



Kent County Council

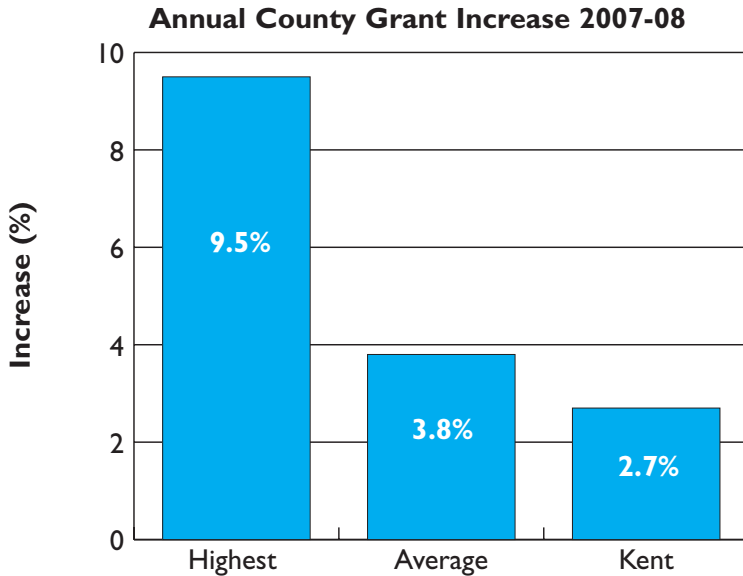


# Your Council Tax 2007-08



## Budget and Council Tax 2007-08

The government grant settlement for 2007-08 has seen Kent County Council (KCC) given a nominal increase of 2.7%, the minimum increase allowed, compared to a national average increase of 3.8% for councils.



Savings of more than £31m have been made across the Council's services. In addition KCC has identified £10m of additional income generation in 2007-08 through, for example, outdoor advertising, improved returns on treasury management, and growing its commercial services arm. All this helps to keep the increase in council tax down to 4.95%.

## Decreasing proportion met from Government grant

The way KCC is funded has significantly changed over the past decade. The proportion that business rates and general government grant contributed to KCC spending fell from 75% in 1996-97 to 66% in 2005-06. With the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant the proportion became 32% in 2006-07 and 31% in 2007-08.

The amount you pay in council tax is shared between Kent County Council, your local borough, city or district council, the police and fire authorities and (in many areas) a parish or town council.

**The council tax you pay for KCC services has increased by 4.95% - an extra 87p a week for a Band D household.**

KCC charges for the different property bands are shown below for last year (2006-07) and this year (2007-08):

	<b>Council Tax charge £</b>	
<b>Tax Band</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>612.48</b>	<b>642.78</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>714.56</b>	<b>749.91</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>816.64</b>	<b>857.04</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>918.72</b>	<b>964.17</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>1,122.88</b>	<b>1,178.43</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>1,327.04</b>	<b>1,392.69</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>1,531.20</b>	<b>1,606.95</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>1,837.44</b>	<b>1,928.34</b>

Please note that your total bill will be larger, as it will include contributions towards the other councils and authorities outlined above.

## How Kent County Council's spending has changed

	£m
<b>Budget 2006-07</b>	<b>1,430.6</b>
Dedicated Schools Grant	-720.6
Base adjustments	<u>4.6</u>
<b>Re-based budget</b>	<b>714.6</b>
Pay and Prices	27.7
Government/Legislative Pressures	4.6
Demand-led pressures & delivering <i>Towards 2010</i> targets	17.3
Schools Budget	33.9
Service Strategies and improvements, best value and strategic risk management	24.3
Dedicated Schools Grant increase	-38.9
Savings	-31.2
Income Generation	-10.6
<b>Budget 2007-08</b>	<b>741.7</b>

## Where your money goes

<b>KCC Services 2007-08</b>	<b>Budget £m</b>	<b>Approx Spend Per Day £'000</b>
Education & School Improvement	98.1	269
Children & Family Services	100.5	275
Adult Services	283.5	777
Environment, Highways & Waste	135.2	370
Regeneration & Supporting Independence	37.3	102
Communities	62.0	170
Corporate Support & Public Health	9.2	25
Other (Policy & Performance and Finance)	15.9	44
<b>Budget 2007-08</b>	<b>741.7</b>	<b>2,032</b>

