



Lewes District Council

Council Tax Information

2019-20



Welcome page

This document shows how much of your money is allocated to Lewes District Council. It shows what your money is spent on and what services are provided to you locally. It also records year-on-year changes in spending and taxes. In addition, this booklet includes information about Council Tax discounts, reductions and exemptions.

You can find information on the allocation of Council Tax and spending by East Sussex County Council at

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/finance/counciltax/

'The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this "precept" at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.'

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service at

www.esfrs.org/about-us/publication-of-information/financial-information/

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner at

www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/transparency/what-we-spend-how-we-spend-it/

Council Tax Charges

The amount of Council Tax you pay is based on the value of your property. The market value of your property was set on 1 April 1991.

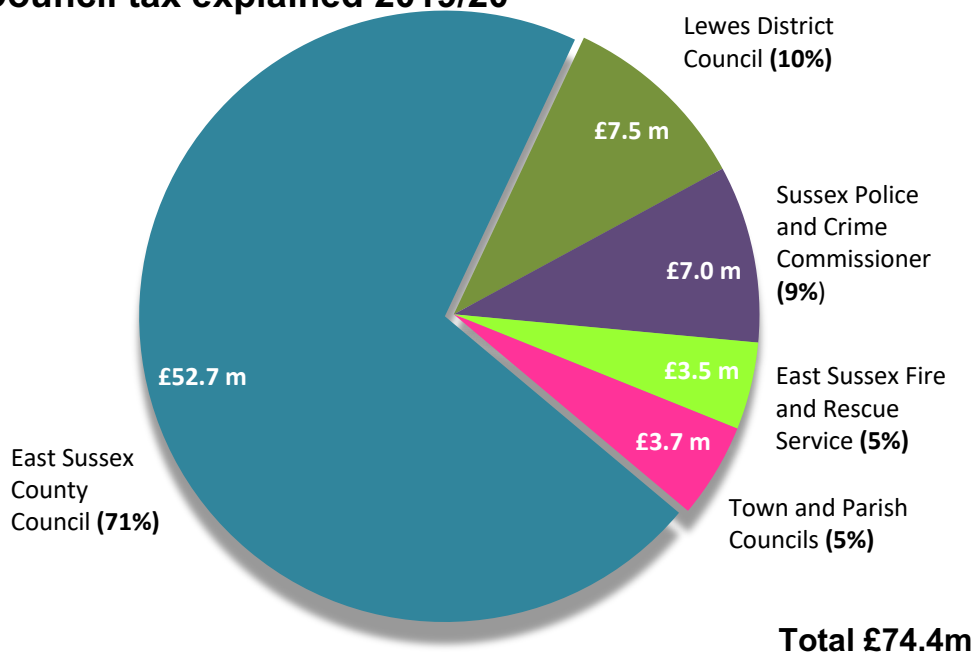
Property Valuation Bands		
A	Up to and including £40,000	
B	£40,001	£52,000
C	£52,001	£68,000
D	£68,001	£88,000
E	£88,001	£120,000
F	£120,001	£160,000
G	£160,001	£320,000
H	More than £320,000	

Your Council Tax bill shows the band that applies to your property.

Your Council Tax Explained 2019/20

	Precept £m	Precept %	Total for Band D £p	gets £p	per week £p
For every £1 you pay in Council Tax:					
East Sussex County Council	52.74	71%	1,434.78	0.71	27.59
Lewes District Council	7.51	10%	204.53	0.10	3.93
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	6.98	9%	189.91	0.09	3.65
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service	3.44	5%	93.67	0.05	1.80
Town and Parish Councils	3.73	5%	101.43	0.05	1.95
Total	74.40	100%	2,024.32	1.00	38.93

