

Your 2024/25 services

Swale Borough Council

How your Council Tax helps pay for the services we provide



Kent & Medway
Fire & Rescue Authority

Kent
County
Council
kent.gov.uk



Swale
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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.



Kent & Medway
Fire & Rescue Authority

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).

Correction

The Council Tax bills issued for 2024/25 have been issued with an incorrect percentage increase for the Kent County Council main precept. The percentage increase is 3% not 3.5% as stated on the bills. The amount of Council Tax stated is correct.





Calculation of the Council Tax



Cllr. Tim Gibson, leader of the council said:

“There have been extreme challenges for us as an Authority in producing a balanced budget and there have been some difficult challenges in seeking efficiency savings and income generation.

That said we are in a better position than many Councils who are facing the stark reality of having to issue section 114 notices and facing bankruptcy. Council income has remained static over time due mostly to the real term reduction in Central Government funding. Years of underfunding and the uncertainty of one year settlements from Government has made it extremely difficult for sound fiscal footings. I'm pleased that we have been able to work together to set a budget that we believe will keep us on a sound financial footing, whilst continuing to deliver the essential services local people value.

Our share of the Council tax bill will cost a typical band D household just £3.86 a week, though most people will be paying less as their homes are in lower council tax bands.”

	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Swale Borough Council Net Expenditure	21,225,344	22,856,827
Less: Revenue Support Grant	(317,000)	(338,000)
New Homes Bonus	(1,103,000)	(674,000)
Business Rates	(10,122,000)	(11,736,000)
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale	9,683,344	10,108,827

This amount is then divided by the Tax Base* for Swale which is	49,673.46	50,367.85
Giving a Swale Council Tax for a Band D property of	194.94	200.70
To which is added		
Kent County Council Tax of	1,534.23	1,610.82
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Tax of	243.15	256.15
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority Tax of	87.30	89.91
Giving a total Council Tax for a Band D property of	2,059.62	2,157.58

*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

From 1 April 2024 the one-month empty property discount and the exemption for empty properties requiring or undergoing structural repair, alteration or major works will be removed.

The premiums for long term empty properties have also changed and will commence after a property has been empty and unfurnished for 12 months.

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 2024/25



Exemptions

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

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/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 2024/25



Expenditure 2024/25

	Gross Expenditure 2024/25 £000	Net Expenditure 2024/25 £000	Gross Expenditure 2023/24 £000	Net Expenditure 2023/24 £000
Corporate & Democratic Services	4,624	2,920	4,628	2,945
Local tax collection, Elections, Land Charges, etc.	2,133	1,121	2,283	1,221
Cultural, Environmental and Planning Services	22,436	17,545	20,857	16,320
Highways, Roads & Transportation Services	2,140	(1,461)	2,083	(1,117)
Housing Services	38,731	4,138	38,526	4,131
Other Services		1,473		651
Total Service Expenditure		25,736		24,151
Contributions to/(from) funds		(1,573)		(2,230)
Additional Grants		(1,306)		(671)
New Homes Bonus		(674)		(1,103)
Net Expenditure		22,183		20,147
Revenue Support Grant & Business Rates		(12,074)		(10,464)
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale		10,109		9,683

Joint Council Tax Breakdown

House Band	Swale Borough Council £	Kent Police & Crime Commissioner £	Kent County Council £	Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority £	Total Council Tax (excluding parish precepts) £
A	133.80	170.77	1,073.88	59.94	1,438.39
B	156.10	199.23	1,252.86	69.93	1,678.12
C	178.40	227.69	1,431.84	79.92	1,917.85
D	200.70	256.15	1,610.82	89.91	2,157.58
E	245.30	313.07	1,968.78	109.89	2,637.04
F	289.90	369.99	2,326.74	129.87	3,116.50
G	334.50	426.92	2,684.70	149.85	3,595.97
H	401.40	512.30	3,221.64	179.82	4,315.16



Statement of Parish Precepts for 2024/25

Parish/Town Council	Parish Precept 2023/24 £	Parish Precept 2024/25 £	Tax Base 2024/25 £	Parish Band D Council Tax 2024/25 £
Bapchild	13,780	13,780	591.91	23.28
Bobbing	18,980	51,764	984.39	52.58
Borden	70,052	75,687	1,103.97	68.56
Boughton-under-Blean	70,000	90,000	703.27	127.97
Bredgar	11,870	12,344	298.31	41.38
Doddington	8,815	8,641	226.20	38.20
Dunkirk	27,418	28,234	525.05	53.77
Eastchurch	47,232	71,253	842.82	84.54
Eastling	5,196	5,197	148.49	35.00
Faversham Town Council	595,322	666,741	7,387.56	90.25
Graveney & Goodnestone	13,685	13,065	185.39	70.47
Hartlip	8,000	20,000	369.35	54.15
Hernhill	15,212	18,091	321.76	56.23
Iwade	51,620	61,000	1,458.61	41.82
Leysdown	30,000	38,606	1,235.56	31.25
Lower Halstow	37,740	37,740	454.51	83.03
Luddenham	0	0	43.35	0.00
Lynsted	26,854	32,224	482.05	66.85
Milstead	6,300	7,000	94.13	74.37
Minster	198,695	199,998	5,714.24	35.00
Newington	57,926	59,053	1,054.01	56.03
Newnham	5,371	5,339	155.71	34.29
Norton & Buckland	7,496	8,333	191.55	43.50
Oare	11,068	14,700	173.24	84.85
Ospringe	11,015	11,015	284.39	38.73
Queenborough Town Council	70,000	71,500	906.78	78.85
Rodmersham	11,500	13,000	239.42	54.30
Selling	14,000	17,013	371.97	45.74
Sheerness Town Council	139,962	139,962	2,834.23	49.38
Sheldwich, Leaveland & Badlesmere	9,995	10,275	352.69	29.13
Stalisfield	2,925	3,087	101.84	30.31
Teynham	60,240	66,000	1,003.36	65.78
Throwley	3,749	4,123	144.87	28.46
Tonge	6,400	8,000	467.39	17.12
Tunstall	7,500	7,500	700.52	10.71
Upchurch	38,655	48,577	1,058.39	45.90
Warden	15,000	16,500	506.27	32.59





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**

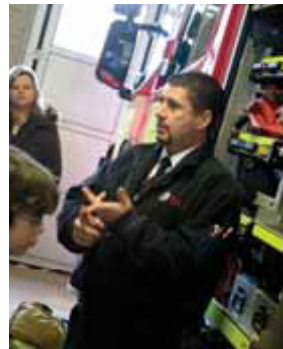
Email: KFRSFinance@Kent.fire-uk.org

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