

## 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 1 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](http://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. A number of discounts are available. Discounts on Council Tax bills will normally be granted if the property is furnished but unoccupied, ie tied properties (50%) or if there is only one resident aged over 18 (25%). Second Homes had previously been given a 10% discount, however, from 1 April 2013 this will no longer apply.

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 UK

If you fall into one of these categories then please contact the Rushcliffe Community Contact Centre.

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 attract 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).
- Annex/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.

## **Long term empty properties**

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 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 allows a premium to be added to the Council Tax charge of 50%, which means that the overall charge is 150%.

At the meeting of 8 March 2018 Rushcliffe Borough Council members have decided to implement this legislation with effect from 1 April 2018. This is in accordance with the Council's aim of bringing empty properties back into use.

If the premium is applicable to your property it will be shown on your bill.

## **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 9819911 or visit the Revenues pages at [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://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:-

Customer Services 8.30am to 5.00pm (Mon-Fri), 9.00am to 1.00pm on the first Saturday of every month

We are also available at:

- The Police Contact Point, The Precinct, Cotgrave, Nottingham NG12 3JQ every Wednesday from 9.00am to 1.00pm.
- Bingham Medical Centre, Newgate Street, NG13 8FD Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm and 9.00am to 1.00pm on Wednesdays.
- East Leake Parish Council offices, 45 Main Street, LE12 6PF every Tuesday from 9.00am to 12.30pm.
- Keyworth Centenary Lounge, Village Hall, Elm Avenue, NG12 5AN first Friday of each month from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

For information about paying your council tax, please see the back of your bill or visit the Revenues pages at [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://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](mailto: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 £18,000 may be entitled to Small Business Rate Relief. Other reliefs are available, for further information contact Revenues Services on 0115 9819911 ext 706 or visit our website [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://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](http://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 Cabinet Office 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, 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 £2.55 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

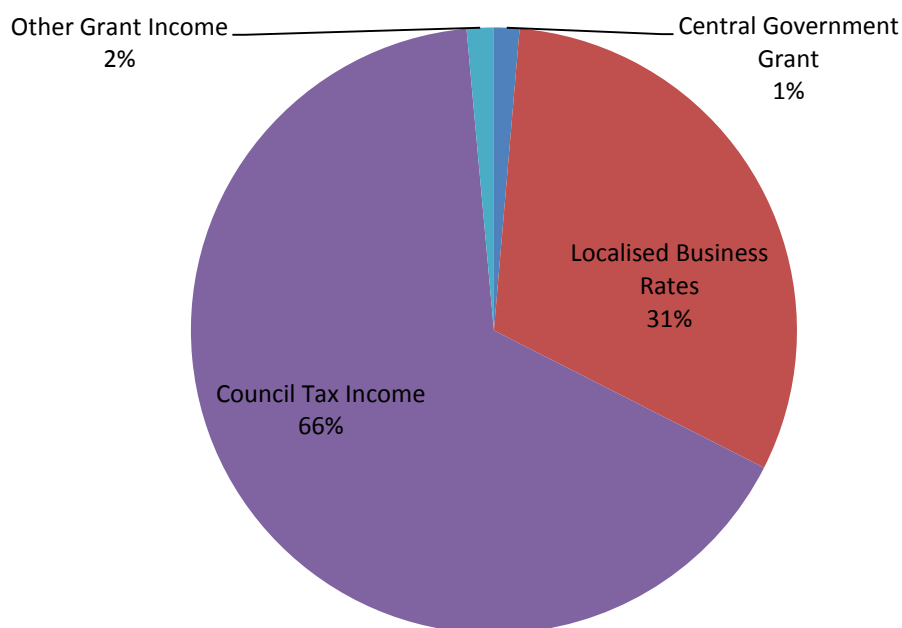
Collection of income - Council Tax, Business  
 Rates and invoices for chargeable services  
 Administration of Benefits

## Rushcliffe Borough Council Expenditure & Income 2018/19

Last year 2017/18	Service	This year 2018/19			
		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	£ per head
Net Expenditure £'million					
2.77	Communities	4.81	(2.15)	2.66	23.91
3.74	Finance & Corporate Services	24.20	(21.01)	3.19	28.70
4.71	Neighbourhoods	12.10	(6.14)	5.96	53.64
0.24	Transformation	6.73	(6.85)	(0.12)	(1.06)
11.46	<b>Net Service Expenditure</b>	47.84	(36.15)	11.69	105.19
(1.59)	Depreciation	(2.23)	0.00	(2.23)	(20.10)
0.16	Revenue Contribution to Capital	0.13	0.00	0.13	1.16
1.00	Debt Repayment	1.00	0.00	1.00	9.00
(1.87)	Transfer to/(from) reserves	(0.98)	0.00	(0.98)	(8.8)
<b>9.16</b>	<b>Cost of services for council tax purposes</b>	<b>45.76</b>	<b>(36.15)</b>	<b>9.61</b>	<b>86.45</b>

The net service expenditure is £9.61m, the chart below illustrates where this money will come from in 2018/19.

## Where the money comes from



- Central Government Grant  
£130,000 2018/19 (£504,000 2017/18)
- Council Tax  
£6,345,800 2018/19 (£6,074,000 2017/18)
- Retained Business Rates including Small Business Rate Relief £2,989,800 2018/19 (£2,561,000 2017/18)
- Other Grant Income £138,700

The amount to be raised from the Council Tax represents a band “D” rate of £132.84 for Borough Council Services and an average Band “D” tax rate of £198.05 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 £672,600. A small amount - £9,100 – is spent by Rushcliffe in the Parishes of Ruddington and £3,800 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 £1.46 and in Ruddington it is £3.40, with other amounts payable in different bands.