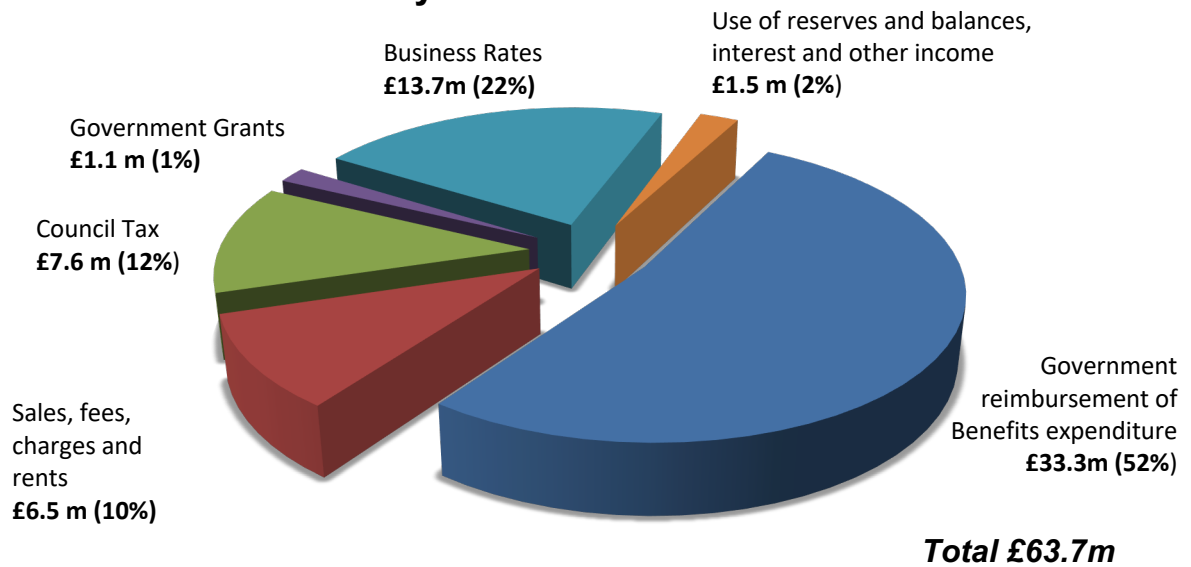
Your Council tax explained 2019/20



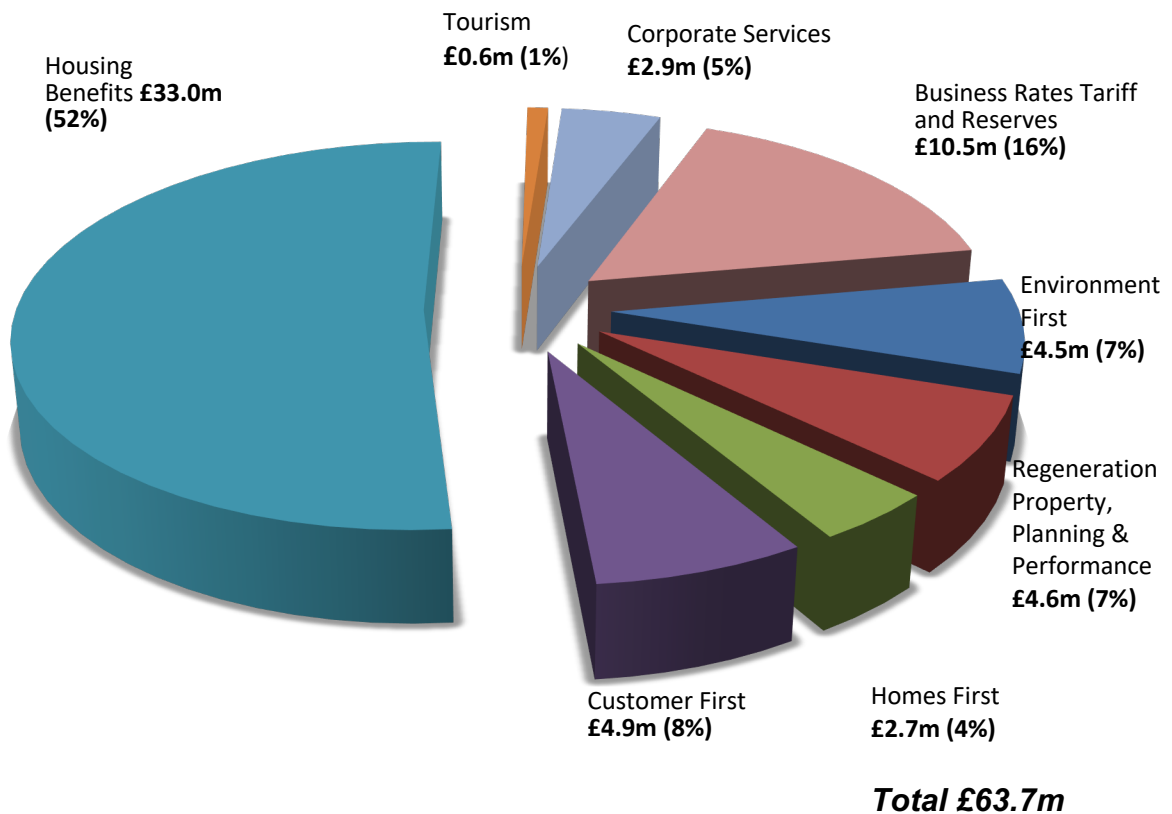
How Council Tax is Calculated

	2018/19		2019/20	
	Budget £m	Council Tax Band D £	Budget £m	Council Tax Band D £
LDC's budget before fees, charges, sales, rent	25.116	678.18	27.919	759.50
Plus net contribution to reserves	1.247	33.68	1.010	27.46
Less income from fees, charges, sales, rents, contributions	-6.431	-173.65	-6.518	-177.31
Lewes District Council net budget	19.932	538.21	22.411	609.65
Less funding from:				
Central Government and Business Rates	-12.364	-333.86	-14.833	-403.51
Previous years' Council Tax	-0.131	-3.51	-0.059	-1.61
Council Tax - Lewes District Council	7.437	200.84	7.519	204.53
PLUS precepts from				
Town and Parish Councils	3.459	93.39	3.728	101.43
East Sussex County Council	51.592	1,393.11	52.743	1,434.78
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	6.144	165.91	6.981	189.91
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service	3.370	91.00	3.443	93.67
Total Council Tax	72.002	1,944.25	74.414	2,024.32

Where does the money come from?



Where does the money go?