## Funding our budget

Budget	2006-07 £m	2007-08 £m
<b>Gross Expenditure*</b>	<b>1,986.7</b>	<b>2,088.3</b>
Specific grants and income	-1,276.7	-1,346.6
<b>Budget Requirement</b>	<b>710.0</b>	<b>741.7</b>
Government funding/business rates	-226.2	-228.7
Collection fund surplus/deficit	-1.7	-1.5
<b>Council Tax income</b>	<b>482.1</b>	<b>511.5</b>

\* Includes estimated levies for Environment Agency (£331k) and Joint Sea Fisheries (£252k)

### More information

You can also access KCC's financial publications online by visiting:  
[www.kent.gov.uk/financialpublications](http://www.kent.gov.uk/financialpublications)

## Our Main Budget Pressures

- Social care - costs rising significantly, with increased numbers of people of all ages being supported, particularly the very elderly
- Highways - increasing traffic especially from Dover/Channel Tunnel
- Waste - rising disposal costs, recycling costs and landfill tax
- Regeneration - addressing need in the most deprived parts of Kent
- Looked After Children - including the impact of placement in Kent by other local authorities
- Areas of major growth - Thames Gateway and Ashford
- Capital investment - in public infrastructure to meet the needs of new house building and investment in schools and roads

## Our goals for the next four years: “Towards 2010”

- Increased prosperity for Kent through business growth and job creation
- Transformation in education
- Reduced congestion
- Improved health and quality of life
- Quality homes in a well-managed environment
- A safer Kent
- Continued improvements in services while keeping council tax down

### More information

More details, including a short film presented by BBC presenter Kaddy Lee-Preston, can be accessed from our website at

[www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

or contact our 24 hour helpline on **08458 247 247**

## Can you help reduce the £57.3m it costs in a single year to get rid of Kent’s household waste?

It will cost £57.3 million for the county council to manage the disposal of 804,000 tonnes of household waste next year – and that does not include the cost of collecting it. While this is only £100 per household per year it is still a lot of money.

Each household in Kent generates around one and a half tonnes of household waste each year. In the last couple of years, thanks to the efforts of everyone in Kent, we have seen a reduction in waste growth and this has helped to hold cost increases down. We all need to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste as much as we can to protect our environment and continue to keep cost increases down.

Visit [www.kent.gov.uk/reducewaste](http://www.kent.gov.uk/reducewaste) to find out about six things you can do at home to reduce waste and to learn more about how you can help solve the waste problem. You’ve done really well over the past couple of years – let’s all keep that success going!

## Comprehensive performance assessment (CPA)

The Audit Commission's annual Comprehensive Performance Assessment measures how well councils deliver services to local people and communities. Since CPA first began in 2002, KCC has been rated as a top performing council.



KCC again received a top rating of four stars for overall performance in February 2007, which is the fifth year running that a top rating has been achieved. As part of the assessment, KCC was also judged to be "Improving Strongly" for its Direction of Travel and achieved one of the best assessments in the country for the way resources are managed, including Value for Money.

In its report, the Audit Commission said of KCC:

*"The Council's track record of delivering improved services is strong. Robust improvement plans are in place to continue developing innovative services. It is building its capability to deliver its priorities by identifying efficiencies and strengthening partnership working."*

Further details about KCC's CPA can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk/cpa](http://www.kent.gov.uk/cpa), by emailing [performance@kent.gov.uk](mailto:performance@kent.gov.uk) or by writing to: Room 2.60, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

A full report of performance and priorities, The KCC Annual Plan, will be published in June 2007.

## Do you pay too much?

Most council tax payers have to pay the full bill, but KCC is working together with the borough, city and district councils to help everyone who is entitled to council tax benefit to claim it.

### Kent Benefits Partnership

- So far, more than 3,000 Kent pensioners have received council tax refunds totalling more than £2.8m.
- If you pay council tax, claim state pension AND have less than £16,000 in savings, contact the Kent Benefits Partnership for more information by calling 0845 345 0310.

### Help for other people

- You could also be paying too much council tax if you have less than £16,000 in savings and are on a low income – even if you do not qualify for other benefits.
- The level of benefit available depends on your income and savings, the size of your council tax bill, and whether anyone else lives with you (such as a grown up son or daughter or a lodger).
- To find out if you are eligible for a discount, contact your borough, city or district council (whose contact details are on your bill).

### More information

For questions regarding your council tax payments, bills or Council Tax Benefit, please contact the borough, city or district council that sent your bill to you.

#### If you have questions about **any services covered in this leaflet:**

Telephone 08458 247 247 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)  
Email [council.tax@kent.gov.uk](mailto:council.tax@kent.gov.uk)  
Write to Kent County Council, Room 3.17 Sessions House,  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

This leaflet is also available in alternative formats

Please contact **08458 247 247**