

COUNCIL TAX 2013-2014

How much you pay...
How it's spent...

Visit us online at: www.sunderland.gov.uk
or telephone us on one of the six numbers below.
You can also use our minicom on 0191 525 0075 or Typetalk.



City & Neighbourhood 0191 520 5550

Here to help with enquiries such as;
waste and recycling, parks, highways, parking,
licensing, pest control, community safety,
elections and visitor information



Life, Family & Learning 0191 520 5553

Here to help with enquiries such as;
libraries, education, families information,
fostering and adoption, youth services, births,
deaths and marriages



Home & Money 0191 520 5551

Here to help with enquiries such as;
council tax, housing and housing advice,
planning and building control and welfare rights



Business Services 0191 520 5554

Here to help with enquiries such as;
business rates and business investment and
advice



Health & Wellbeing 0191 520 5552

Here to help with enquiries such as;
social care and concern for welfare, disabled
parking badges, concessionary travel passes and
sports and leisure



Council Switchboard 0191 520 5555

Please use our Switchboard service if you
know the name of the person you wish to
speak to

YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL

This remains a very challenging time for Sunderland and the City Council. The longest period of public spending reductions in history and the ongoing economic difficulties continue to affect all local authorities and inevitably impact on how services are and will be delivered in the future.

In 2013-2014 we plan to spend over £694m to provide services for the 277,077 residents of Sunderland.

Council Tax provides just 11 per cent of Sunderland City Council's budgeted income.

The majority of the budget is made up from Government grants, so the reductions in public spending continue to present the council with a significant challenge.

For the third consecutive year Council Tax will stay at the 2010-2011 level. Once again Sunderland's Council Tax will be the lowest in the North East and among the lowest in the country for Metropolitan Authorities.

This, together with the reductions in Government funding, means that the City Council must reduce its spending by a further £37m in 2013-2014.

This is on top of the £100m of savings the council has made over the last three years to manage the reduction in public spending in a planned and measured way; by reducing our spending, reviewing services and targeting resources to areas of highest need. We also reduced back office costs and protected frontline services as much as possible. We will continue to do this in the coming financial year. We are committed to finding smart and efficient ways of working and innovative ways to generate additional income.

In reviewing the council's ability to meet these financial challenges the independent auditor, the Audit Commission stated:

"The council has robust arrangements in place to ensure financial resilience. The council has a history of good financial management, robust systems of corporate governance and internal control and a strong record in the delivery of budgets."

The reductions in Government funding and grants have meant that some services could not continue at their current level. Other programmes are being delivered in a different way by the Government.

Despite all this, we continue to invest in frontline services and key projects to help stimulate economic growth and improve job prospects for residents.

Our achievements over the past three years give us confidence in planning for the future.

- We are the only council in the country still offering support across all four Fair Access to Care bands - this means we offer social care to all residents who need it
- Our Street Scene services have their highest ever levels of satisfaction
- We have been successful in our City Deal submission to the Government which will accelerate private sector growth and has the potential to create 16,000 jobs in advanced manufacturing over the long term

We are continuing to work hard to ensure our priorities reflect yours and to deliver on our purpose of improving services for the communities of Sunderland.



Cllr Paul Watson
Leader of the Council

Paul Watson



Dave Smith
Chief Executive

D. Smith



Malcolm Page
Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Malcolm Page

WHAT YOU PAY

Normally the person living in the property is responsible for paying Council Tax if it is their main home and they are over 18 years of age.

The amount of Council Tax that you pay depends on the value of your home. More valuable properties are liable for more Council Tax.

Each home is placed in a valuation band based on what your home was valued at, or would have been valued at, in 1991.

The table below sets out the Council Tax levels for 2013-2014 for each valuation band. Your Council Tax bill states the band that applies to your property. It is important to note that residents in most of Sunderland will pay the Total Council Tax level in column 5, whilst residents of Hetton will pay the Total Council Tax level in column 7.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Valuation Band	City Council Tax level	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Tax level	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria Tax level	Total Council Tax level	Hetton residents only		
					Hetton Town Council Tax level	Total Council Tax level	
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
A	790.64	48.77	57.74	897.15	8.74	905.89	
B	922.41	56.90	67.36	1,046.67	10.20	1,056.87	
C	1,054.19	65.03	76.99	1,196.21	11.65	1,207.86	
D	1,185.96	73.16	86.61	1,345.73	13.11	1,358.84	
E	1,449.51	89.42	105.86	1,644.79	16.02	1,660.81	
F	1,713.05	105.68	125.10	1,943.83	18.94	1,962.77	
G	1,976.60	121.93	144.35	2,242.88	21.85	2,264.73	
H	2,371.92	146.32	173.22	2,691.46	26.22	2,717.68	

YOUR COUNCIL TAX HELPS PAY FOR ALL OF THIS

Children's Services

Providing services that help keep children safe and healthy and services for children, young people and families.

