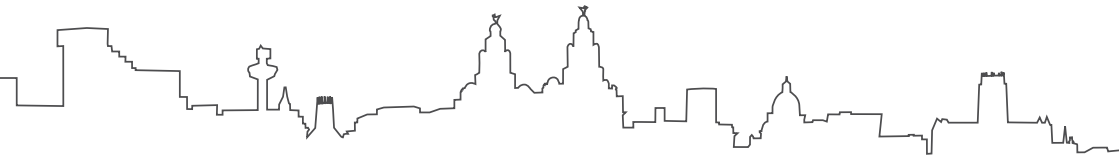


Your Council Tax 2013/2014

Your guide to what you get for your Council Tax



This booklet provides information about Council Tax

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Liverpool City Council is being forced to cut the number of services available to local people

This is because the amount of money given to the council by central government is being cut back. Eighty per cent of the money we use to run local services comes from the government.

We will have to find £149m in savings between now and 2017.

We have already had to cut £141m from our spending over the last two years.

These are very difficult decisions that

will affect the lives of Liverpool people. These are not decisions we take lightly.

As we make cuts I will do all I can to protect the services on which thousands of citizens, particularly vulnerable people, rely. We will continue to focus on essential services such as caring for our elderly, looking after people with health problems and keeping our young people safe.

We are working hard to minimise the damage to local services by making savings at the City Council. But in the end, since our services are delivered by staff, we now have 1600 fewer people working for us. And more jobs will be lost in the coming years.

The most important thing is to make sure that when we make cuts we do so in ways that do the least damage to the lives of Liverpool people. We will be fair-minded and open. But we cannot shrink from making tough choices.

The government is also making changes to the welfare system, which will affect thousands of people. Again, we will do what we can to protect and support the most vulnerable. We have found money to lessen the impact of the cut in council tax benefit and given £1m to credit unions to stop people turning to loan sharks.

[This booklet will explain more about how we spend your money. It will also give you information about the changes that are to take place to benefits.](#)

Joe Anderson, Mayor of Liverpool

Finance Facts:

We have a gross budget of £1.3 billion – but 80% of this comes from central government.

What we raise locally (20% of total income)

- > Council tax: **£163m**
- > Other income, such as licensing and parking fees, fines and planning charges: **£104m**

TOTAL: £267m

Examples of what we spend:

Adult Social Care and Health
£162m
including:



Day services £45m



Home care £13m

Children and Young People
£90m
including:



Caring for young people £53m



Children's Centres £3m

Community Services
£74m
including:



Libraries network
£11m



Environmental Services
£12m



Leisure/outdoor recreation
£12m



Parks/environment
£9m

Regeneration and Employment
£48m
including:



Maintaining roads
£12m



Culture and Tourism
£9m



Housing delivery
£3m



Jobs/Apprenticeships
£1m

Council Tax Collection - How does Liverpool compare to other local authorities

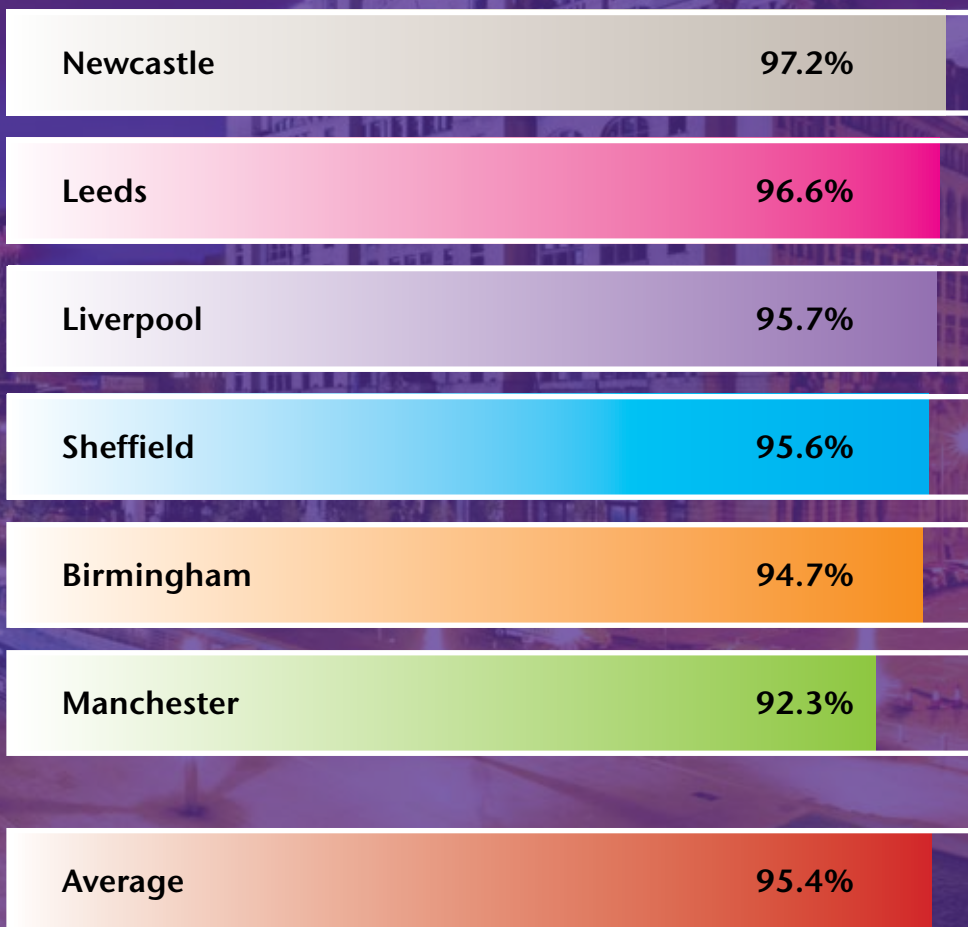
The chart below shows collection performance during 2011/2012 for some of England's biggest city councils.

(Source Communities and Local Government)

Please remember that you can help us improve our efficiency

and save yourself time by paying your Council Tax by Direct Debit.

There is a Direct Debit form at the front of your Council Tax bill, if you do not already pay by Direct Debit.