Your total Council Tax bill

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barcombe	1,303.35	1,520.57	1,737.80	1,955.02	2,389.47	2,823.91	3,258.38	3,910.04
Beddingham & Glynde	1,309.41	1,527.64	1,745.88	1,964.11	2,400.58	2,837.04	3,273.53	3,928.22
Chailey	1,302.24	1,519.28	1,736.32	1,953.36	2,387.44	2,821.51	3,255.61	3,906.72
Ditchling	1,320.67	1,540.79	1,760.90	1,981.01	2,421.23	2,861.45	3,301.69	3,962.02
East Chiltington	1,288.64	1,503.41	1,718.1	1,932.96	2,362.51	2,792.04	3,221.61	3,865.92
Falmer	1,275.31	1,487.87	1,700.42	1,912.97	2,338.07	2,763.17	3,188.2	3,825.94
Firle	1,322.59	1,543.03	1,763.46	1,983.8	2,424.75	2,865.61	3,306.49	3,967.78
Hamsey	1,315.68	1,534.96	1,754.24	1,973.5	2,412.08	2,850.63	3,289.21	3,947.04
Iford	1,303.65	1,520.92	1,738.20	1,955.47	2,390.02	2,824.56	3,259.13	3,910.94
Kingston	1,347.29	1,571.84	1,796.39	2,020.94	2,470.04	2,919.13	3,368.24	4,041.88
Lewes	1,425.39	1,662.96	1,900.52	2,138.09	2,613.22	3,088.34	3,563.49	4,276.18
Newhaven	1,386.10	1,617.12	1,848.13	2,079.15	2,541.18	3,003.21	3,465.26	4,158.30
Newick	1,308.28	1,526.33	1,744.37	1,962.42	2,398.51	2,834.60	3,270.71	3,924.84
Peacehaven	1,351.44	1,576.68	1,801.92	2,027.16	2,477.64	2,928.11	3,378.61	4,054.32
Piddinghoe	1,323.09	1,543.60	1,764.12	1,984.63	2,425.66	2,866.68	3,307.73	3,969.26
Plumpton	1,327.36	1,548.59	1,769.81	1,991.04	2,433.49	2,875.94	3,318.41	3,982.08
Ringmer	1,304.22	1,521.59	1,738.96	1,956.33	2,391.07	2,825.80	3,260.56	3,912.66
Rodmell	1,307.90	1,525.88	1,743.87	1,961.85	2,397.82	2,833.77	3,269.76	3,923.70
St Ann Without	1,270.29	1,482.01	1,693.72	1,905.44	2,328.87	2,752.29	3,175.74	3,810.88
St John Without	1,270.29	1,482.01	1,693.72	1,905.44	2,328.87	2,752.29	3,175.74	3,810.88
Seaford	1,327.73	1,549.01	1,770.30	1,991.59	2,434.17	2,876.73	3,319.33	3,983.18
Southease	1,270.29	1,482.01	1,693.72	1,905.44	2,328.87	2,752.29	3,175.74	3,810.88
South Heighton	1,299.42	1,515.99	1,732.56	1,949.13	2,382.27	2,815.40	3,248.56	3,898.26
Streat	1,298.75	1,515.20	1,731.66	1,948.12	2,381.04	2,813.94	3,246.88	3,896.24
Tarring Neville	1,270.29	1,482.01	1,693.72	1,905.44	2,328.87	2,752.29	3,175.74	3,810.88
Telscombe	1,343.86	1,567.84	1,791.81	2,015.79	2,463.74	2,911.69	3,359.66	4,031.58
Westmeston	1,300.42	1,517.16	1,733.89	1,950.6	2,384.10	2,817.57	3,251.06	3,901.26
Wivelsfield	1,319.03	1,538.86	1,758.70	1,978.54	2,418.2	2,857.88	3,297.58	3,957.08

Town and Parish Councils spending over £100,000

	2018/19	2019/20
Lewes Town Council	£	£
Administration and Civic Function Town Hall, All Saints Centre and Malling Community Centre	290,262	315,870
Open Spaces and Allotments	438,242	455,996
Contribution to Reserves	223,642	234,641
Less: income and use of balances	290,435	281,380
Grant from Lewes District Council	(169,090)	(161,450)
Precept	(37,190)	(32,624)
	1,036,301	1,093,813

Newhaven Town Council	£	£
Cemetery, Halls, Grounds and Community Services	211,485	153,972
Administration and Staff	268,162	295,743
Regeneration and Partnership	71,650	140,995
Less: income and use of balances	(64,766)	(62,700)
Grant from Lewes District Council	(28,718)	(34,118)
Precept	457,813	493,892

Peacehaven Town Council	£	£
Gross expenditure	680,229	750,795
Less: income and use of balances	(222,300)	(184,330)
Grant from Lewes District Council	(29,589)	(30,176)
Precept	428,340	536,289

Seaford Town Council	£	£
Finance & General Purposes (includes grants)	482,876	569,314
Community Services	909,910	1,011,542
Golf Course	916,425	1,156,459
Contribution to Reserves	70,217	53,300
Less: income and use of balances	(1,648,588)	(1,996,313)
Grant from Lewes District Council	(20,891)	(26,843)
Precept	709,949	767,459

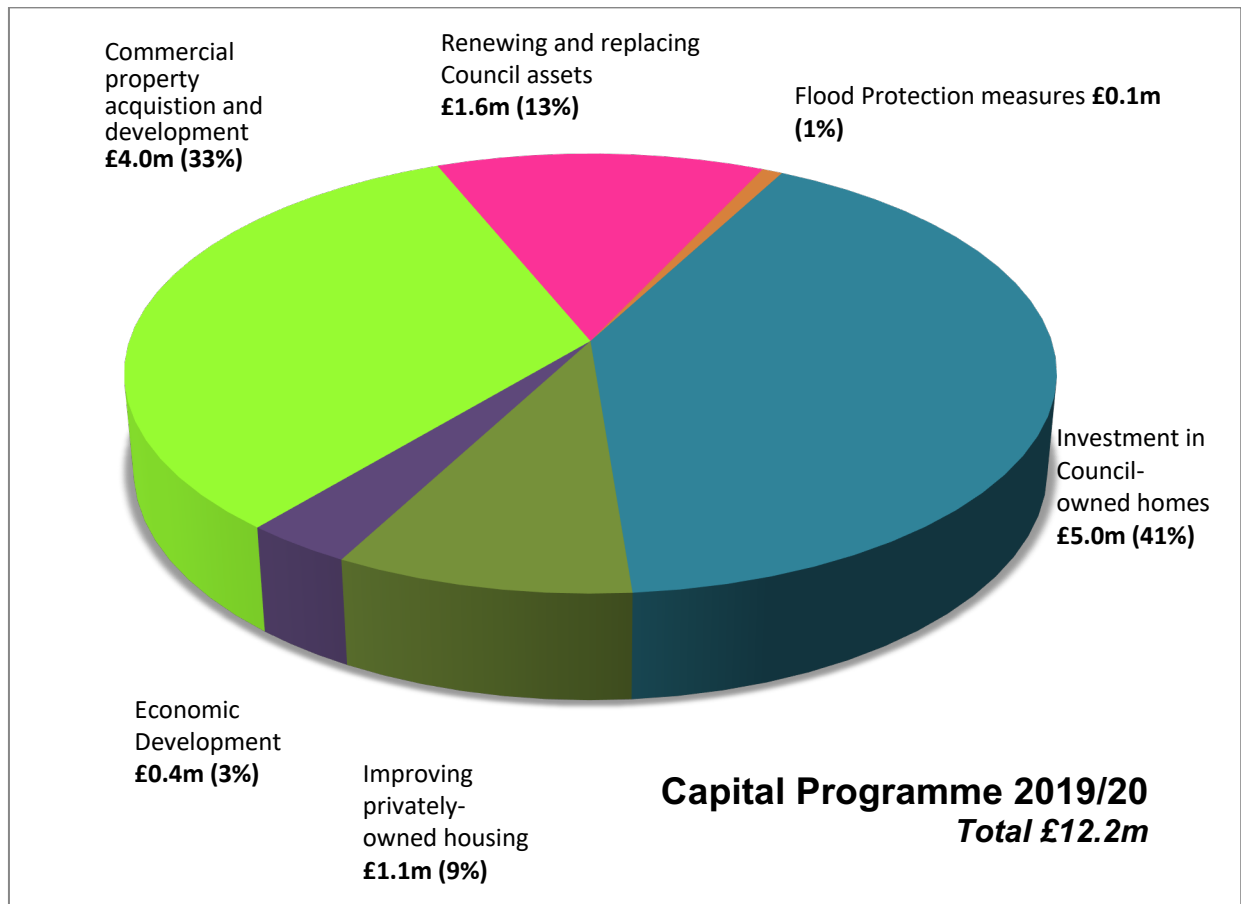
Telscombe Town Council	£	£
Policy and Resources	173,065	172,115
Amenities	62,200	58,200
Civic Centre	44,550	42,900
Planning and Highways	23,800	15,800
Less: income and use of balances	(58,716)	(51,972)
Grant from Lewes District Council	(13,647)	(11,623)
Precept	231,252	225,420

Special Expenses for the cost of parks and open spaces

Local area	2018/19 Special Expenses £	2019/20 Special Expenses £	2018/19 cost per Band D property £	2019/20 cost per Band D property £
Chailey	1,060	1,070	0.81	0.82
Lewes	338,830	334,370	55.03	54.47
Newhaven	155,150	155,620	43.47	41.62
Peacehaven	37,810	37,930	7.83	8.04
Ringmer	4,170	4,180	2.18	2.22
Seaford	54,590	54,760	5.62	5.74
Telscombe	53,230	53,400	20.55	21.14
Total	644,840	641,330		

