

Your 2017/18 services

Swale Borough Council



How your Council Tax helps pay for the services we provide



Kent & Medway
Fire & Rescue Authority

Kent
County
Council
kent.gov.uk



Swale
BOROUGH COUNCIL



About your Council Tax

Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority together deliver most of the local services in your area. If you live in an area with a parish/town council, it too provides some local services. This leaflet provides information from each of these authorities.



Kent & Medway
Fire & Rescue Authority

The Council Tax you pay is collected by Swale Borough Council on behalf of all the above authorities. The total amount is then divided between these authorities (see table on page 7).





Calculation of the Council Tax



After six years in which we have been able to hold the level of the Council Tax unfortunately we have had to increase it for 2017/18 by £4.95 per year. This reflects the fact that we have had further reductions in funding from Central Government and we have also had a £440,000 increase in the precept levied upon the Council by the Lower

Medway Internal Drainage Board. Despite this at a band D charge of £3.17 per week I think the Council does provide good value for money to our residents. The Council's initiatives to generate new income sources will I hope allow us to sustain services whilst becoming less dependent on future unreliable Government funding.

Swale Borough Council's pages within this booklet are available on the council's website www.swale.gov.uk. The site also contains additional information on the 2017/18 budget and Council Tax.

The basic Council Tax for the average Band D property is calculated as follows:

	2016/17 £	2017/18 £
Swale Borough Council Net Expenditure (Budget Requirement)	14,890,268	15,353,156
Less: Revenue Support Grant	-1,954,950	-1,238,110
Business Rates	-5,643,950	-6,506,000
Collection Fund Surplus	-260,970	-140,000
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale	7,030,398	-7,496,046
This amount is then divided by the Tax Base* for Swale which is	43,959.22	45,299.89
Giving a Swale Council Tax for a Band D property of	159.93	164.88
To which is added		
Kent County Council Tax of	1,133.55	1,178.82
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Tax of	152.15	157.15
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority Tax of	72.00	73.35
Giving a total Council Tax for a Band D property of	1,517.63	1,574.20

*The Tax Base is the equivalent number of Band D Properties in the area after allowing for the relative proportions payable by all other bands and the fact that some of those properties may pay a reduced amount because of discounts.



Your Council Tax Bill

Valuation bands

Most homes whether rented or owned have to pay Council Tax. The Valuation Office Agency has placed every property into one of eight valuation bands according to its estimated open market capital value on 1 April 1991.

Valuation Band range of values

A	Up to £40,000
B	£40,001 - £52,000
C	£52,001 - £68,000
D	£68,001 - £88,000
E	£88,001 - £120,000
F	£120,001 - £160,000
G	£160,001 - £320,000
H	More than £320,000

If you think that your property band is wrong, you need to contact the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and ask to have your band reviewed. Your local office can be contacted via www.gov.uk/voa/contact

Empty Properties

If your home is empty, for a period of up to 1 month you may be able to claim a discount. If your property is empty for more than 2 years you may be charged a premium of 50%.

For more information contact Council Tax, email: ctax@swale.gov.uk or tel: 01795 417272.

Discounts

If only one adult over the age of 18 lives in a property as their main home, the Council Tax bill can be reduced by 25%. Some people do not count towards the number of adults resident in a property including people who are:

- Full time students/student nurses
- In hospital or care homes
- Severely mentally impaired
- Detained in prison

Disabled Person Relief

If you or someone who lives with you has a disability, you may be entitled to a reduction. For more information please contact the Council Tax team on 01795 417272 or email: ctax@swale.gov.uk

Exemptions

Any property that falls within one of the following classes will be exempt from Council Tax:

A	Vacant and unfurnished for up to 12 months. Property which requires structural alteration or major repair
B	Vacant up to 6 months and owned by a charity
D	Property left empty by someone who has been detained in prison
E	Property left empty by someone who has moved into a care home or hospital

Your Council Tax 2017/18



F	Property left empty by the estate of a deceased person for up to six months after grant of probate
G	Occupation is prohibited by law
H	Vacant and being held available for a Minister of Religion
I	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to receive personal care
J	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to provide personal care
K	Vacant but previously occupied by students
L	Vacant where mortgagee is in possession
M	Student Halls of Residence
N	Property occupied solely by students
O	Properties owned by Secretary of State for Defence - armed forces accommodation
P	Properties occupied by members of Visiting Forces
Q	Property where liable person is a trustee in bankruptcy
R	Vacant pitch or mooring
S	Property solely occupied by under 18s
T	Vacant annexe that cannot be let separately without breaching planning conditions
U	Occupied solely by the severely mentally impaired
V	Occupied by a Diplomat, who is not a British Citizen
W	Separately banded annexe occupied by a dependant relative

Due to changes in Council Tax legislation the Class C (unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) exemption and the long-term empty and second home discounts were removed from 31 March 2013. For full details of all discounts and exemptions now available (and the qualifying conditions) please contact the Council Tax team or look on the Exemptions and Discounts page.

Appeals

If you do not think that you should be billed for Council Tax, or the Council has made a mistake in calculating your bill or your Council Tax Support, you can appeal. Appeals should initially be made in writing to the Council. The Council will look at your appeal first and try to resolve any issues. If you are not happy with our decision, we will provide you with details of how to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal Service who are independent from the Council. You should keep paying your bill even if you have appealed.

Council Tax Support

From 1st April 2013 Council Tax Benefit was replaced by a new localised scheme called Council Tax Support. For further information on Council Tax Support please view our Council Tax Support page. If you are on a low income or living



with other adults on a low income, you may be entitled to some help to pay your Council Tax. To find out if you are entitled to Council Tax Support contact our Benefits Team or view our Benefits page.