Changes to welfare benefits

The government is changing the way that benefits are calculated and administered. We explain these changes below and how they could impact on you and your family.

Social Sector Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax)

What is it?

From April 2013, housing benefit will be reduced for working age social housing tenants whose accommodation is deemed to be larger than they need. This is called the Social Sector Size Criteria, also known as Bedroom Tax.

How could it affect you?

- Tenants 'under-occupying' by one bedroom will see a **14%** reduction in benefit.
- Tenants "under-occupying" by two or more bedrooms will face a **25%** reduction in benefit.

This could affect around **11,600** people in Liverpool and mean a loss of about **£14** per household.

Pension-age households will not be affected by these changes.

The new rules allow one bedroom for each person or couple. Children under 16 of the same gender are expected to share a bedroom. Children under 10 are expected to share a bedroom, regardless of gender.

If you would like further advice please contact your landlord.

Universal credit

What is it?

Universal Credit is the proposed single benefit payment. It will replace Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support, Income-based Employment Support

Allowance, Tax Credits, and Housing Benefit.

It will be paid directly to the claimant every month.

It will be introduced from **2013 - 2017**.

How will it affect you?

The changes will affect people of working age.

Tenants will stop receiving Housing Benefit and will start to receive support for housing costs as part of a Universal Credit payment.

People's housing costs will be paid into their account monthly, instead of directly to landlords.

Benefit cap

What is it?

By September 2013, the overall amount of welfare benefit an out of work household can receive will be 'capped', or limited to the equivalent of the national average earnings of a working household after tax.

The cap is set at:

- **£500 per week for couples (with or without children) and lone parents**
- **£350 per week for single adults**

The cap will include a combined income from Jobseekers Allowance; Housing Benefit; Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit; Universal Credit (from October 2013); and other benefits such as carer's allowance and maternity allowance.

How will it affect you?

This is likely to affect larger family households receiving benefit, especially those with four or more children.

Around 280 households will lose an average of just under **£59** a week - although some families will lose more.

The Department for Work and Pensions is writing to people who are likely to be affected.



Social fund replacement scheme

What is it?

The Discretionary Social Fund (crisis loans), currently administered by the Department for Work and Pensions is being replaced with a local system from April 2013.

Crisis loans meet immediate needs such as general living expenses or items needed following a disaster.

The new scheme also includes **Community Care Grants**, which enable vulnerable people to live in the community.

The council will receive just over £3.5m, which is around half the amount under the previous system. With limited funds, the council will target those most in need and maximise alternative funding options.

Who will be affected?

This is an essential service that many of the most vulnerable people depend on, especially at times of crisis or when establishing a new home in the community.

These are the main changes coming into affect as part of the government's welfare reforms. However, this may not cover every individual situation, as everyone's circumstances are different.

For more information about any of these changes, please visit the Department for Work and Pensions website at www.dwp.gov.uk.



Council Tax Support Scheme

What is it?

Council tax benefit is to be abolished and replaced with a new local support scheme from **April 2013**. There will be less money available to support local residents. The new scheme will mean a cut of **£6.2m**.

Who will be affected?

76,700 households receive council tax benefit in Liverpool. The new scheme will mean a reduction in support for up to **44,700** working age people.

Pension-age households will not be affected.

The Council will not pass on the full impact of these cuts in 2013/14. By using government money and council funds we are reducing the average a typical claimant will be required to pay to an additional **£1.70** per week, rather than **£3.41**.

Personal Independence

Payment

What is it?

From 8 April 2013, Disability Living Allowance for people aged 16 to 64 will be replaced by Personal Independence Payment. It will be based on a new assessment, focusing on a person's ability to carry out a range of key activities necessary to everyday life. Its introduction will be staggered, with existing claims reassessed up to 2016. It will be made up of a Daily Living component and a Mobility component, or a combination of both. The proposed rates for 2013/14 are:

- **Daily Living** Enhanced Rate £79.15
Standard Rate £53.00
- **Mobility** Enhanced Rate £55.25
Standard Rate £21.00

Who will be affected?

People aged 16 to 64 with a health condition or disability. However, Disability Living Allowance will continue for under 16s and over 65s.

REMEMBER:

You can arrange to pay your council tax by direct debit, or go paperless with e-billing by calling Liverpool Direct on 0151 233 3008 when you receive your bill in April.





“This has been an exceptionally difficult budget to set as once again, despite Liverpool being recognised as having the most need of any area in the country, we have had to face the highest level of cuts. Our government funding is being cut by more than 50% over the lifetime of this parliament.

Most of what the council spends goes on protecting vulnerable people. There is simply no way that we can possibly make the level of savings we need to without affecting some of these services.

However, we are doing everything we can to shield vulnerable communities and people from the worst affects of these cuts.”

Councillor Paul Brant, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance

Savings needed year by year

2011-12:	£91.4 million (delivered)
2012-13:	£50 million (on target)
2013-14:	£32 million
2014:-15:	£46 million
2015-16:	£35 million
2016-17:	£36 million
TOTAL:	£290.4 million

Did you know?

80% of the council’s funding comes from central government.

Only **11%** of the budget is raised through council tax.

Overall government grants to the council are being cut by **52%** over this parliament.

The council has **rejected proposals** to introduce charges for bulky household waste; to withdraw funding to one of the city’s domestic violence accommodation units; and to reduce funded childcare places.



How you can get help

Liverpool City Council recognises the budget cuts and changes to welfare benefits will have a great impact on individuals and families. Many thousands of people will be worse off and will need support and advice. Below, we outline some of the ways you can get help.



The Council has awarded a consortium of seven credit unions £1m so they can help more people and avoid them turning to loan sharks.

Call 0151 236 0658 or visit www.merseymoney.org.uk for more information.

The Mayor has set up an Action Group on Fairness and Tackling Poverty.

It will look at how the Council can work with partners and organisations including housing associations, the voluntary sector, food banks and Citizens Advice to try to reduce the

impact of the government cuts and welfare changes.

The group will also administer a £400,000 fund to help reduce some of the hardship which will result from the cuts. Further details about the fund will be made available shortly.



The Council has donated £50,000 to the city's food banks. Operating in the North, Central and South areas of the city, they issue emergency supplies when presented with a voucher issued by care professionals such as doctors or social workers. For more details, call: 0151 226 3406 (north); 07760 718640 (south) or 0151 733 3373 (central).

