For every £1 we collect:

- £0.75 goes to Northamptonshire County Council
- £0.14 goes to Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner
- £0.11 goes to the borough and parish councils

Council tax 2014-2015

Your borough council tax is just 41.4p* a day

*based on the average band D property

Message from Councillor Paul Bell, Leader of Wellingborough Council

We are still facing an enormous financial challenge as funding from the government continues to be reduced. We have just enough in our reserves to prop up the £1.6 million shortfall for this year, but not for ever. We’ve already made millions of pounds of savings and it is getting increasingly difficult to find more. We remain committed to providing the best possible public services for all our residents, but difficult decisions about how we do this will have to be made during the course of this year.

This leaflet sets out where our money comes from, including how much you contribute through paying council tax. It also explains what we are proposing to spend that money on this year, how we are trying to make it go as far as possible, and ways we’re looking to balance the books in the future.

What is council tax?

Most dwellings are subject to council tax, and the amount you pay depends on which band the dwelling is placed in. For more information on who is responsible for paying, the valuation bands, exemptions, and help paying, turn to pages 3 and 4.

Wellingborough Council collects council tax for the borough, but also for Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, and parish councils in Wellingborough. The borough council only keeps 11p of every pound you pay in council tax.

This year’s council tax will bring in around £3.3m, which is about 40% of the council’s budget. The rest of the council’s money comes from a government grant, a share of nationally collected business rates, and income from fees and charges.

The amount you pay in council tax to the borough council has increased by 1.99% for 2014-15.

This is less than 5p a week on the average household bill.

Increases of 1.99% on last year will be shown on your bill to one decimal place as 2%, in accordance with regulations.

For every £1 we collect:

- 75p goes to Northamptonshire County Council
- 14p goes to Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner
- 11p goes to the borough and parish councils

www.wellingborough.gov.uk
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Discounts
The council tax demand assumes that there are two or more adults living in each property. If only one adult lives in the property, a single person discount of 25% can apply. You must tell us about any changes to your household which could affect your entitlement, within 21 days of the change. If you fail to do so, you may be required to pay a penalty.

Council tax support (CTS)
Support up to 80% of the council tax bill may be available for people of working age who are on a low income, even if they are working.

Who has to pay?
Only people aged 18 years or over are liable to pay.

Council tax exemptions
A property may be exempt from council tax, however some of the exemptions are time restricted. A list of exemptions appears in the next column, for you to check whether your property qualifies. If you do not think your bill is correct, please contact the council tax team for help and advice on 01933 231 690.

People with disabilities
If you, or someone who lives with you, needs a room, an extra bathroom, a kitchen, or the use of a wheelchair around the house to meet the needs of disability, you may qualify for a reduction in your council tax. Council tax payable may be reduced to a lower valuation band.

Properties are exempt when they are:
- repossessed by the lender eg bank;
- held for charitable purposes and unoccupied for up to six months;
- unoccupied while the liable person is in prison or otherwise detained by law;
- unoccupied because the person who would be liable is permanently resident in hospital or in a residential care home;
- unoccupied and held for a minister of religion;
- unoccupied as liable person deceased and awaiting probate or within six months of probate;
- unoccupied because the liable person is away, giving or receiving care;
- unoccupied and previously occupied by students;
- unoccupied and undergoing structural alterations or major repair (up to six months);
- unoccupied and the responsibility of a bankrupt’s trustee;
- subject to a demolition order, compulsory purchase order or other prohibition of law;
- ‘granny annexes’ occupied by a qualifying relative;
- an unoccupied ‘granny annexe’;
- an empty pitch or mooring;
- occupied entirely by students (including student halls of residence);
- armed forces barracks and married quarters;
- occupied by at least one liable person who is a member of a visiting force;
- occupied only by residents under 18 years of age;
- occupied only by residents who are severely mentally impaired;
- occupied only by at least one liable person who is a foreign diplomat.

These categories are only broad descriptions of the available exemptions. Further information is available from the council tax team.

Exemptions are reviewed at least once a year. You may be required to provide information that supports your exemption application. Failure to supply this information could mean any entitlement is cancelled.

You must tell the council of any changes that affect your entitlement, within 21 days of the change.

Valuation band
Range of values (as at 1 April 1991)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Range of values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Up to £40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>£40,001 to £52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>£52,001 to £68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>£68,001 to £88,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>£88,001 to £120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>£120,001 to £160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>£160,001 to £320,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>More than £320,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you think the band is wrong, write to the Valuation Office Agency, 3rd Floor Northgate House, Sheep Street, Northampton NN1 2LL (03000 501 501 www.voagov.uk). They will tell you how to appeal.

Long-term empty properties
Properties which have been empty for longer than two years will be charged at 150% of the council tax for that property band. This applies from the date the property became empty.

If you think you may qualify for council tax support, please contact the council on 01933 231 692. We can offer you help in managing your payments while your application is being assessed.

If the council tax payer is of pension age, full support may be available. A second adult rebate may apply where a person of pension age shares their home with other adults on low incomes.