If you suspect someone is committing benefit fraud, please let us know. You can report a suspected fraud in confidence, by phoning the Benefit Fraud Hotline on 01622 602196 or report it online www.swale.gov.uk



Expenditure 2017/18

	Gross Expenditure 2017/18 £000	Net Expenditure 2017/18 £000	Gross Expenditure 2016/17 £000	Net Expenditure 2016/17 £000
Corporate & Democratic Services	3,364	2,211	3,389	2,140
Local tax collection, Elections, Land Charges etc	2,024	1,185	1,907	1,128
Cultural, Environmental & Planning Services	15,465	12,556	15,710	12,731
Highways, Roads & Transportation Services	1,486	-898	1,444	-818
Housing Services	61,358	2,176	61,319	2,047
Other Services		-2,020		-3,058
Total Expenditure		15,210		14,170
Contributions to/(from) funds		3		459
Revenue Support Grant & Business Rates		-7,744		-7,599
Council Tax Requirement		7,469		7,030

Joint Council Tax Breakdown

House Band	Kent County Council £	Swale Borough Council £	Kent Police & Crime Commissioner £	Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority £	Total Council Tax (excluding parish precepts) £
A	785.88	109.92	104.77	48.90	1,049.47
B	916.86	128.24	122.23	57.05	1,224.38
C	1,047.84	146.56	139.69	65.20	1,399.29
D	1,178.82	164.88	157.15	73.35	1,574.20
E	1,440.78	201.52	192.07	89.65	1,924.02
F	1,702.74	238.16	226.99	105.95	2,273.84
G	1,964.70	274.80	261.92	122.25	2,623.67
H	2,357.64	329.76	314.30	146.70	3,148.40



Statement of Parish Precepts for 2017/18

Parish/Town Council	Parish Precept 2016/17 £	Parish Precept 2017/18 £	Tax Base 2017/18 £	Parish Band D Council Tax 2017/18 £
Bapchild	10,500	11,000	461.95	23.81
Bobbing	16,361	18,000	902.12	19.95
Borden	49,500	51,250	1,071.93	47.81
Boughton-under-Blean	44,840	49,195	680.48	72.29
Bredgar	9,500	9,615	286.21	33.59
Doddington	7,800	8,302	218.69	37.96
Dunkirk	11,792	11,792	495.44	23.80
Eastchurch	30,000	30,000	732.80	40.94
Eastling	3,225	5,110	145.99	35.00
Faversham Town Council	322,814	328,638	6,193.73	53.06
Goodnestone & Graveney	5,500	6,118	184.29	33.20
Hartlip	7,000	7,500	361.56	20.74
Hernhill	8,000	9,000	283.86	31.71
Iwade	46,000	48,250	1,361.82	35.43
Leysdown	26,000	25,000	1,083.36	23.08
Lower Halstow	29,250	33,933	446.49	76.00
Luddenham	0	0	46.03	0
Lynsted	17,049	17,049	462.38	36.87
Milstead	5,000	5,500	91.28	60.25
Minster	136,714	144,056	5,216.95	27.61
Newington	44,000	45,760	871.04	52.53
Newnham	5,355	5,355	150.67	35.54
Norton & Buckland	5,773	5,847	182.71	32.00
Oare	8,568	8,568	168.23	50.93
Ospringe	7,000	7,250	278.31	26.05
Queenborough Town Council	45,225	65,225	780.72	83.54
Rodmersham	7,500	7,750	240.71	32.20
Selling	8,205	10,384	346.70	29.95
Sheldwich, Leaveland & Badlesmere	8,600	8,600	348.27	24.69
Stalisfield	2,600	2,600	99.96	26.01
Teynham	45,480	47,480	868.43	54.67
Throwley	3,166	3,166	139.84	22.64
Tonge	2,000	2,200	140.61	15.65
Tunstall	17,000	17,560	702.95	24.98
Upchurch	26,311	27,900	921.95	30.26
Warden	15,000	15,000	484.70	30.95





Contact information

If you have any comments or questions about the information provided, please contact:

Swale Borough Council

Telephone: **01795 417850**

Email: **csc@swale.gov.uk**

Write to:

**Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street,
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT**

Website: **www.swale.gov.uk/your-services**

Kent County Council

Telephone: **03000 41 41 41**

Email: **council.tax@kent.gov.uk**

Write to:

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

Website: **www.kent.gov.uk/counciltax**

Kent Police & Crime Commissioner

Telephone: **01622 677055**

Email: **kpaenquiries@kent.pnn.police.uk**

Write to:

**Kent Police & Crime Commissioner,
Gail House, First Floor,
Lower Stone Street, Maidstone,
Kent ME15 6NB**

Website: **www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/spending**

Kent and Medway

Fire and Rescue Authority

Telephone: **01622 692121**

Email: **KFRSFinance@kent.fire-uk.org**

Write to:

**Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue
Authority Headquarters, Straw Mill
Hill, Tovil, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6XB**

Website: **www.kent.fire-uk.org/default.aspx?page=2736Kent**

If you have a question about paying your Council Tax bill or claiming Council Tax support, please contact your local council (top left box).

Difficulty in understanding this magazine?
Need it in Braille, large print or on audio tape?
For translations or interpretations contact us
and we will do our best to help.
Tel: 01795 417 850 Email: csc@swale.gov.uk



How to pay • Help and advice • Benefits information • Get in touch
and much more from Kent County Council,
Swale Borough Council, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority