

Your 2023/24 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



Cllr Mike Baldock, leader of the council, said:

“We’ve seen a significant increases in our costs in the last year, and there has been a rise in demand for our help with things like housing as local people struggle with the cost of living.

“After years of cuts to our funding from central Government, we have been left to make some incredibly difficult decisions

“Despite this, we have worked to agree a balanced budget that still looks to protect vital services that local people value.

“Our share of the council tax bill will cost a typical band D household just £3.75 a week, though most people in Swale will be paying less as most households are in the lower bands.

“I still think this represents real value given the range of services we provide, and maintains our position as one of the lowest council taxes in Kent.”

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Swale Borough Council Net Expenditure	19,860,772	21,225,344
Less: Revenue Support Grant	(119,000)-	(317,000)
New Homes Bonus	(1,407,000)	(1,103,000)
Business Rates	(9,072,000)	(10,122,000)
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale	9,262,772	9,683,344

This amount is then divided by the Tax Base* for Swale which is	48,939.46	49,673.46
Giving a Swale Council Tax for a Band D property of	189.27	194.94
To which is added		
Kent County Council Tax of	1,461.24	1,534.23
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Tax of	228.15	243.15
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority Tax of	82.35	87.30
Giving a total Council Tax for a Band D property of	1,961.01	2,059.62

*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 2022.

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 2023/24



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 2023/24



Expenditure 2023/24

	Gross Expenditure 2023/24 £000	Net Expenditure 2023/24 £000	Gross Expenditure 2022/23 £000	Net Expenditure 2022/23 £000
Corporate & Democratic Services	3,999	2,699	4,194	2,953
Local tax collection, Elections, Land Charges, etc.	2,208	1,141	2,333	1,439
Cultural, Environmental and Planning Services	20,853	16,559	18,361	14,470
Highways, Roads & Transportation Services	2,038	(1,104)	2,070	(579)
Housing Services	42,683	4,412	40,969	3,551
Other Services		190		21
Total Service Expenditure		23,897		21,855
Contributions to/(from) funds		(2,000)		(1,506)
Additional Grants		(671)		(488)
New Homes Bonus		(1,103)		(1,407)
Net Expenditure		20,123		18,454
Revenue Support Grant & Business Rates		(10,439)		(9,191)
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale		9,684		9,263

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	129.96	162.10	1,022.82	58.20	1,373.08
B	151.62	189.12	1,193.29	67.90	1,601.93
C	173.28	216.13	1,363.76	77.60	1,830.77
D	194.94	243.15	1,534.23	87.30	2,059.62
E	238.26	297.18	1,875.17	106.70	2,517.31
F	281.58	351.22	2,216.11	126.10	2,975.01
G	324.90	405.25	2,557.05	145.50	3,432.70
H	389.88	486.30	3,068.46	174.60	4,119.24



Statement of Parish Precepts for 2023/24

Parish/Town Council	Parish Precept 2022/23 £	Parish Precept 2023/24 £	Tax Base 2023/24 £	Parish Band D Council Tax 2023/24 £
Bapchild	13,379	13,780	492.42	27.98
Bobbing	18,980	18,980	985.80	19.25
Borden	64,151	70,052	1,101.54	63.59
Boughton-under-Blean	65,000	70,000	704.68	99.34
Bredgar	10,684	11,870	291.04	40.78
Doddington	8,718	8,815	230.76	38.20
Dunkirk	17,105	27,418	524.45	52.28
Eastchurch	47,402	47,232	854.12	55.30
Eastling	5,223	5,196	148.46	35.00
Faversham Town Council	553,132	595,322	7,189.88	82.80
Graveney & Goodnestone	11,200	13,685	186.07	73.55
Hartlip	8,000	8,000	368.77	21.69
Hernhill	14,000	15,212	319.34	47.64
Iwade	51,585	51,620	1,460.02	35.36
Leysdown	35,890	30,000	1,155.30	25.97
Lower Halstow	37,740	37,740	457.38	82.51
Luddenham	0	0	44.05	0.00
Lynsted	18,753	26,854	478.39	56.13
Milstead	6,300	6,300	93.26	67.55
Minster	197,506	198,695	5,677.01	35.00
Newington	58,472	57,926	1,061.11	54.59
Newnham	5,449	5,371	156.62	34.29
Norton & Buckland	6,956	7,496	190.94	39.26
Oare	10,500	11,068	174.57	63.40
Ospringe	7,875	11,015	287.48	38.32
Queenborough Town Council	69,000	70,000	911.35	76.81
Rodmersham	11,500	11,500	239.48	48.02
Selling	13,000	14,000	377.01	37.13
Sheerness Town Council	139,962	139,962	2,828.37	49.49
Sheldwich, Leaveland & Badlesmere	8,600	9,995	353.18	28.30
Stalisfield	2,883	2,925	100.38	29.14
Teynham	61,000	60,240	994.77	60.56
Throwley	3,749	3,749	146.45	25.60
Tonge	3,200	6,400	444.51	14.40
Tunstall	22,080	7,500	694.87	10.79
Upchurch	36,814	38,655	1,050.06	36.81
Warden	15,000	15,000	502.97	29.82





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**

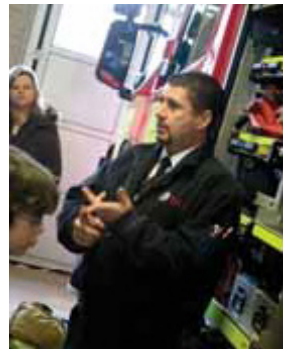
Email: KFRSFinance@Kent.fire-uk.org

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