

Council tax in Ashford 2023/24

How your council tax helps pay for the services we provide



It costs us around 50p every time we send out a printed council tax bill. So save time, save money and make resources go further. Sign up to e-billing at [ashford.gov.uk/ebilling](https://www.ashford.gov.uk/ebilling)

Visit www.ashford.gov.uk for more information.
Query with your council tax? Phone 01233 331111.



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

ASHFORD

About your council tax

Council tax is a local tax that you pay to fund the services that are provided by:

- Ashford Borough Council
- Kent County Council
- Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Kent Fire and Rescue Services

If you live in an area with a parish or town council, an element of what you pay will also go to them.

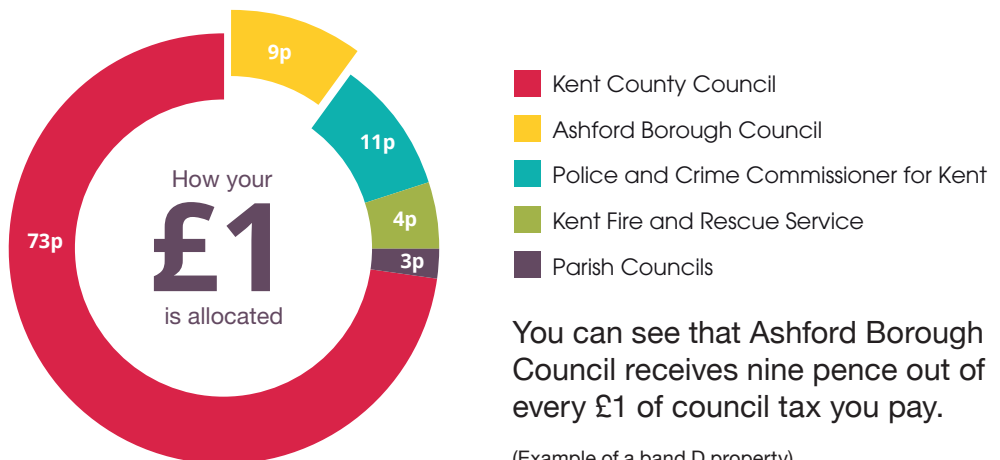
The amount you pay is determined by the value of your property (please note, valuations are based on your property's value in 1991). The amount that is quoted is always that of a band D property, which is the average.

Council tax bills are sent out in mid-March. Please check yours carefully when it arrives. On the bill you can find out which council tax band you are in.

Who receives my council tax?

Ashford Borough Council collects your council tax and then distributes it as shown in the chart below.

How every £1 of your council tax is allocated



How every £1 of your council tax is allocated

	2023/24	%
Ashford Borough Council	8,925,345.00	9
Kent County Council	75,033,052.38	73
Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	11,891,493.90	11
Kent Fire and Rescue Service	4,269,493.80	4
Parish Councils	2,619,145.25	3
Total Council Tax Collected	102,738,530.33	

Your council tax is one of the lowest in Kent

The allocation set by Ashford Borough Council is one of the lowest in Kent. The council is raising council tax on a band D property by £5, this is to ensure the council can continue to provide our residents with their statutory services without imposing cuts that would reduce service delivery. Ashford’s Council Tax is significantly lower at £182.50 than the average council tax in Kent which is currently £226.51 per annum, based on the provisional figures supplied by all authorities.

Local councils now have a choice of increasing the level at which their council tax is set – the maximum being either 2.99% or £5, whichever is greater. Ashford Borough Council members have agreed to raise it by £5 (2.82%) (for a band D property) for 2023-24 – working out at under 10p per week extra (for a band D property).

Authority	Average charge for a band D property (2022-23 financial year)	Proposed charge for a band D property (2023-24 financial year)
Ashford	£177.50	£182.50
Average for Kent districts	£220.50	£226.51

These are just some of our services

Ashford Borough Council provides a range of services for just over £3.50 a week (based on the amount paid on a band D property).

Examples include:

- Weekly food waste and refuse or recycling collection
- Keeping streets clean and emptying public bins, deter and prosecute environmental crimes, such as fly tipping
- Provide and maintain playgrounds and support wider leisure facilities
- Support those homeless or at risk of becoming homeless through advice and support
- Promote the delivery of projects for the future economic growth of the borough: Newtown Works, enhancements to Victoria Park and regeneration of the town centre
- Grants, funding for community projects, support for the voluntary and community sector
- Maintain a local development plan to ensure development is made in a strategic manner within designated sites
- Electoral services, including voter registration
- Youth and arts services (including cultural and town centre events)
- Public health duties, including food hygiene inspections of commercial properties
- Our communications channels (our websites, social media, telephone and face-to-face customer services)

Pay by direct debit

The easiest way to pay your council tax is by direct debit.