Statement of budget changes in estimated expenditure between 2018/19 and 2019/20

	£m
2018/19 Net Budget to be funded from Council Tax	7.438
Pay and Price increases	0.326
Increases in Service costs or reductions in Service income	0.845
Increases in Service income or reductions in Service costs	(0.797)
Sub-total	7.812
Changes in Government Grant and Business Rates funding	(1.206)
Changes in use of reserves, balances and one-off items	1.244
Change in Council Tax/Business Rates returned from previous years	(0.331)
2019/20 Net Budget to be funded from Council Tax	7.519



Council Tax Explanatory Notes

Who must pay Council Tax?

Adults aged 18 and over who live in a property will usually pay the Council Tax bill. People who are married, civil partners or living together as partners are jointly liable. Also, people who jointly own or rent a property are equally liable. If you live in your home alone you can normally claim a discount.

Council Tax Discounts

Discounts can usually be claimed when:

- You are living on your own in a property and it is your main home - 25% single occupancy discount

The following people are disregarded when calculating discounts:

- Full-time students, (and certain non UK spouses/dependants), student nurses, apprentices, and youth training trainees and foreign language assistants.
- People who are severely mentally impaired and are entitled to a qualifying benefit.
- 18 and 19 year olds who are at or who have just left school or college.
- Care workers working for low pay, usually for charities.
- People caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner, or child under 18 years old (and who are entitled to a qualifying benefit).
- Members of visiting forces and certain international institutions.
- Members of religious communities (monks and nuns).
- People who are in prison or detention (except those in prison for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine).
- Diplomats and their non-British spouses.

Council Tax Exemptions

Council Tax is not payable on some properties. Your bill will show if an exemption has been applied to your account. The different classes of exemption are:

Class B Unoccupied property owned and previously occupied by a charity.

Class D Unoccupied property where the liable person is in prison or detention.

Class E Unoccupied property where the liable person permanently resides in a rest home, nursing home or hospital.

Class F Unoccupied property where the liable person is deceased and probate has not been granted, or for up to six months after probate has been granted

Class G Unoccupied property where occupation is prohibited by law.

Class H Unoccupied property waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion, where he or she would carry out the duties of his or her office.

Class I Unoccupied property where the liable person is receiving care elsewhere (not a hospital or care home).

Class J Unoccupied property where the liable person is giving care to a person elsewhere.

Class K Unoccupied property where the person who is liable to pay the Council Tax is a student and living elsewhere to study.

Class L Unoccupied property where a mortgagee is in possession.

Class M Student halls of residence.

Class N Property occupied solely by full time students undertaking a qualifying course or study.

Class O Armed forces accommodation.

Class P Visiting forces accommodation.

Class Q Unoccupied property where the liable person is a trustee in bankruptcy.

Class R Property consisting of a pitch or a mooring which is not occupied by a caravan or, as the case may be, a boat.

Class S Property occupied solely by people less than 18 years of age.

Class T Unoccupied property which forms part of another property but cannot be let separately (e.g. a granny annexe).

Class U Property occupied solely by persons who are severely mentally impaired and entitled to a qualifying benefit.

Class V Property where the liable person is a diplomat.

Class W Property occupied by an elderly or disabled dependant relative, which is part of another property (e.g. a granny annexe).

Please note that if you are the landlord of a student property you will not be entitled to an exemption for the summer period. However if the property is both empty and unfurnished you may qualify for a 100% discount for a period of up to 30 days after which a full charge will apply.

Disabled Band Reduction

A property may be eligible for a Disabled Band Reduction if a disabled resident has an extra room to meet the needs of their disability or if a wheelchair needs to be used indoors.