Your local One Stop Shop

Broadway

Unit 1, Broadway Shopping Precinct,
Broad Lane, Norris Green,
Liverpool L11 1JB

City Centre

Ground Floor, Municipal Building
Dale Street, Liverpool L2 2DH

Dingle

200 Park Road, Liverpool L8 6SJ

Garston

Garston Library, Bowden Road
Liverpool L19 1QN

Kirkdale

101 Walton Road, Liverpool L4 4AG

Old Swan

1A Derby Lane, Liverpool L13 6QA

Speke

Conleach Road, Liverpool L24 0TY

Walton Library & One Stop Shop

Walton Library, Evered Avenue
Liverpool L9 2AF

Wavertree

Picton Road, Liverpool L15 4LP

Useful contacts:

RAISE Benefit Advice Team

0151 291 7850

www.benefitsadviceteam.co.uk

Liverpool Advice Alliance

0844 848 7700

www.liverpooladvicealliance.org

Liverpool Credit Unions

0151 236 0658

www.merseymoney.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau

08444 111 444

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

National Debt line

0808 808 4000

www.nationaldebtline.co.uk

Turn 2 us

0808 802 2000

www.turn2us.org.uk

Department for Work and Pensions

www.dwp.gov.uk



How your Council Tax is worked out

The amount of Council Tax you pay depends on which valuation band your property has been given by the Valuation Office Agency. Valuations are based on the price a property would have fetched if it had been sold on 1 April 1991.

Your Council Tax bill tells you which band applies to your home. The values for each band are:

Band	Range of values	Proportion to Band D*
A	Up to £40,000	6/9
B	Up to £52,000	7/9
C	Up to £68,000	8/9
D	Up to £88,000	1
E	Up to £120,000	11/9
F	Up to £160,000	13/9
G	Up to £320,000	15/9
H	Over £320,000	2

* The amount of Council Tax set for each band depends on the tax set for Band D. The Council Tax for all the other bands is calculated from this figure using the proportions shown above.

Valuation Appeals

If you would like to make an appeal against the band or provide details of any alteration to the property which you think may affect its banding please contact:

The Listing Officer, Council Tax North,
Valuation Office Agency, King William
House, Market Place, Hull, HU1 1RT
Telephone: 03000 501501

Web site address: www.vo.a.gov.uk

Email: ctnorth@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Important: Making an appeal of any kind does not allow you to stop paying your Council Tax. If your appeal is successful, you will be refunded any Council Tax you have overpaid.

How to pay less (Discounts)

Single Person Discount

Council Tax is based on two adults living at a property. If only one person aged 18 or over lives in a property a 25% discount can be given.

Second Home Discount

If the property is used as your second home, there is no longer any discount from April 2013.

Discount for vacant dwellings

From April 2013, there are three changes to previously vacant and exempt dwellings. For homes which require or are undergoing structural alterations or major repairs, a 20% discount will apply for a maximum of 12 months. For vacant and unfurnished dwellings, 100% discount will apply for a maximum of 2 months. For repossessed properties, a 100% discount will replace the exemption.

For vacant and furnished dwellings, from April 2013, a discount of 20% will apply from the day the dwelling becomes vacant.

Other Discounts

Some people are disregarded for Council Tax purposes. This means that we do not take them into account when we decide how many people, aged 18 or over, live in your property.

We can reduce your bill by 25% or 50% depending on how many people we take into account.

- if all but one of the persons living in your property are classed as disregarded we can give a discount of 25%, or
- if all of the persons living in your property are classed as disregarded we can give a discount of 50%.

If you think a discount applies to you, please let us know. You will need to provide full details of your reasons.

Who do we disregard?

- 18 & 19 years olds in further education or who have just left school or college
- full time student
- spouses or dependants of a student who is not a British citizen and their visa does not allow paid employment or claiming benefits
- student nurse
- trainee on youth training course
- apprentice
- members of visiting forces or certain international institutions
- diplomats and members of certain international organisations and their spouses
- members of religious communities
- a carer for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under the age of 18
- a person in prison except those in prison for non payment of Council Tax, or paying a fine
- severely mentally impaired

- resident of certain types of hostels or night shelters
- 18 year olds for whom you receive child benefit
- patients living in hospital
- persons who are living in nursing or care homes
- certain carers working for low pay.

Charges for Long Term Vacant Dwellings

The discount rate for long term vacant dwellings changed in April 2007. Up to this date, where a property had been vacant for more than 6 months, there was a liability for 50% charge. After April 2007, the charge after 6 months became 100% unless another exemption applied. The policy was introduced to promote the quick renovation, clearance and re-letting of empty properties in the City.

From April 2013, **a change to the regulations allows a premium of 50% to be charged** where a dwelling has been vacant for more than 2 years.



Students

Special rules apply for full time students. You might be eligible for a discount or exemption. You will need to provide a Student Exemption Certificate from your place of study. If you think you should be entitled to a discount or exemption please contact us. There are new arrangements in place if you study at Liverpool University, Hope University, John Moore's University or LIPA. In this case you only need to provide us with your course details.

If you are already getting a discount and there are changes in your circumstances which might affect that discount, please write to us, giving us the details, within 21 days of the charge. Failure to do so could result in a penalty of £50.

Exemptions

Some properties are exempt from council tax depending on the reason they are empty or the special circumstances of the people who live or work in them.

These include those properties only lived in by people who are:

- full-time students
- spouses or dependants of a student who is not a British citizen and their visa prevents them from taking paid employment or claiming benefits
- severely mentally impaired
- a dependant relative whose main residence is a property which forms part of a single property e.g. a granny flat
- diplomats and members of certain international organisations and their spouses
- living in married quarters or forces' barracks
- below the age of 18.

Other exemptions apply to vacant properties that are:

- unable to be let separately because they are part of a main property or there is planning restriction
- owned by a charity (exempt for up to 6 months)



- waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted and for up to six months after
- empty because someone has gone to prison
- empty because someone has moved to receive personal care in a hospital or home
- empty because someone has moved to provide personal care to another person
- left empty by students studying elsewhere
- waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion
- the responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee
- empty because their occupation is forbidden by law
- Newly built dwellings: exempt for up to 6 months after completed, if they remain unoccupied and unfurnished.