You can pay on the 1st of each month and spread the cost over ten months from April.

To set up a direct debit:

- Visit www.ashford.gov.uk/pay
- Phone 01233 330227



Your contributions to each organisation

House Band	Kent County Council	Ashford Borough Council	Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	Kent Fire and Rescue Authority	Total Council Tax (excluding parish precepts)
	£	£	£	£	£
A	1022.82	121.67	162.10	58.20	1364.79
B	1193.29	141.94	189.12	67.90	1592.25
C	1363.76	162.22	216.13	77.60	1819.71
D	1534.23	182.50	243.15	87.30	2047.18
E	1875.17	223.06	297.18	106.70	2502.11
F	2216.11	263.61	351.22	126.10	2957.04
G	2557.05	304.17	405.25	145.50	3411.97
H	3068.46	365.00	486.30	174.60	4094.36

The table above shows how much money you will pay to each organisation in the 2023-24 financial year. This is the total you will pay in one year, so for a band D property, your total amount will be £2,047.18. The monthly amount will be itemised in your bill.

Other organisations listed above are also increasing their element of council tax. Therefore, you will see an increase in your overall council tax bill compared with last year. If you live in an area where there is a parish, town or community council, the amount you contribute towards this is detailed on your bill.

Council tax reduction

Council tax reduction is a local system designed to help you pay your council tax if you are on a low income.

Visit www.ashford.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-reduction

Ashford Borough Council's budget

This table shows you how much money:

- We allocate to each service area within the council
- We are allocating compared with last year
- We spend on each service per head of population
- We have to spend overall compared with last year
- We have in our reserves, should we need to use it.

Service	2022/23	2023/24	*Per Head
	£	£	£
Finance and IT	30,269	29,480	221
HR, Customer Services, Comms and Digitalisation	699	737	6
Housing	39,234	41,117	309
Health & Wellbeing (incl. Port)	12,624	8,348	63
Environment, Property and Recreation	13,816	15,856	119
Planning and Development	4,460	4,762	36
Corporate Management Costs	935	834	6
Economic Development	634	780	6
Performance and Policy	1,464	1,699	13
Legal	568	616	5
Gross Expenditure	104,703	104,229	784
Less grants and other income	(90,554)	(84,875)	(637)
Net expenditure	14,149	19,354	147
Contribution to/(from) reserves	1,944	(650)	(5)
Budget requirement	16,093	18,704	142
Financed by:			
New Homes Bonus	(1,886)	(1,662)	(12)
Government grants	(485)	(615)	(5)
Business rates	(4,685)	(7,502)	(56)
Council Tax Surplus from previous year	(400)	-	-
Council Tax requirement	8,637	8,925	69

*Ashford population of 133,200 (based on the Statistical Bulletin published by Kent County Council, summer 2021).

The future

The Council have reacted quickly to the changing economic environment over the last year and there is still uncertainty as we move into the next financial year. The Council is committed to delivering the priorities set out in our Corporate Plan and delivering essential services to our residents.

We want to increase biodiversity, to continue to improve our recycling rates, to encourage greener modes of transport and for our homes and buildings to be as energy efficient as possible.

Every community needs a range of homes, affordable to local people and offering suitable accommodation for all. This, together with well-planned local services, from shops and schools to health and leisure facilities, community spaces, parks and green areas that are easy and safe to access are vital to everyone's health and wellbeing.

We will work with other partners to make sure that local people are equipped with the skills and knowledge to take up new opportunities as existing businesses adapt and new businesses establish in the borough.

Increasing productivity by attracting creative and innovative industries to establish themselves in the borough alongside growing and strengthening the visitor economy are key drivers to good employment and increasing the skills and knowledge base of local people. Ashford has grown its business base by attracting inward investment to the borough. Building on this success we will support existing and new business to thrive with a focus on green, sustainable businesses.

Working to the Corporate Plan will ensure the borough recovers to be greener, more sustainable and resilient for the future benefit of our residents.

How else is my council tax spent?

Please use the links below to access information on how the other named authorities are spending their share of your council tax.



Kent County Council

www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budget/council-tax



Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/setting-the-kent-police-budget



Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority

www.kent.fire-uk.org/about-us/financial-information/council-tax/

Parish councils - www.ashford.gov.uk/council-tax-information

Tenterden Town Council

As Tenterden has a town council, its information is included separately here. Details of Tenterden Town Council's activities and services can be obtained from their website (www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk). Copies of its latest newsletter and annual report can be downloaded from there also, collected from the Town Hall at 24 High Street, Tenterden or requested by calling 01580 762271.

	2022/23	2023/24
Estimated expenditure	709,190	683,900
Less income	(59,961)	(30,320)
Earmarked additional reserves for Town Projects	0	0
Precept charged	649,229	653,580

