

## 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 1st 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<sup>st</sup> 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 U.K.

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 1 year 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..

## **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 and not at the Civic Centre. We are available to help at the following times:-

Customer Services 8.30am - 5.00pm (Mon-Fri), 9.00am – 1.00pm (first Saturday of each month)

We are also available at:

- The Police Contact Point, The Precinct, Cotgrave, Nottingham NG12 3JQ every Wednesday between 9am and 1pm.
- Bingham Medical Centre, Newgate Street, Bingham – Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm
- East Leake Parish Council offices, 45 Main Street every Tuesday 9am - 12.30pm.
- Keyworth Centenary Lounge, Village Hall, Elm Avenue, Keyworth every Friday 9am - 1pm.

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 Audit Commission 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, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5FE.

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 £2.46 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

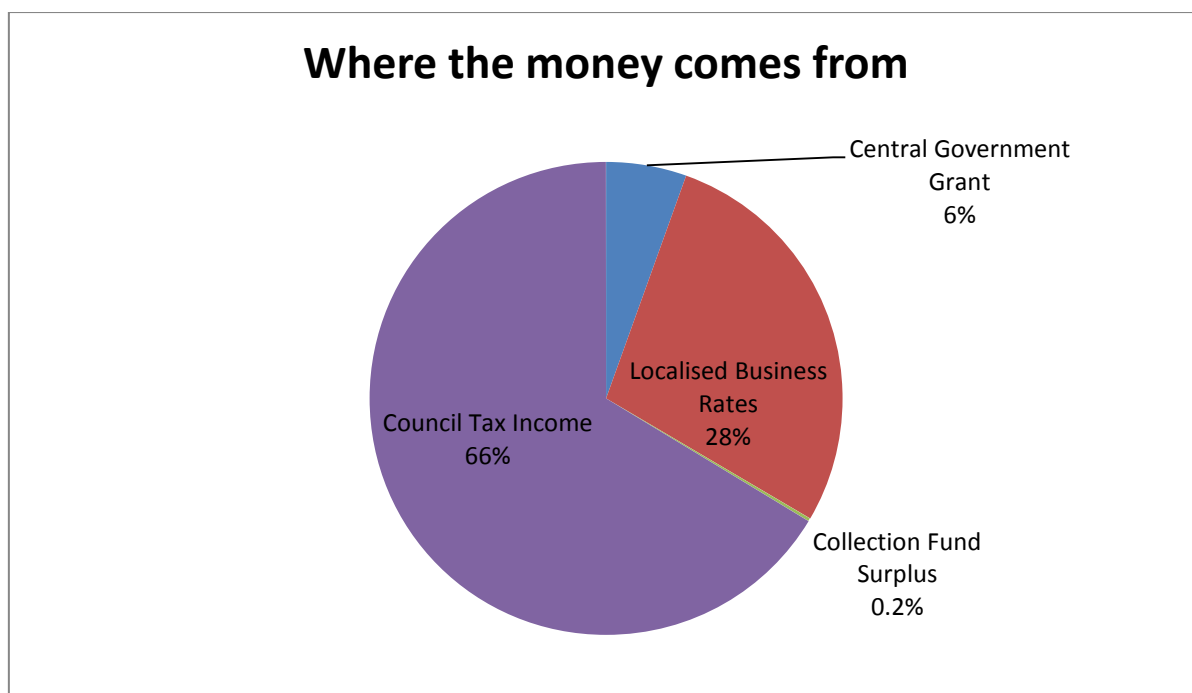
Rates and invoices for chargeable services

Administration of Benefits

## RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL EXPENDITURE & INCOME 2017-18

Last year 2016-2017	Service	This year 2017-2018			
Net Expenditure £'million		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	£ per head
2.74	Communities	4.75	-1.98	2.77	24.88
3.68	Finance & Corporate Services	25.64	-21.90	3.74	33.59
4.71	Neighbourhood	9.43	-4.72	4.71	42.35
0.14	Transformation	6.49	-6.25	0.24	2.18
11.27	<b>Net Service Expenditure</b>	46.31	-34.85	11.46	103.00
-1.59	Depreciation	-1.59	0.00	-1.59	-14.28
0.16	Revenue Contribution to Capital	0.16	0.00	0.16	1.43
0.00	Debt Repayment	1.00	0.00	1.00	9.00
-0.87	Transfer to/(from) reserves	0.00	-1.87	-1.87	-16.72
<b>8.97</b>	<b>Cost of services for council tax purposes</b>	<b>45.88</b>	<b>-36.72</b>	<b>9.16</b>	<b>82.43</b>

The net service expenditure is £9.16m, the chart below illustrates where this money will come from in 2017-18.



- Central Government Grant  
£504,000 2017/18 (£1,064,000 2016/17)
- Council Tax  
£6,074,100 2017/18 (£5,753,000 2016/17)
- Council Tax Surplus  
£18,000 2017/18 (£79,000 2016/17)
- Retained Business Rates including Small Business Rate Relief  
£2,561,000 2017/18 (£2,072,000 2016/17)

The amount to be raised from the Council Tax represents a band "D" rate of £127.89 for Borough Council Services and an average Band "D" tax rate of £193.09 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 £718,400. A small amount - £9,070 – 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 £52.35, in Keyworth it is £1.46 and in Ruddington it is £3.46, with other amounts payable in different bands.