If you think your home or property is exempt, please let us know. You will need to provide full details of your reasons.

Disabled Relief

If you or anyone in your home is disabled and one or more of the following statements is true you may qualify for a reduction in Council Tax:

- your home has a room which is mainly used and needed by the disabled person
- your home has a second bathroom or kitchen that is used and needed by the disabled person
- a wheelchair is used indoors by the disabled person.

If you qualify your Council Tax bill will be reduced to that of a property one band lower than it is currently. If your home falls in Band A there is a fixed reduction in the charge.

If you think you are entitled to this reduction please contact us. Applications are reviewed each year.

Further Information

You can get more information:

- On our website www.liverpool.gov.uk
- By calling our Contact Centre on 233 3008 or
- By visiting your local One Stop Shop. Call 233 3016 to make an appointment.

Our Commitment To You

- Liverpool City Council is committed to placing you as the customer, at the heart of the organisation. We aim to do this by providing accessible, high quality services that meet differing needs.
- it is our aim to maximise revenue by collecting as much money in the shortest time possible. We believe that by collecting revenue quickly we will:
- help our customers avoid serious debt problems in the future
- help protect council services
- help to keep Council Tax as low as possible.

When collecting Council Tax we promise to:

- make sure our collection methods are fair and that we consider customers' individual circumstances
- take effective and efficient action to recover arrears
- perform these tasks while keeping costs as low as possible
- adhere to our Recovery policy which is on the City Council's website.

If you are having difficulty paying your Council Tax, please contact us as soon as possible as we are here to help you.

You can pay by Visa Credit, Visa Debit, Switch, Maestro, Solo, Mastercard, Electron or JCB

- Payments can be made online at <http://liverpool.gov.uk/council-tax/howto-pay/> or by calling 0151 233 2000 (automated payment line) or at one of our One Stop Shops. To make

a payment you will need to have your Council Tax reference number handy, your debit/ credit card and know the amount you wish to pay. Remember:

- we are here to help you
- if you don't contact us we can't help you
- if you pay by Direct Debit, you are sure that your payment reaches us on time and you don't have to worry about further recovery action. We can arrange this for you.

Recovering Arrears

- we will send you a reminder notice if you don't pay your Council Tax on time
- if you do not bring the instalment or instalments up to date within seven days, you will lose your right to pay by instalments and, without further notice, after a further period of seven days, we may ask you to pay the full amount you owe for the year
- we will only send a maximum of two reminder notices in any financial year. If the payment is not brought up to date in accordance with the reminder notice or we do not hear from you, you will be sent a summons including costs and charges. Unless the summons is served incorrectly, we will not normally withdraw it
- at the court hearing, which you have a right to attend, we will apply for a Liability Order which will give

us additional powers to collect the money you owe

- we will notify you if we are granted a Liability Order and request that you complete a form about your financial position. Failure to complete this form could result in a maximum fine of £500 from the Magistrates Court. Once we have obtained a Liability Order, we can deduct a set amount from your salary or wages. If you receive Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support, we can ask the Department of Works and Pensions to deduct money from your Benefit
- if all other attempts to reach a payment arrangement fail, we will pass the debt to our bailiffs to collect. They are entitled to take and sell your goods to pay the debt in accordance with our Bailiff Code of Conduct which forms part of our Recovery Policy. You can prevent this by paying the debt, together with any charges or costs that may have arisen. You will incur further costs and charges and if the bailiffs are unsuccessful, we can apply to the Magistrates Court for committal proceedings. We can also commence proceedings to make you bankrupt. As a result of either of these courses of action, you will incur further costs and charges **if you are having difficulty paying your Council Tax, please contact us as soon as possible as we are here to help you.**



If you feel you do not have to pay Council Tax for any reason, for example:

- you are not the resident or owner
- your property is exempt
- you have been refused a discount or reduction you think you qualify for, or
- a mistake has been made in calculating your bill.

Appeal System

You can make an appeal. Contact us, giving the reasons for your appeal – this must be in writing. If you disagree with any decisions made or your appeal has not been dealt with within two months of us receiving it, you may appeal further to:

