmere	8,600	8,600	347.40	24.76
Stalisfield	2,929	2,935	100.71	29.14
Teynham	49,480	51,480	908.80	56.65
Throwley	3,408	3,749	145.75	25.72
Tonge	2,200	2,200	436.37	5.04
Tunstall	22,021	20,859	705.78	29.55
Upchurch	55,915	46,294	1,030.30	44.93
Warden	15,000	15,000	499.66	30.02





Contact information

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

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/news-and-your-council/publications/council-tax/your-services

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/about-the-council/

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

Telephone: **01622 677055**

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

Write to:

**Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Police Headquarters,
Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9bz**

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

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 (please enter this website address manually): www.kent.fire-uk.org/about-us/

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