



Your Council Tax 2008-09



Budget and Council Tax 2008-09

In order to provide its services KCC receives a variety of grants from central government. However, these are not enough to meet our budget demands, which have increased by £60.1 million (m), so we need to increase council tax.

The money KCC receives from the Government in business rates and general grant has increased by £8.6m or 3.4% in 2008-09, compared to an average county increase of 5.3%.

We set our council tax as low as possible while keeping good quality services. KCC is making savings of £24.8m across the council's services. We are increasing income by £2.4m in 2008-09 through, for example, improved returns on treasury management, and increased income from Commercial Services.

All of this helps to keep the increase in council tax at 3.9%.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

The Audit Commission's annual Comprehensive Performance Assessment measures how well councils deliver services to local people and communities. KCC has been rated as a top performing council every year since CPA first began in 2002. We have been awarded four stars again in February 2008.

In December 2007, KCC was given the highest award, level four, for its use of resources for the second year running. The award rates public services on how well they deliver value for money services.



Further details about KCC's CPA can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/cpa, by emailing performance@kent.gov.uk or by writing to: Room 1.63, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ. A full report of performance and priorities, The KCC Annual Plan, will be published in June 2008.

County Council Services

The council tax you pay helps us to continue running our services at the best possible standards. Here are just some of the services your money contributes to:

- **Education** - Supporting 453 primary schools; 97 secondary schools; 24 special schools and one nursery.
- **Adult Social Services** - Supporting more than 30,000 older people, disabled people and people with mental health problems to live in their own homes, and more than 6,500 people to live in permanent residential or nursing care.
- **Environment, Highways and Waste** - Maintaining 20 country parks; 5,200 miles of county roads; 4,300 miles of public rights of way; 300 miles of cycle routes; 2,700 bridges; and 119,000 street lights. Disposal of some 800,000 tonnes of household waste.
- **Communities** - Handling 1.2m calls to the contact centre and 8.1m library visits; engaging with 40,000 young people; improving the skills and confidence of 38,000 adult learners; and celebrating 5,300 civil marriages and other ceremonies.

Where your money goes

| KCC Services 2008-09 | Budget £m | Spend per day £'000 |
|--|--------------|------------------------|
| Children, Families and Education | 299.7 | 821 |
| Adult Social Services | 339.8 | 931 |
| Environment, Highways and Waste | 160.1 | 439 |
| Regeneration and Supporting Independence | 39.1 | 107 |
| Communities | 63.1 | 173 |
| Corporate Support and External Affairs/ Public Health | 4.7 | 13 |
| Policy and Performance/Finance | - 49.5 | - 136 |
| Area based grant | - 61.1 | - 167 |
| Budget 2008-09 | 795.9 | 2,181 |

KCC's long-term goals

KCC's long term plan (*Vision for Kent*) and four year plan (*Towards 2010*) set out how we will achieve the following goals over the next few years:

- 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

Further details can be found at www.kent.gov.uk or in a short film presented by BBC presenter Kaddy Lee-Preston at www.kentTV.com or contact our 24 hour helpline on 08457 247 247

Our main service pressures

- Social Care - demographic pressures of £7.8m to cope with increasing numbers and longer life expectancy of the very elderly and people with a disability. This enables us to maintain the existing assessment criteria and provide preventative support to more people. Inflation pressures add a further £8.4m.
- Children's Services - demographic, legislation and inflation pressures across a range of services (Early Years, Social Services, implementing Care Matters, fostering and adoption), totalling £6.9m.
- Highways - an injection of £5m per annum to help improve the maintenance and condition of roads and pavements. This is in addition to inflation totalling £1.2m for highways maintenance.
- Capital investment - to support our services and provide additional local infrastructure, including supporting the new communities being built in Kent. Revenue costs of additional borrowing to support that investment are projected to rise by £4.3m in 2008-09.
- Waste disposal - increasing costs of disposal and level of landfill tax. Volumes, price rises and tax increases amount to £4.5m.
- Providing more free or low-cost public transport for 11-16 year olds through extending the piloted Freedom Pass scheme costing £4.0m.

The council tax you pay for KCC services has increased by 3.9% - an extra 72p a week for a Band D household.

Your total bill will be more than shown below, as it will also include contributions to your local borough, city or district council, the police and fire authorities and (in many areas) a parish or town council.

| Tax Band | KCC Council Tax charge only | |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | 2007-08 £ | 2008-09 £ |
| A | 642.78 | 667.86 |
| B | 749.91 | 779.17 |
| C | 857.04 | 890.48 |
| D | 964.17 | 1,001.79 |
| E | 1,178.43 | 1,224.41 |
| F | 1,392.69 | 1,447.03 |
| G | 1,606.95 | 1,669.65 |
| H | 1,928.34 | 2,003.58 |

Please note that our Budget assumes that £10 million owed by the Government, for the support of asylum seeker children in Kent, will be reimbursed to KCC and therefore is not included in council tax this year.

KCC's Spending and Funding

| | 2007-08 Budget £m | 2008-09 Budget £m |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Budget 2007-08 | 741.7 | 741.7 |
| Change in service responsibilities | | - 0.6 |
| Change in specific grant funding | | |
| - absorbed into general grant | | + 21.0 |
| - area based grant | | + 62.0 |
| Revised budget | | 824.1 |
| Pay award and price inflation | | 24.8 |
| Government/legislation pressures | | 8.0 |
| Demand-led pressures and delivering <i>Towards 2010</i> targets | | 16.0 |
| Schools budget increase | | 30.8 |
| Service strategies and improvements, best value and strategic risk management changes | | 15.7 |
| Dedicated schools grant increase | | - 35.2 |
| Sub-total of pressures | | + 60.1 |
| Savings | | - 24.8 |
| Income generation | | - 2.4 |
| Area based grant | | - 61.1 |
| Budget total | 741.7 | 795.9 |
| Business rates/general grant | - 228.7 | - 259.3 |
| Collection fund surplus(-)/deficit | - 1.5 | 0.2 |
| Council tax | 511.5 | 536.8 |
| Tax base (Band D equivalent properties) | 530,548 | 535,858 |
| KCC Band D council tax change | £964.17 | £1,001.79 + 3.90% |

Total Expenditure

| Budget | 2007-08 £m | 2008-09 £m |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Total expenditure * | 2,073.2 | 2,232.7 |
| Grants for specific services and other income | - 1,331.5 | - 1,436.8 |
| Budget | 741.7 | 795.9 |

* Includes estimated levies from Environment Agency for flood defence (£359,000) and Joint Sea Fisheries (£264,000).

More information

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

Can you help reduce the £64.6m it costs in a single year to get rid of Kent's household waste?

It will cost Kent residents £64.6m for the county council to manage the disposal of some 812,000 tonnes of household waste next year – and that does not include the cost of collecting it. You can help manage the cost by reducing the amount of waste you produce at home.

Each household in Kent generates nearly one and a half tonnes of household waste a year. If every Kent resident reduced their waste by 5% it would save a total of £3.8m a year.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/reducwaste to discover what you can do to reduce your waste and to learn about our campaigns on recycling, rubbish and waste.

Could you be entitled to a Council Tax rebate?

Whilst most council tax payers have to pay the full bill, KCC is working in partnership with the borough, city and district councils to help everyone who is entitled to a council tax rebate to claim it.

- Over the past three years Kent Benefits Partnership has reduced council tax bills for Kent residents by more than three million pounds.
- If your household has less than £16,000 in savings, and is on a low income then you too may qualify to get some help with your council tax bill.
- Call the Kent Benefits Partnership on 0845 345 0310 to find out more.

More Information

For questions about your **council tax payments, bill or council tax benefit** please contact the borough, city or district council that sent your bill to you.

If you have questions about **KCC's budget** please contact us by:
telephone: 08458 247 247 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week);

email: council.tax@kent.gov.uk; or

letter: Kent County Council, Room 3.08 Sessions House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

**This leaflet is also available in alternative
formats please contact 08458 247 247**