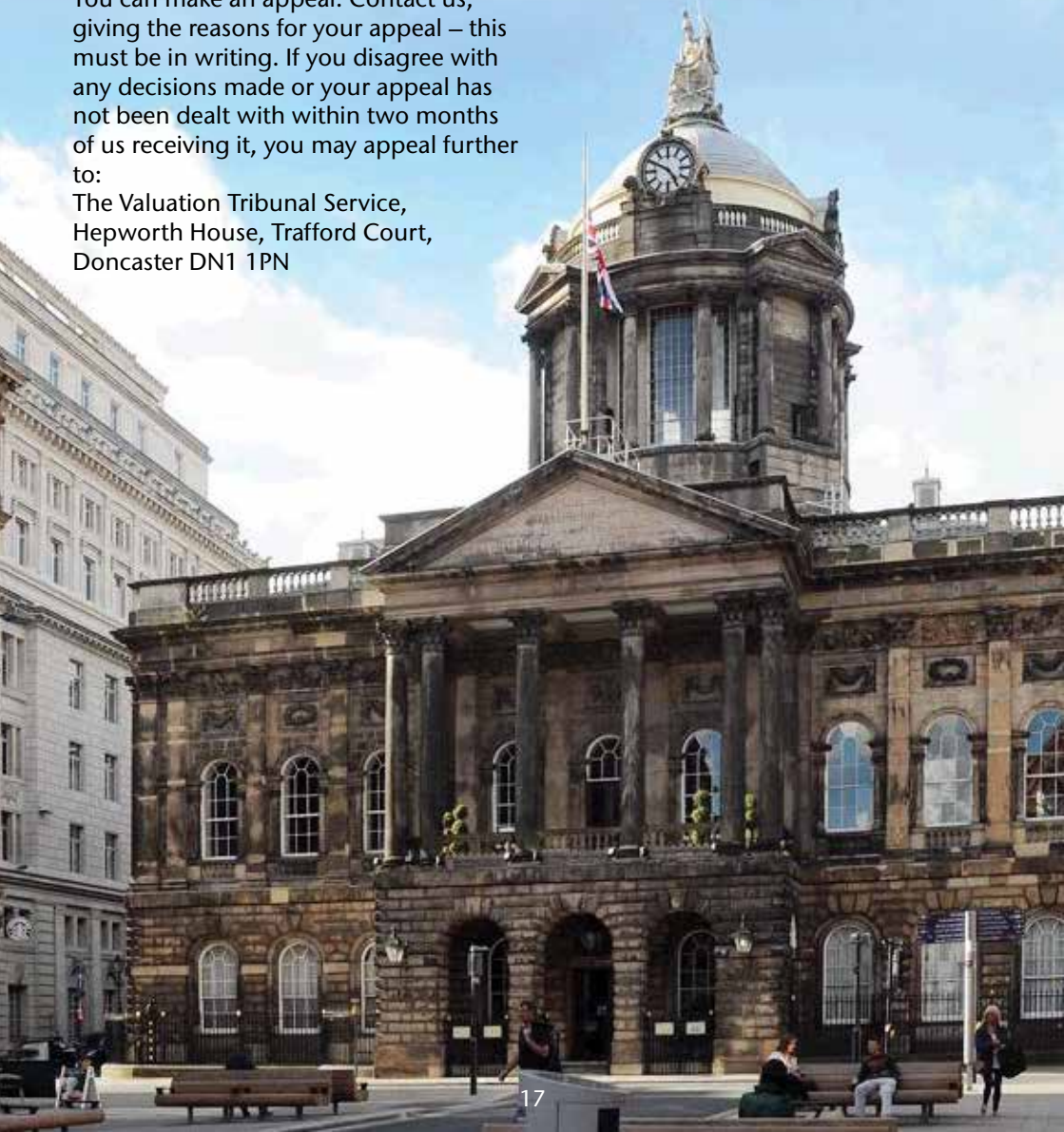
The Valuation Tribunal Service,
Hepworth House, Trafford Court,
Doncaster DN1 1PN

Telephone: 0300 123 2035

Email: vtdoncaster@vts.gsi.gov.uk

Web: www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold your council tax payment. You must pay the council tax according to the bill sent to you. If an appeal is successful, we will send you a refund of any overpaid tax.



Liverpool City Council Budget 2013/14

For 2013/14 the City Council has set a council tax requirement of £118m. This is the amount of money which is required to be collected from council taxpayers to support planned expenditure on City Council services after taking account of all government support and all other forms of income.

The City Council has set its share of the council tax for a band D property at £1,331.03, an increase of 1.75% on the amount set for 2012/13. Thereby generating an additional £0.400m in 2013/2014 compared to taking the 2013/2014 Council Tax Freeze Grant;

In setting this figure the City Council has taken into account general government grant support of £294m and income from local business rates of £92m.

The Government had required councils to hold a referendum with local residents if it proposed to increase its Council Tax by more than 2%.

As the City Council has increased its council tax by 1.75% no referendum is required.

In order to achieve the council tax levels set for 2013/14 the City Council has had to make budget savings of £32m. In achieving these budget savings the City Council has sought to protect services that directly impact upon residents as far as possible.

The Police and Fire Authorities have set their council taxes for a band D property at £153.63 and £68.70 respectively. These amounts represent increases of 2% and are within the Government's referendum limits for these authorities.

The total band D council tax set for Liverpool residents will therefore be £1,553.36, and the total council tax for each valuation band is as follows:

Valuation Band	Liverpool City Council £	Police £	Fire & Rescue Service £	Total Council Tax £
A	887.35	102.42	45.80	1,035.57
B	1,035.25	119.49	53.43	1,208.17
C	1,183.14	136.56	61.07	1,380.77
D	1,331.03	153.63	68.70	1,553.36
E	1,626.81	187.77	83.97	1,898.55
F	1,922.60	221.91	99.23	2,243.74
G	2,218.38	256.05	114.50	2,588.93
H	2,662.06	307.26	137.40	3,106.72

Included in the 2013/14 budget are amounts to pay the following levies:

- Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority Levy £43m
- Waste Disposal Authority Levy £22.6m
- Environment Agency (Flood Defence) Levy £0.167m

Levies are amounts that the City Council is required to pay other authorities as a contribution towards the provision of specific services.

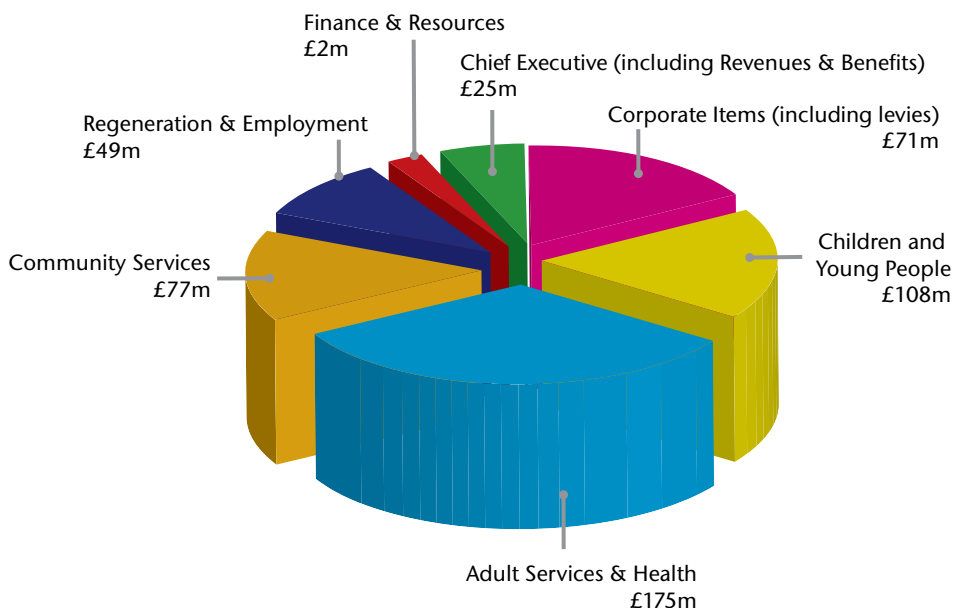
Revenue Spending 2013/14

The City Councils day to day expenditure on providing services is classed as revenue expenditure.