### Capital Investment

The Council has approved a Capital Programme for this year (2018/19) of £11.906m. Schemes include Asset Investment Strategy, Relocation of the Depot, Disabled Facilities Grants and improvements to Skate Parks.

## 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 2018/2019 and the preceding year, together with the additional council tax rate that applies to a band D property in the area.

	Parish Band D Tax Rate	Parish Band D Tax Rate	Precept	Precept
Parish Area	2018/19	Increases/Decreases	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£	£	£
Aslockton	19.80	(1.39)	7,875	7,374
Barton-in-Fabis	27.77	0.00	3,327	3,294
Bingham	76.86	3.67	268,280	251,908
Bradmore	18.04	(0.04)	3,022	3,022
Bunny	63.18	3.17	18,500	17,500
Car Colston	0.00	0.00	0	0
Clipston	0.00	(3.16)	0	100
Colston Bassett	74.51	(1.55)	9,180	9,180
Costock	48.58	1.87	14,500	14,000
Cotgrave	93.21	(2.49)	214,705	209,756
Cropwell Bishop	143.16	0.00	90,835	87,602
Cropwell Butler	36.09	0.00	12,188	11,933
East Bridgford	47.00	1.31	38,288	36,815
East Leake	90.81	1.85	265,606	240,435
Elton-On-The-Hill	0.00	0.00	0	0
Flawborough	0.00	0.00	0	0
Flintham	62.81	1.11	13,260	13,000
Gotham	62.25	0.62	37,398	36,440
Granby cum Sutton	58.11	0.00	10,198	10,000
Hawksworth	148.28	(6.24)	9,920	9,920
Hickling	28.99	0.68	7,230	7,089
Holme Pierrepont & Gamston	34.91	(1.81)	37,900	39,250
Keyworth	68.06	1.06	173,390	169,990
Kingston-on-Soar	32.08	(0.05)	4,100	4,100
Kinoulton	15.38	(1.19)	6,500	6,850
Kneeton	0.00	0.00	0	0
Langar cum Barnstone	102.92	(0.25)	35,477	35,192
Newton	51.36	5.00	15,470	13,852
Normanton-on-Soar	71.21	3.15	13,351	12,985
Normanton-on-the-Wolds	47.91	5.84	7,296	6,441
Orston	41.46	4.11	9,046	7,970
Owthorpe	0.00	0.00	0	0
Plumtree	39.41	4.41	4,800	4,200
Radcliffe-on-Trent	93.62	5.00	300,118	281,280
Ratcliffe-on-Soar	0.00	0.00	0	0
Rempstone	25.23	0.00	5,088	5,000
Ruddington	114.33	(0.06)	297,315	290,835
Saxondale	0.00	0.00	0	0
Scarrington	8.87	(0.19)	750	750



Screveton	0.00	0.00	0	0
Shelford	75.78	0.87	8,790	8,375
Shelton	8.03	(1.15)	500	535
Sibthorpe	27.40	(1.43)	1,600	1,600
Stanford-on-Soar	80.84	1.47	5,125	5,000
Stanton-on-the-Wolds	28.78	6.92	6,150	4,650
Sutton Bonington	39.93	2.15	25,801	23,640
Thoroton	0.00	0.00	0	0
Thrumpton	49.93	(0.21)	3,575	3,650
Tollerton	69.35	5.89	55,950	50,952
Upper Broughton	52.50	0.01	8,500	8,000
West Leake	30.12	(1.06)	2,033	2,033
Whatton-in-the-Vale	32.62	(0.53)	12,035	12,130
Widmerpool	34.54	2.72	5,878	5,400
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds	37.80	0.98	10,606	10,106
Wiverton & Tithby	0.00	0.00	0	0
Wysall & Thorpe	58.38	17.23	11,798	8,305

## Council Tax Charge Increases 2018/19

Band	Nottinghamshire County Council	Nottinghamshire County Council – Adult Social Care	Fire	Police	Borough	Total
A	26.95	18.03	1.48	7.98	3.30	57.74
B	31.44	21.03	1.73	9.31	3.85	67.36
C	35.93	24.04	1.98	10.64	4.40	76.99
D	40.42	27.04	2.22	11.97	4.95	86.60
E	49.40	33.05	2.71	14.63	6.05	105.84
F	58.38	39.06	3.21	17.29	7.15	125.09
G	67.37	45.07	3.70	19.95	8.25	144.34
H	80.84	54.08	4.44	23.94	9.90	173.20

The Average charge for a band D property in Rushcliffe is: £1,890.38				
Average Council Tax at band D:	2017/18	2018/19	Increase	
	£	£	£	%
County Council	1,288.43	1,328.85	40.42	2.99%
County Council – Adult Social Care	63.54	90.58	27.04	2.00%
Police Authority	183.42	195.39	11.97	6.53%
Fire Authority	75.29	77.51	2.22	2.95%
Borough Council	127.89	132.84	4.95	3.87%
Parish Council	65.20	65.21	0.01	0.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,803.77</b>	<b>1,890.38</b>	<b>86.61</b>	<b>4.80%</b>

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