## Outstanding Debt

The total amount of loans outstanding as at 31st March 2017 was £10.376m. The estimated debt outstanding as at 31st March 2018 is £14.336m

## Capital Investment

The Council has approved a Capital Programme for this year (2017/18) of £15.128m. Schemes include provision for disabled facilities grants and Cotgrave Multi-service Centre.

## 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 2017/2018 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	2017/18	Increases/Decreases	2017/18	2016/17
	£	£		£
Aslockton	21.19	-1.03	7,374	7,502
Barton-in-Fabis	27.77	-0.45	3,294	3,293
Bingham	73.19	0.97	251,908	246,268
Bradmore	18.08	0.06	3,022	3,000
Bunny	60.01	2.40	17,500	17,000
Car Colston	0.00	0.00	0	-
Clipston	3.16	-0.08	100	100
Colston Bassett	76.06	6.79	9,180	8,500
Costock	46.71	12.49	14,000	10,000
Cotgrave	95.70	1.88	209,756	192,500
Cropwell Bishop	143.16	3.58	87,602	85,884
Cropwell Butler	36.09	2.25	11,933	11,220
East Bridgford	45.69	2.66	36,815	34,333
East Leake	88.96	13.16	240,435	197,196
Elton-On-The-Hill	0.00	0.00	0	-
Flawborough	0.00	0.00	0	-
Flintham	61.70	10.14	13,000	10,833
Gotham	61.63	-0.01	36,440	36,400
Granby cum Sutton	58.11	-0.58	10,000	10,000
Hawksworth	154.52	0.03	9,920	9,980
Hickling	28.31	-0.05	7,089	6,950

Holme Pierrepont & Gamston	36.72	-2.07	39,250	41,300
Keyworth	67.00	0.37	169,990	167,475
Kingston-on-Soar	32.13	0.66	4,100	4,100
Kinoulton	16.57	-0.14	6,850	6,850
Kneeton	0.00	0.00	0	-
Langar cum Barnstone	103.17	-3.83	35,192	35,792
Newton	46.36	5.00	13,852	12,400
Normanton-on-Soar	68.06	5.73	12,985	12,255
Normanton-on-the-Wolds	42.07	-0.31	6,441	6,441
Orston	37.35	-0.15	7,970	7,970
Owthorpe	0.00	0.00	0	-
Plumtree	35.00	1.72	4,200	4,200
Radcliffe-on-Trent	88.62	0.00	281,280	280,775
Ratcliffe-on-Soar	0.00	0.00	0	-
Rempstone	25.23	0.26	5,000	4,900
Ruddington	114.39	2.10	290,835	279,461
Saxondale	0.00	0.00	0	-
Scarrington	9.06	-0.15	750	750
Screveton	0.00	0.00	0	-
Shelford	74.91	3.75	8,375	7,970
Shelton	9.18	0.50	535	500
Sibthorpe	28.83	-0.58	1,600	1,600
Stanford-on-Soar	79.37	3.50	5,000	5,000
Stanton-on-the-Wolds	21.86	-0.15	4,650	4,650
Sutton Bonington	37.78	0.41	23,640	23,500
Thoroton	0.00	0.00	0	-
Thrumpton	50.14	0.00	3,650	3,575
Tollerton	63.46	7.54	50,952	44,500
Upper Broughton	52.49	-0.70	8,000	8,000
West Leake	31.18	0.01	2,033	2,045
Whatton-in-the-Vale	33.15	1.35	12,130	11,755
Widmerpool	31.82	7.68	5,400	4,090
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds	36.82	0.86	10,106	9,875
Wiverton & Tithby	0.00	0.00	0	-
Wysall & Thorpe	41.15	-0.31	8,305	8,250



## Council Tax Charge Increases 2017-18

Band	Nottinghamshire County Council	Nottinghamshire County Council – Adult Social Care	Fire	Police	Borough	Total
A	15.06	25.81	0.96	2.34	3.30	47.47
B	17.56	30.12	1.12	2.73	3.85	55.38
C	20.08	34.42	1.28	3.12	4.40	63.30
D	22.59	38.72	1.44	3.51	4.95	71.21
E	27.62	47.32	1.76	4.29	6.05	87.04
F	32.63	55.93	2.08	5.07	7.15	102.86
G	37.65	64.53	2.40	5.85	8.25	118.68
H	45.18	77.44	2.88	7.02	9.90	142.42

The Average charge for a band D property in Rushcliffe is: £1,803.77				
Average Council Tax at band D:	2016/17	2017/18	Increase	
	£	£	£	%
County Council	1,265.84	1,288.43	22.59	1.75%
County Council – Adult Social Care	24.82	63.54	38.72	3.00%
Police Authority	179.91	183.42	3.51	1.95%
Fire Authority	73.85	75.29	1.44	1.95%
Borough Council	122.94	127.89	4.95	4.03%
Parish Council	63.68	65.20	1.52	2.39%
	1,731.04	1,803.77	72.73	4.20%

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