For 2013/14 the City Council has budgeted for net revenue expenditure on the delivery of services as follows:

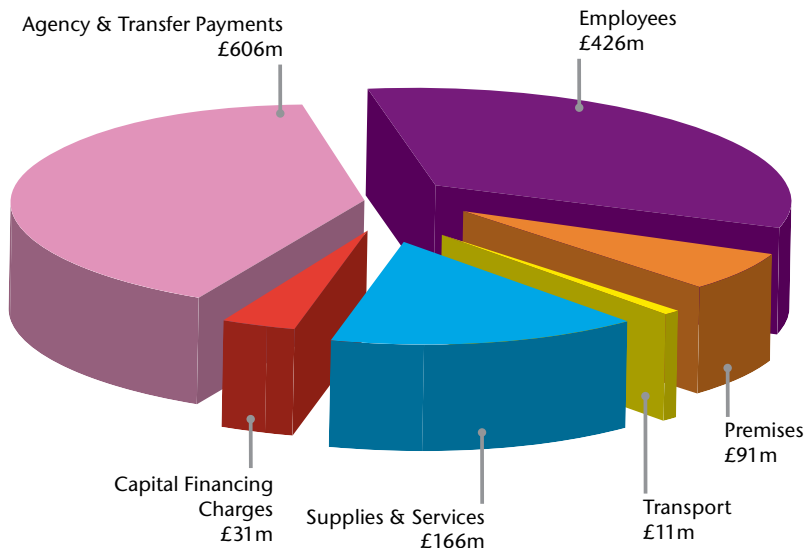
Net Revenue Expenditure 2013/14 £507m

(Net revenue expenditure after the deduction of specific grants and other income.)



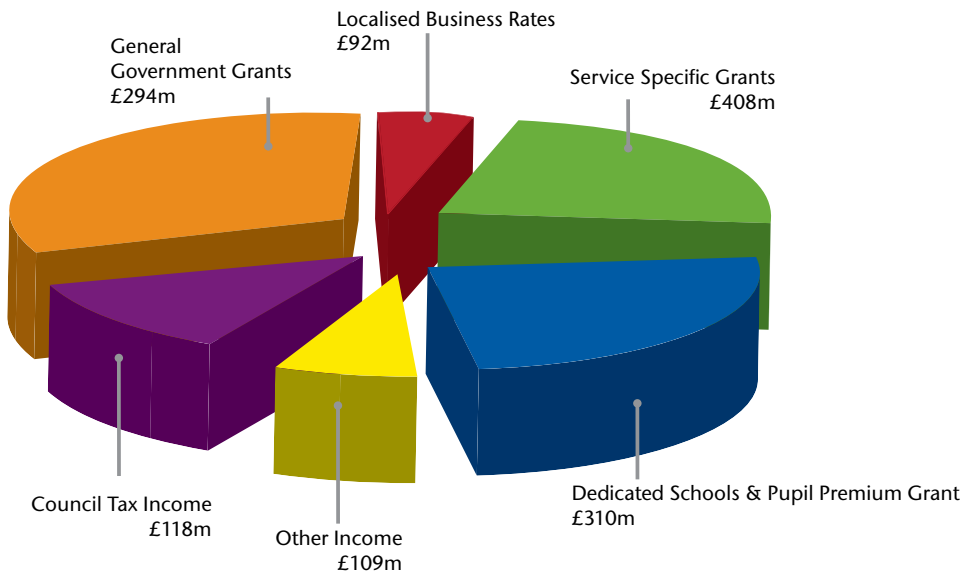
For 2013/14 the City Council has budgeted for gross revenue expenditure on employees and supplies, etc as follows

Gross Revenue Expenditure 2013/14 £1,331m



The sources of funding for this revenue expenditure are as follows:

Gross Fund Revenue Income 2013/14 £1,331m



Capital Spending 2013/14

Capital expenditure is expenditure which results in the acquisition or improvement of assets that have a life of more than one year. Certain grants, such as Home Improvement Grants are also classed as capital expenditure. In 2013/14 the Council will be investing £205m on capital projects.

The capital programme for 2013/14 to 2017/18 focuses resources to deliver the key mayoral priorities of new schools, building houses and increasing employment opportunities. These are in addition to the traditional capital programmes approved on an annual basis.

The following table is an indicative summary of the City Council's capital spending plans for the next five years, based on current schemes and funding streams:

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Highways & Transport	18,224	18,058	17,739	7,739	6,039	67,799
Economic Regeneration Initiatives	97,819	16,457				114,276
Schools & Education	29,540	59,186	57,853	21,881	14,406	182,866
Housing & Neighbourhood	51,586	15,877	5,877	5,877	5,877	85,094
Adult Social Care	1,764	1,622				3,386
Leisure & Open Spaces	1,701	476				2,177
Corporate	4,333	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	8,333
Grand Total Expenditure	204,967	112,676	82,469	36,497	27,322	463,931

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA)

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority is the public body responsible for dealing with household waste once it's been collected from your home.

We use the latest technology to make sure as much of it as possible is recycled so we can avoid sending it to landfill. We work hard to persuade people to use less in the first place and, through our 14 Household Waste

Recycling Centres, to recycle as much as they can.

Together with our District Council partners we're making steady progress. In 2011/12, 36.9% of household waste was reused, recycled and composted. You can read more about our principal aims, objectives and targets for the coming year in our 2012 Annual Plan, available on www.merseysidewda.gov.uk.

Financial Summary

A comparison of Expenditure and Income for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 is as follows:

	2012/13 £000's	2013/14 £000's
Gross Expenditure	40,130	38,522
Landfill Tax (1)	26,685	27,989
Total Net Expenditure	66,815	66,511
Contribution to reserves	0	0
Total requirement	66,815	66,511

(1) Landfill Tax: the tax paid by MRWA to central government for disposing of residual waste to landfill. In 2012-13 it is £64 per tonne, and for 2013-14 it is £72 per tonne.

This is financed by

	2012/13 £000's	2013/14 £000's
Use of reserves	(1,357)	(920)
Leaving a balance to be met by Levy Income	65,458	65,591
Levy per head of population	£48.49	£47.48

Why the requirement has increased by £132,962:

	£000's
Total requirement 2012-2013	65,458
Admin, income and capital cost changes	-331
Tonnage reductions and landfill tax changes	+2,514
Landfill allowance removal	-2,050
Total Requirement 2013-2014	65,591

The Levy for Liverpool City Council based upon the apportionment system is: £22,564,605

For more information contact:
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority
7th Floor, No. 1 Mann Island
Liverpool L3 1BP

Tel: 0151 255 1444
Fax: 0151 227 1848
E-mail: enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk
Web: www.merseysidewda.gov.uk





Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (ITA)

Information for Council Tax Payers and Business Ratepayers 2013/14

1. Given the severe spending pressures on the Merseyside District Councils, the Authority has resolved to freeze its levy for 2013/14 at the same level as 2012/2013.
2. The Authority has been asked to ensure that it can maintain its core services, and at the same time maintain a levy freeze by a savings and efficiency package of £5.6m.

J Fogarty, BA Hons, IPFA
Interim Director of Finance
Merseyside Integrated Transport
Authority and
Passenger Transport Executive
(Merseytravel)
No. 1 Mann Island
Liverpool L3 1BP
Tel: 0151 227 5181



Merseytravel Revenue Budget 2013/14

	Expend £000	Income/ Recharges £000	Grants/ Balances £000	Levy £000
Bus Services	29,416	(9,717)	-	19,699
Rail Services	112,129	(17,925)	(93,280)	924
Travel Concessions	86,341	(26,773)	-	59,568
Customer Services: Hubs	9,516	(1,635)	-	7,881
Mersey Ferries	11,197	(11,474)	-	(277)
Mersey Tunnels	40,396	(40,396)	-	-
DRCM*	4,160	(683)	-	3,477
Corporate Strategy & Marketing	5,117	(1,858)	-	3,259
Funds Management	49,522	(18,560)	(233)	30,729
Asset Management	12,868	(12,868)	-	-
People & Customer Development	8,578	(6,474)	-	2,104
Support Services	4,611	(4,611)	-	-
Total Spending	373,851	(152,974)	(93,513)	127,364

* DRCM = Democratic Representation & Corporate Management

	2012/13 Levy £000	2013/14 Levy £000	Decrease /Increase
Knowsley	14,031	13,458	-573
Liverpool	41,896	42,956	+1,060
St Helens	16,695	16,179	-516
Sefton	25,682	25,274	-408
Wirral	29,060	29,497	+437
Total	127,364	127,364	—

The public transport capital programme for 2013/14 is £18.9m of which £7.9m is allocated for new schemes.

The Mersey Tunnels capital programme for 2013/14 is £10.5m financed from Tunnels tolls.

In November 2012, I was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Merseyside. As PCC I have a statutory duty and electoral mandate to ensure an efficient and effective police service is delivered by the Chief Constable on behalf of the public.

In addition, I have a statutory responsibility to produce an annual budget, including setting the council tax requirement for the Police Service on Merseyside. The council tax requirement provides the balance of funding not covered by government grant.

Setting the budget has not been an easy task, particularly in the face of continuing financial constraints on the police service. However, with the delivery of £9.250m of savings by the Force, along with £0.7m of savings from my own office, I have been able to set a balanced budget for 2013/14, resulting in a council tax requirement of £50.579m. In council tax terms this is equivalent to £102.42 per property at Band A and £153.63 at Band D, a 2% increase on

the 2012/13 current level.

The budget in 2013/14 will enable the commencement of normal recruitment of police officers, thus enabling the Chief Constable to maintain the current budget establishment of 3,952 police officers and protecting frontline policing in 2013/14.

However, I am aware that there are significant financial and operational challenges ahead, with a further savings requirement of some £7.75m to be identified in 2014/15. Consequently, I am working closely with the Chief Constable to develop a series of reviews across all areas of business that will achieve the savings requirement, whilst keeping the precept as low as possible and ensuring Merseyside has the most resilient and effective force possible.

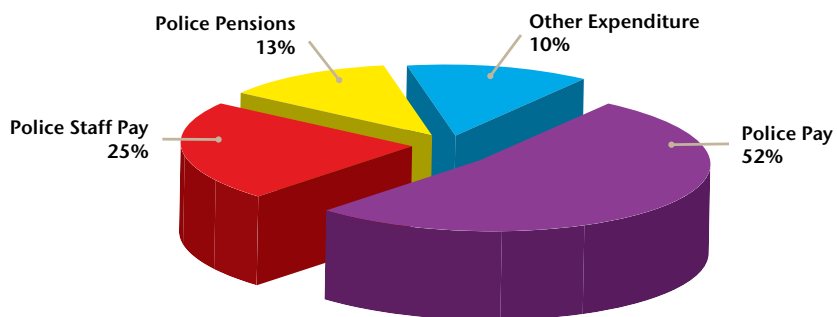
Rt Hon Jane Kennedy

Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside



Budget	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	
Gross Expenditure	337.005	334.756	
Gross Income	(3.304)	(3.669)	
Specific Government Grants	(14.695)	(21.324)	
Net Operating Requirement	319.006	309.763	
Use of Provisions, Reserves and General Balances	(2.022)	(0.293)	
Net Budget Requirement	316.984	309.470	
Less: Police General Grant	(126.975)	(134.729)	43.5%
Revenue Support Grant	(2.427)	(0)	
Business Rate Income	(123.665)	(0)	
Collection Fund	0.233	(0.124)	0.1%
DLG Formula Funding	0	(124.038)	40.1%
Council Tax Support Grant	0	0	
Council Tax Requirement	63.684	50.579	16.3%

Analysis of Budgeted Gross Expenditure in 2013/14



How spending has changed

GROSS EXPENDITURE 2012/13	£m
	337.005
Inflation	3.107
Net Adjustment to Specific Grant Related Expenditure	3.428
Net Committed Growth	1.166
Force Savings Already Recognised	(9.250)
OPCCM Savings Requirement	(0.700)
GROSS EXPENDITURE 2013/14	334.756

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority Precept Information 2013/14



The Government has announced the level of grant it will provide to the Fire Authority for the years of 2013/14 and 2014/15. The Authority's funding is being cut by 8.7% and 7.5% respectively in those years - a £6.3m cash reduction. The funding reduction is worse than the national average for fire and rescue services and means that over the next two years the Fire Authority will need to make savings of £10m to balance the financial plan. This is in addition to significant Government Formula Grant reductions in the first two years of the spending review period which required £9.2m of savings to balance its budget.

In light of the financial pressures the Authority has decided to increase council tax by 2% (the maximum allowable without a costly referendum) in order to minimise the reductions in the frontline fire response provision. The band D Council Tax is therefore now £68.70. Most council taxpayers in Merseyside will pay about 13p per day towards the Fire and Rescue Service.

Overall the Authority has tackled the underlying financial deficit by:-

- a) Identifying £7m in savings from back office and support areas.
- b) However this leaves £3m of unavoidable savings from the front line services to the community primarily by reducing the number of appliances we can staff.

These savings will be delivered over the next two years.

The Authority is consulting on what those cuts will mean to the services you receive through its Integrated Risk Management Plan. This document sets out the future strategic direction for the Authority and is available on our website at www.merseyfire.gov.uk

The Authority has set a budget of £66.721 million for 2013/14, £3.027m lower than that in 2012/13. Further savings will be required for 2014/15. The main changes between this year's budget and last year's are:-

Reductions in support service, management & other costs	(£2.6m)
Unavoidable cuts in front line staffing	(£1.0m)
Net movement on reserves	(£1.2m)
Increase in capital financing costs to fund capital expenditure	£1.2m
Forecast inflationary cost increases	£0.6m
	(£3.0m)

The Authority has issued a precept on the five Merseyside District Councils of £22.618million, which is equivalent to a Council Tax of £68.70 for a Band D property. Liverpool's contribution to expenditure financed by precept is £6.099 million, which represents 27% of the total precept.

Summary of Revenue Budget & Council Tax Requirement

2012-13 £'000		2013-14 £'000
72,595	Gross Expenditure	71,117
-491	Net Contribution from Reserves	-1,682
-2,356	Income & specific Grants for services	-2,714
69,748	Budget Requirement	66,72
-105	Collection Fund Surplus	-55
-41,162	Government Grant & Business Rate Funding	-44,048
28,481	Council Tax Requirement	22,618
422,814	Tax-base	329,223
£67.36	Band D Equivalent	£68.70

Contact Us

The Authority values the opinions of the people it serves. If you wish to comment about the services of the Fire Authority contact Fire Service Headquarters 0151 296 4000.

Kieran Timmins, CPFA, Deputy Chief Executive, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, Fire Service Headquarters, Bridle Road, Bootle, Liverpool, L30 4YD
kierantimmins@merseyfire.gov.uk





The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 6500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion.

The financial details are:

North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

	2012/13 £000's	2013/14 £000's
Gross Expenditure	34,441	42,429
Levies Raised	3,638	3,638
Total Council Tax Base	2,300	1,932

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide ‘matching’ funding the Agency may seek funding from County and Metropolitan Councils, Unitary Authorities and London Boroughs in the form of a Local Levy. The Local Levy is shared on the basis of Band D Equivalents between all contributing bodies within the Committee Area.

Changes in the Gross Budgeted expenditure between the years reflects the impact of the Government Spending Review and national prioritisation of capital projects.

The total Local Levy raised has remained the same in 2013/2014 as 2012/2013 at £3,638,000.

Customer Service Line 08708 506 506	Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60	Floodline 0845 988 1188
www.environment-agency.gov.uk		



How to contact us



By Internet

If you have access to the internet, there is a wealth of information available on our new website at <http://liverpool.gov.uk/council-tax/>

If you still need to contact us, please use one of the options listed here.



By phone:

Liverpool Direct is open 24 hours seven days a week.

Call 0151 233 3008 if your query is about your Council Tax bill, or 0151 233 3009 about your Council Tax Benefit or Housing Benefit.

Automated payment line 0151 233 2000.



Email

You can e-mail us at revenue.service@liverpool.gov.uk



In writing, by post:

For Council Tax enquiries please email us or write to us at:

Liverpool City Council, Revenues Service P.O. Box 834, Liverpool L69 2UT

For Council Tax/Housing Benefit enquiries please write to:

Liverpool City Council, Benefits Service P.O. Box 13, Liverpool L69 2JG

Please provide your contact telephone number on all correspondence in case we need to contact you about your enquiry.



Face to Face

Call 0151 233 3016 and make an appointment to visit us at any of our One Stop Shops.

You can hand in documents and evidence without an appointment.

All One Stop Shops are Disability Discrimination compliant and have the following facilities:

- Wheelchair/pram access and specially lowered desks
- Mini-loop facilities
- Advisors trained in British Sign Language
- BTs language line through which we can contact an interpreter for customers whose first language is not English.



Have Your Say

We are always looking at ways to improve our service and welcome your suggestions. We also want to know if there are problems with the service you receive so that we can act to put things right as soon as possible.

If you would like to make a comment, compliment or complaint, you can:

- pick up and fill in a Have Your Say form at a one stop shop and other city council reception points
- fill in the online Have Your Say form
- write to us at: Liverpool Direct, FREEPOST, NWW 3400A, Liverpool L1 3ZZ.
- visit a One Stop Shop
- call Liverpool Direct on 0151 233 3000.

Liverpool Benefits Service Promise

If you provide us with a Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support claim form or details of a change in circumstance and all the evidence we need at any of our One Stop Shops we promise you will receive a letter from us letting you know how much benefit you will be entitled to within 10 days.

All the evidence required to support your claim must be provided to qualify for this promise. Call 0151 233 3016 or email us and make an appointment today.

Help Us Fight Fraud

If you know of someone getting away with Housing Benefit/ Council Tax fraud tell us about it in confidence.

Call Freephone 0800 121 8805 or log onto www.liverpool.gov.uk and complete the on-line form.

Protection of Public Funds

Liverpool City Council is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you provide for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes. The Council participates in the National Fraud Initiative data matching exercise administered by the Audit Commission. For further information you can access the Audit Commission website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi



