

Your Council Tax

2017/2018



Your budget explained

In setting the budget for 2017/18 East Renfrewshire Council has committed to extra investment of more than £4million in a range of key services. This includes:

- £1.6m in upgrading local roads and footpaths,
- £1.1m for education projects including putting our schools at the forefront of digital learning in Scotland,
- Halving the cost of wraparound child care in Council nurseries by 50 per cent, saving some parents more than £1,200 per year,
- £755,000 for a range of wider environmental improvements across the whole of East Renfrewshire,
- £100,000 for more aids and adaptations in the home for our most vulnerable residents.

These investments are in addition to a programme of capital projects worth more than £131million over the next eight years to drive growth and invest in key infrastructure projects.

Despite these investments, the financial pressures facing the Council now, and in the future, are very significant. For 2017/18 alone savings of more than £7 million have been required to balance our budget. Therefore, to prepare for the financial challenges ahead, protect against cuts and enable investment the Council also agreed to increase local Council Tax for 2017/18 by three per cent. This is the first increase in a decade – following the lifting of the Council Tax freeze by the Scottish Government.

This three per cent increase is separate from the nationwide Council Tax changes for bands E – H which have already been set by the Scottish Parliament.

This leaflet sets out the revised Council Tax charges for 2017/18.

For low income families and anyone struggling to manage their bills we have a range of services in place to help you which are detailed on the back page.

Water and waste water

Council Tax bills also include charges made by Scottish Water for water and waste water services. The charge for this part of the Council Tax bill is set by the water authority. The Council is legally required to collect these charges but retains none of the income. For more information on your water and waste water charges, please contact the Scottish Water Customer Helpline on 0845 601 8855 or email customer.services@scottishwater.co.uk

Spending on our services

The Council is planning to spend £230.51m on the provision of services in 2017/18. Government grants will pay for £175.97m (76%) of the total expenditure, reserves will contribute £2.8m (1%) and Council Tax will meet the remaining costs of £51.74m (23%). The band D Council Tax rate in 2017/18 is £1,159.78 (compared to £1,126 in 2016/17). The Scottish average in 2016/17 was £1,149.

Our planned spend is 3.62% above the Scottish Government support figure. The expenditure figure used by the Government in the “Aggregate External Finance” (Government Support) calculation is £4,635 for each band D property and this compares to £4,803 proposed spending by the council.

Council Employees (full-time equivalents)

2017/2018	3,622	Decrease	0
2016/2017	3,622	% change	0%

Council Tax 2017/18

This is how your Council Tax is calculated:

CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX	£ million (m)
Gross Expenditure	236.91
Less Fees and Charges	6.40
Net Expenditure	230.51

Council Tax Charges

Band	Council Tax Charge 2016/17	Scottish Parliament increase 2017/18	East Renfrewshire Council increase 2017/18	Total Council Tax Charge 2017/18	Total Council Tax Charge with single person's discount (25%)
A	£750.67	£0.00	£22.52	£773.19	£579.89
B	£875.78	£0.00	£26.27	£902.05	£676.54
C	£1,000.89	£0.00	£30.03	£1,030.92	£773.19
D	£1,126.00	£0.00	£33.78	£1,159.78	£869.84
E	£1,376.22	£103.22	£44.38	£1,523.82	£1,142.87
F	£1,626.44	£203.31	£54.89	£1,884.64	£1,413.48
G	£1,876.67	£328.41	£66.16	£2,271.24	£1,703.43
H	£2,252.00	£506.70	£82.76	£2,841.46	£2,131.10

These figures do not include Scottish Water charges.

Scottish Water will increase their charges for water and waste water by 1.6% in 2017/18.

Spend on Council Services

Net Expenditure allocated by service	2017/2018		Total Net Expenditure (including capital charges)	Changes from 2016/2017 (excluding capital charges)		Band D Council Tax Equivalent
	Net Expenditure (excluding capital charges) £m	Capital Charges £m		£m	%	
Education	120.75	7.92	128.67	5.71	4.96%	2,884.14
Social Care	46.39	0.93	47.32	1.03	2.27%	1,060.68
Leisure & Recreation	8.77	1.23	10.00	0.46	5.54%	224.15
Roads & Lighting	12.14	2.84	14.98	1.75	16.84%	335.78
Cleansing & Refuse Disposal	7.91	0.41	8.32	-0.26	-3.18%	186.49
Transport Subsidies & Concessionary Fares	1.79	0.00	1.79	-0.04	-2.19%	40.12
Planning/Building Control	1.19	0.10	1.29	-0.38	-24.20%	28.92
Environmental Health	0.71	0.00	0.71	-0.03	-4.05%	15.92
Other Services	19.61	0.57	20.18	0.59	3.10%	452.34
Adjustment for Capital Charges			-2.75			-61.64
	219.26	14.00	230.51	8.83	4.20%	5,166.90
Contribution to Balances			0.00			0.00
Total Net Expenditure			230.51			5,166.90
Financed by: a) Government Grants			161.87			3,628.31
b) Non-Domestic Rates			14.10			316.05
c) Contribution from Reserves			2.80			62.76
			178.77			4,007.12
TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED FROM COUNCIL TAX			51.74			1,159.78

Payment

The best way to pay is by Direct Debit by phoning 0141 577 3002 to set it up. For details of other methods of payment, see your Council Tax notice or visit eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/counciltax



Payment difficulties – If you have any difficulty paying, or if you fall behind with your payments, phone 0141 577 3208 as soon as possible. If you contact us early, we can try to help you.

Appeals against your Council Tax Band – You can appeal online at www.saa.gov.uk or in writing to Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board, The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley, PA1 3QF or phone 0300 300 0150. You must continue to pay your Council Tax until a decision on your appeal has been made.

Who is responsible for paying Council Tax? – The person or people named on the front of the bill are responsible for paying the Council Tax for the property. This includes owners, tenants, subtenants. We can choose to collect the full amount of the Council Tax bill from anyone who is legally responsible for it.

Discounts – You may be entitled to a discount against your Council Tax and Scottish Water and Waste Water. A 25% discount would be applicable if you are the only adult in your home. A Disabled Person's Reduction is also available, as well as a second home/unoccupied property discount. More information is available at eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/counciltax

Exemptions – Some properties may be exempt from Council Tax, for example if they are unfurnished and unoccupied or occupied solely by students or occupants under the age of 18. More information is available at eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/counciltax

The Scottish Welfare Fund – Community care grants and crisis grants are available mainly to assist people on benefits. To make an application or for more information call 0141 577 3475.

Money Advice and Rights Team (MART) – The Council's MART offer free, independent, confidential advice on budgeting, applying for benefits, and other support. Free phone 0800 052 1023 for more information.

Council Tax Reduction (CTR) – If you are a low earner, a pensioner, or on benefits, and are responsible for paying Council Tax, you may be entitled to claim CTR of up to 100%. CTR will not cover Scottish Water's charges. You can apply for a CTR whether you own your home, rent, are unemployed or working. To find out how to qualify and apply go to eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/counciltax

This document can be explained to you in other languages and can be provided in alternative formats such as large print or braille. For further information, please contact Customer First on 0141 577 3001 or email customerservices@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

इस सूचना-पत्र में उल्लेखित सूचना यदि आप हिन्दी अनुवाद में चाहे तो कृपया सम्पर्क करें।

如果您想得到该资料所含信息的译文，请联系：

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਲੀਫਲੈਟ ਵਿਚ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਇਥੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ اس لیفٹ میں درج معلومات کا ترجمہ اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں تو ہم سے رابطہ کریں

All of the information contained in this leaflet is available online.

For more information about Council Tax go to

eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/counciltax or phone 0141 577 3001.