Council Tax Property Discounts

Council Tax is discounted on some properties. Your bill will show if a discount has been applied. Examples are:

Unoccupied and Unfurnished Properties

A 100% discount can be awarded for up to 30 days from the date the property becomes unoccupied and unfurnished after which full Council Tax will be charged. In addition, a 50% discount may be awarded for a maximum period of up to 12 months if a property requires or is undergoing major repair work or extensive structural alteration to render it habitable. A full Council Tax charge applies when the discount has ended.

These discounts are property related and a change in liable party will not result in any new period of discount entitlement if the discount has previously been applied.

Second/Holiday Homes

Lewes District Council does not award a discount for second/holiday homes.

You may be entitled to a 50% discount if by the contract of your employment you are required to live in a property provided by your employer and you pay a full Council Tax charge elsewhere e.g. a publican who has to live above the premises or a school caretaker who is required to live in accommodation provided by the school.

Annexes

You may be eligible for a 50% discount if you use your annexe as part of your main property or if a relative of the person who is liable for Council Tax on the main property is living in it.

Long Term Empty Properties

Lewes District Council will increase the Council Tax charge to 150% for unfurnished properties that have been empty for 2 or more years (Please note that annexes and those in the armed forces will not be affected by this increase).

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

In general, to be entitled to receive a Council Tax Reduction you will need to be in receipt of a low income whether from full/part-time employment or from other state benefits (such as Income Support) and have less than £16,000 in savings. Your income and savings and those of any partner will be counted when assessing entitlement. If you have another adult living with you, this might affect the amount of reduction you get.

Important Information

The information in these explanatory notes is for guidance only. If you think you may be eligible for a discount or exemption please visit our website or contact us for further information or to make an application. Contact points are at the bottom of this page. Please note that an inspection of a property may be necessary before an exemption or discount can be considered.

If you have been awarded a discount, exemption or reduction on your Council Tax bill, you must by law, inform the Council within **21 days** of any change of circumstances which may affect your entitlement e.g. a child turning 18, a student ceasing to attend college or a property becoming occupied.

Payment by Direct Debit

Most people pay their Council Tax by monthly Direct Debit. It is safe, convenient and straightforward. Customers who pay by Direct Debit have the choice of four different payment dates, unlike other payment methods – 1st, 7th, 15th or 25th of the month. Direct Debit is the most cost effective way to pay, which means we can provide better services and facilities for our residents.

If you want to pay by Direct Debit please complete the mandate enclosed with your bill or visit our website : www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/payments/

Payment by Monthly Instalments

Council Tax is usually paid over 10 monthly statutory instalments; however Lewes District Council offers payment over a maximum of 12 monthly instalments. If you wish to take advantage of this please contact us. Please note the number of instalments reduces for bills issued during the course of the year.

Unable to Pay Your Council Tax

If you are having difficulty paying your Council Tax, or you receive a recovery notice e.g. a Final Notice or Court Summons, then please contact us as soon as possible for advice on 01273 471600. To seek impartial advice and guidance from the Citizens Advice Bureau you can contact them at www.citizensadvice.org.uk or on 03444 111444.

How to Appeal Against Decisions

You have the right to appeal to the Valuation Office Agency if you believe your property is not in the correct Council Tax band (see below for contact details). You have the right to appeal to the council if you believe you are not liable to pay Council Tax. Please note that you must continue to pay your Council Tax on time whilst an appeal is being considered. If you are successful, you will be given a refund of overpaid tax.

Contact Points

Lewes District Council

Customer First
Southover Road
Lewes
BN7 1AB
Website: www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
Email: customerfirst@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 471600

Valuation Office Agency

Tel: 03000 501 501
Email: ctsouth@voa.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/valuation-office-agency

Information on Council Spending

You may find detailed information on Council spending plans by visiting www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/spending-and-performance/

Exceptional Hardship Scheme

The Council has an Exceptional Hardship Scheme available to those who qualify for a local reduction, but are suffering exceptional hardship.

The application form is available on the Council's website www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-exceptional-hardship-payments/ or from the Council offices at Southover House.

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