

Council Tax Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Council Tax

All enquiries about council tax payments should be made to your local district or borough council. Links to their websites and other information about Council Tax can be found at:-

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/finance/counciltax/>

The following the link to the government website Gov.uk, shows you how to work out your own Council Tax <https://www.gov.uk/council-tax>

Why has the County Council increased my Council Tax?

The Council had previously planned to increase Council Tax in 2018/19 by 1.99%, however, as part of the provisional settlement for local government in December 2017, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced that Councils could raise Council Tax by an additional 1% to protect frontline services. After careful consideration the County Council, therefore decided to increase its element of Council Tax in 2018/19 by 2.99% in order to protect the County Council's ability to provide its services now and in the future. These increases are shown on your Council Tax bill.

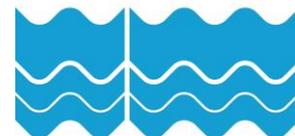
What is the Adult Social Care Precept?

A growing pressure for county councils with responsibilities for adult social care is the increase in demand that the ageing population brings. In order to ensure that the responsible councils are able to respond to this rising demand the Government has allowed those authorities with Adult Social Care responsibilities to increase council tax by an additional 3.00% provided the additional funds raised are ring-fenced to be spent only on adult social care, for example supporting people in care homes or to continue to live independently in their own homes.

Given the funding pressures East Sussex County Council is facing it will be implementing this new power and for 2018/19 a 3% precept has been applied. For a band D property this equates to an additional £39.42 annually, or £0.76 per week, on the council tax bill.

Why do the percentages on my bill look wrong? The % increase/decrease does not add up?

This is because in order to calculate an average % increase all of the precepts need to be added together. Individual precept percentage increases relate to the increase on that authorities element of the bill. For example; The percentage increases of 2.99% for East Sussex County Council and the 3.00% for the Adult Social Care



Precept both relate to increases as a percentage of the overall county councils tax base [bill] for 2018-19.

The overall average % increase of all the precepting authorities combined (the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority, Parish and Borough or District Council) can then be calculated. For example: if a total Band D bill for 2017-18 was £1,314.36 and the total for 2018-19 is £1,393.11, this would give an increase of £78.75, or 5.99%.

The information presented on the bill is confusing?

The information contained in the 2018/19 council tax bill is required to be presented in a certain way by The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 set out by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The tax bill is required by this regulation to show the amount as a cumulative total of the 2017/18 and 2018/19 adult social care precept. Whereas the percentage increase of 3% relates to the 2018/19 increase only. The amounts may therefore look odd on your bill as the adult social care precept is not an incremental calculation but a cumulative total.