If you think you may qualify for council tax support, please contact the council tax team for help and advice on 01933 231 690. They will tell you how to appeal.
### HOW MUCH DO WELLINGBOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES COST?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate and democratic core</td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central services to the public</td>
<td>1,190</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1,43</td>
<td>1,545</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culture and related services</td>
<td>2,876</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>2,723</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental services</td>
<td>4,327</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>3,338</td>
<td>3,406</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning and development</td>
<td>2,915</td>
<td>3,111</td>
<td>-196</td>
<td>-547</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highways and transportation</td>
<td>1,131</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General fund housing</td>
<td>23,079</td>
<td>22,137</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>1,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social care</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and investment income</td>
<td>-320</td>
<td>-14.65</td>
<td>-590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital financing adjustment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Homes Bonus</td>
<td>-848</td>
<td>-38.84</td>
<td>-633</td>
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<td>Pension scheme contributions</td>
<td>1,285</td>
<td>58.84</td>
<td>1,185</td>
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<td>Council tax freeze</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Use of general fund balances</td>
<td>-1,754</td>
<td>-80.35</td>
<td>-1,890</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish precepts</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>20.21</td>
<td>427</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget requirement</strong></td>
<td>8,339</td>
<td>381.91</td>
<td>8,506</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Revenue support grant from the Government**
- £2,437

**Redistributed non-domestic rates**
- £2,556

**Collection fund deficit (-surplus) Wellingborough’s share**
- £40

**Amount to be raised from council tax**
- £3,306

### How much have we been asked to raise?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Band D council tax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>£000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>£000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Bozeat**: £29,112
- **Great Doddington**: £22,000
- **Earls Barton**: £90,831
- **Easton Maudit**: £975
- **Etton**: £11,000
- **Finedon**: £47,263
- **Grendon**: £14,000
- **Hardwick**: £1,500
- **Great Harrowden**: £1,180
- **Little Harrowden**: £20,394
- **Irchester**: £75,491
- **Isham**: £7,500
- **Mears Ashby**: £7,500
- **Orlingbury**: £7,300
- **Strixton**: £900
- **Sywell**: £17,500
- **Wollaston**: £19,173

### Appeals

You may appeal if you consider that you are not liable to pay council tax, for example because you are not the resident or owner, or because your property is exempt, or that we have made a mistake calculating your bill. If you wish to appeal on these grounds you must notify us in writing, and we will readily review the situation.

More information on the council's budget is available from the Head of Finance, Swanspool House, Wellingborough NN8 1BP, telephone 01933 229 777.
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### Where does your money go?

The average band D council tax of £151.41 for borough council and parish council services is one of the lowest nationally.

You only pay on average 41.4p a day for a wide range of services provided by the borough council.

### What the budget may look like over the next five years

Whilst the council continues to provide or support a wide range of services at a low cost to the taxpayer, we do face a challenging future.

As government funding will continue to be reduced, we need to place less reliance on that source of funding, and look more towards locally-raised income and changes to spending.

We’re looking at everything we provide, and how we provide it, in order to do this while also continuing to deliver the best services we can.

Our main focus over the coming years will be to promote growth, both economic and residential.

We are also looking at some specific ways we can generate income and reduce spending over the course of the next year, including:

- sharing services with other authorities;
- building or converting housing to rent;
- reviewing and renegotiating contracts;
- potentially reducing community grants;
- looking at other ways of providing services;
- disposing of assets with high maintenance costs and reinvesting the money.

These will all be consulted on throughout the year, and solutions put in place before the next budget is set.

We have also reduced our senior management, with the posts of deputy chief executive, both directors and one head of service being removed from the organisation. This has saved more than £350,000 per year.

### Making payments

#### Direct Debit

This is the council’s preferred method of payment, as it’s the most efficient and cost effective.

Phone 01933 231 690 or complete the instruction on your demand notice and return it to the council. For instructions set up during the payment year any outstanding instalment will be added to the first payment.

#### Debit or credit card – internet or telephone

Log on to [www.wellingborough.gov.uk](http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk) or telephone 0845 331 3001.

#### PayPoint

Take your bar-coded demand notice to make cash payments, free at all PayPoint outlets. Some may accept debit cards, but may charge for this.

#### Post Office

Take your bar-coded demand notice to pay with cash, cheque or a debit card, for free.

#### Cheques by post

Make cheques payable to ‘Borough Council of Wellingborough’, quoting the council tax account number on the back. Post to: Revenue and Benefits, Council Offices, Tithe Barn Road, Wellingborough NN8 1BN

#### Option to pay by 12 instalments

If you wish to pay your council tax over 12 instalments, rather than the 10 instalments that are shown on your demand notice, you must make your request in writing to the council and the request must be received no later than 15 April 2014.

### Having difficulty paying?

Are you getting all the help that you are entitled to? You could be entitled to a reduction if you live alone, if someone in the property is a student, or someone is being cared for. If you are unemployed or on a low income, then you could be entitled to council tax support (CTS), a local award of up to 80% of your bill. If you are already getting council tax support, there is no need to re-apply. We will write to you with details of your new entitlement. For more information please contact us or go to our website.

#### Council tax enquiries

Tel: 01933 231 690  Fax: 01933 231 677  Email: counciltax@wellingborough.gov.uk

#### Benefit and council tax support enquiries

Tel: 01933 231 692  Fax: 01933 231 629  Email: benefits@wellingborough.gov.uk

**Opening hours:** Mon-Wed 8:30am to 5pm, Thurs 9:30am to 5 pm, Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm.

If you would like any Borough Council of Wellingborough documents in large type, on audio tape or translated, please contact the council offices.