The findings of the Ofsted Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services placed Sunderland amongst the higher performers nationally in terms of quality of the service. It was also another great year for improvements in early years, Key Stage 2, GCSE and A-level results.



Adult Services

Looking after vulnerable people who need care and support to help them live as independent, healthy and active a life as possible.

During 2013-2014 the council will pursue the development of five extra care housing schemes providing independent living for people over the age of 55 who require support or personal care at home.



Recreation and Leisure

Providing sport, leisure and wellness centres, museums, libraries, theatres and other visitor attractions and events.

59% of residents used council funded sport and leisure facilities in Sunderland in 2012 and 23% were frequent users. There was also an increase in satisfaction levels for these facilities from 51% in 2009 to 53% in 2012. The Sunderland Aquatic Centre and the Raich Carter Sports Centre are the most popular gyms and sport centres funded by the council.



Refuse collection, disposal and environmental health

Collecting and recycling rubbish, street cleaning, maintaining parks and open spaces and everything that helps keep the city clean, green and attractive.

Sunderland City Council has local, area based teams to provide a quick response to environmental issues like fly-tipping, graffiti and dog fouling which can affect the quality of your neighbourhood.

By the end of 2013-2014 the construction of two waste transfer stations will be completed, from which waste from the city will be transported to an 'energy from waste' plant on Teesside.



Highways

Maintaining over 750 miles of roads, 1,500 miles of footway and 48,000 street lights across the city.

Housing services

Making sure that everyone has the chance of a decent home and help, when needed, with Housing Benefit.

Economic Development Services

Economic development services assist existing businesses to develop and grow and also help to attract new businesses into the city. Advice and support enables businesses to sustain their development and be competitive. During the last year the city attracted 2,500 jobs through its inward investment programme.

Other services

These include the central services which keep the rest running, such as finance, human resources and governance services.

Contingencies and strategic priorities

While all known spending pressures have been provided for within the budget, there is still uncertainty over some costs and it is important that we have sufficient contingencies to meet emergency funding requirements. In addition, provision is made for a range of strategic priorities.

Levies

Sunderland City Council pays direct levies to the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) to provide financial support to help fund public transport and to the Environment Agency to support flood defence works.

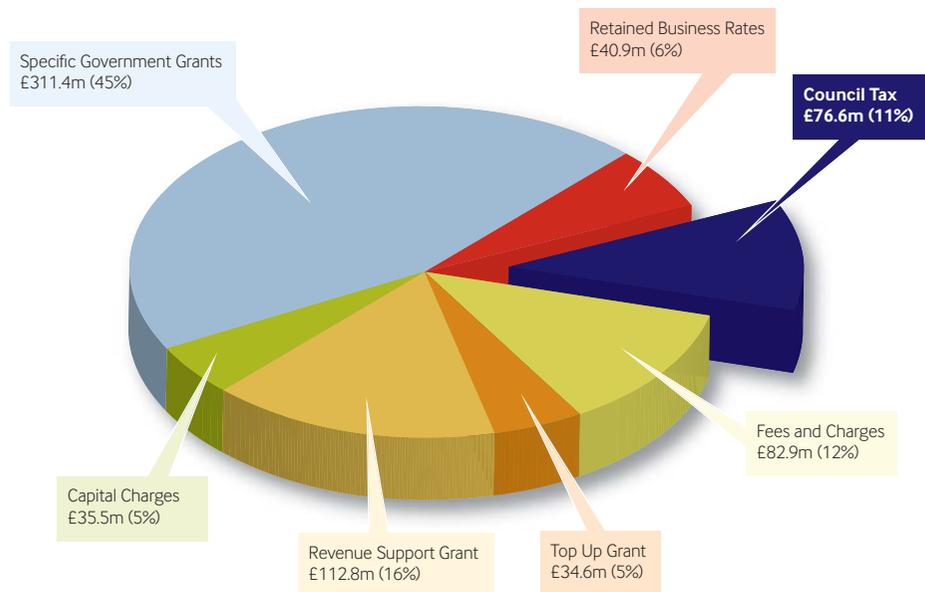
Precepts

Sunderland City Council collects your contributions towards the cost of Police and Fire and Rescue services, based on the precepts which are set by them.

WHERE THE MONEY WILL COME FROM IN 2013-2014

The council provides a wide range of services including schools, caring for the elderly, collecting rubbish and providing leisure facilities. The cost of running and maintaining the day-to-day services provided by the council is called Revenue Expenditure.

The Council Tax you pay forms only part of the funding to pay for these services. The chart below shows that over half of the money comes from the Government and the remainder from Council Tax, Retained Business Rates and income received from users of council services.



Total Income
£694.7m

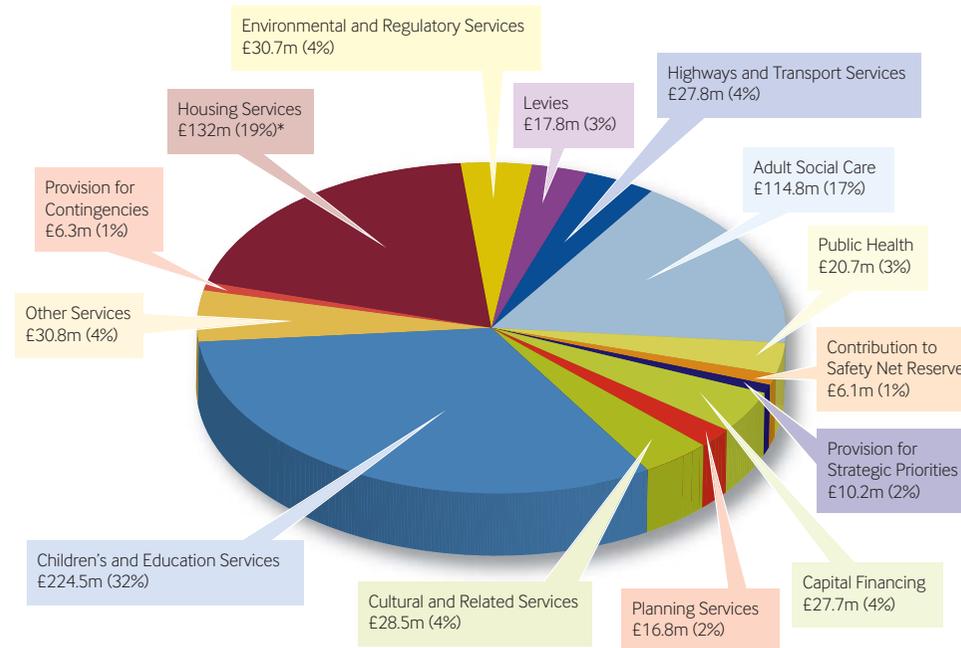
*Capital charges amounting to £35.5m are included in gross expenditure and income in accordance with the Service Reporting Code of Practice. This has no impact on the level of Council Tax.

HOW RESIDENTS HELP SET THE BUDGET

We consult with thousands of residents all year round on a whole range of issues that help us plan our services and to develop our city. It is only by residents telling us what they want that we can set the right priorities and make sure we're delivering the things that really matter to people. At budget time we have additional consultation sessions and we're particularly grateful for the help and support of residents who are members of our citizens' panel, 'Community Spirit'.

WHERE THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT ON SERVICES FOR 2013-2014

The chart below shows what the council plans to spend on its services in 2013-2014.



Total Revenue Expenditure
£694.7m

* This excludes council housing costs as this service has transferred to Gentoo and mainly consists of Housing Benefit payments.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Revenue Expenditure – the cost of maintaining and running day-to-day council services.

Gross Expenditure – the total revenue costs of running council services before any income from grants and fees and charges are taken into account.

Spending Pressures – costs which the council

has no control over such as inflation and demand for services.

Precepts – these are the costs of the Fire and Rescue and the Police services which all Council Tax payers must pay for.

Council Tax Requirement – the amount of money that the council needs from its Council Tax payers.

THE MAJOR ISSUES IN SETTING THE 2013-2014 BUDGET

The budget for the next financial year has been prepared taking account of the continued significant grant reductions from central government and the increase in costs to provide council services, such as inflation on fuel, gas, electricity and general price increases.

During the budget process, the council has used balances of £2.572m in order to enable spending pressures to be addressed.

The cost of services

In addition to services provided by the council, other bodies including the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority also provide services which the council must take into account. The table below gives a summary of the net cost of these services for 2013-2014 and how the Council Tax for Band D is built up.

Last Year 2012-2013 £m	Summary net cost of services	This Year 2013-2014 £m	Band D Council Tax £ p
96.302	City Council (including Levies)	76.013	1,185.96
5.941	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	4.689	73.16
6.795	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	5.551	86.61
109.038		86.253	1,345.73

In addition Hetton Town Council will levy a precept of £40,929 in 2013-2014, equivalent to a Band D charge of £13.11 (£13.11 in 2012-2013) but this is only paid by the residents of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.

Cost per head of population

The table below shows the total cost to each person in Sunderland of services provided by the council and Precepting Authorities, after taking account of the income received from Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates.

	Total Budget Requirement £	Government Funding* £	Local Share of Business Rates £	Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit £	Council Tax Requirement £
City Council	955.53	(531.83)	(147.56)	(1.80)	274.34
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	48.02	(27.35)	(3.61)	0.06	17.12
Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	193.76	(172.22)	0.00	(0.05)	21.49
Total	1,197.31	(731.40)	(151.17)	(1.79)	312.95

*Includes mainly Revenue Support Grant and Top Up Grant

BUDGET INFORMATION

Sunderland City Council budget information Explanatory Notes

The reduction in the Council Tax requirement of £20.3m reflects changes in Council Tax Support from April 2013. Council Tax Support Grant is now incorporated within Revenue Support Grant rather than the previous arrangements of Council Tax Benefit Grant forming part of the Council Tax Collection Fund. Details of the budget variation are shown in the table opposite. In 2013-2014 Council Tax represents 11% of Gross Revenue Expenditure (2012-2013 13%).

	£m
Inflation	0.2
Decrease in levies	(0.3)
Reduction in service expenditure	(42.2)
Reduction in other income	6.8
Contribution to Safety Net Reserve	6.1
Increase in use of Balances	(0.3)
Movement in Capital Financing	1.5
Net reduction in Government Grants	48.8
Introduction of Retained Business Rates	(40.9)
Total	(20.3)

Last Year 2012-2013				This Year 2013-2014		
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
112.8	54.7	58.1	Adult Social Care	114.8	38.5	76.3
253.4	199.6	53.8	Children's and Education Services	224.5	160.0	64.5
32.0	8.0	24.0	Cultural and Related Services	28.5	7.6	20.9
28.7	2.8	25.9	Environmental and Regulatory Services	30.7	6.7	24.0
27.8	10.6	17.2	Highways and Transport Services	27.8	9.8	18.0
132.9	119.9	13.0	Housing Services (non council housing costs)	132.0	123.8	8.2
16.9	9.6	7.3	Planning Services	16.8	9.9	6.9
0.0	0.0	0.0	Public Health	20.7	20.7	0.0
59.9	41.0	18.9	Other Services	30.8	10.5	20.3
0.0	2.6	(2.6)	Other Core Grants	0.0	2.7	(2.7)
26.2	0.0	26.2	Capital Financing Costs	27.7	0.0	27.7
690.6	448.8	241.8		654.3	390.2	264.1
10.5	0.0	10.5	Provision for contingencies	6.3	0.0	6.3
10.2	0.0	10.2	Provision for strategic priorities	10.2	0.0	10.2
0.0	1.6	(1.6)	Interest on Balances	0.0	1.6	(1.6)
0.0	2.3	(2.3)	Use of Balances	0.0	2.6	(2.6)
0.0	0.0	0.0	Contribution to Safety Net Reserve	6.1	0.0	6.1
0.0	31.6	(31.6)	Capital Charges	0.0	35.5	(35.5)
711.3	484.3	227.0	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	676.9	429.9	247.0
			Levies			
		17.8	Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority			17.5
		0.2	Environment Agency - Flood Defence			0.2
		0.1	NE Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority			0.1
		245.1	TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT			264.8
		2.8	Less Revenue Support Grant			112.8
		145.4	Redistributed Business Rates			0.0
		0.0	Retained Business Rates			40.9
		0.0	Top Up Grant			34.5
		0.5	Collection Fund Surplus			0.5
		96.4	COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT			76.1

BUDGET INFORMATION

Levies and precepts

Your Council Tax bill is made up of a number of elements besides the council's Council Tax Requirement. These include levies and precepts that the council is legally required to collect on behalf of other organisations. For Sunderland City Council these organisations are:

Levying Authorities

Environment Agency						
	Last Year 2012-2013			This Year 2013-2014		
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Flood Defence	19.5	17.4	2.1	16.1	14.0	2.1
Levy			2.1			2.1

Change in levy (Total Budget Requirement) between years is attributable to:

	£m
Impact of Government Spending Review and national prioritisation of capital projects	0.0
Total	0.0
Sunderland's proportion of the Environment Agency levy is £0.197m in 2013-2014 (2012-2013 £0.206m)	

Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority						
	Last Year 2012-2013			This Year 2013-2014		
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Tyne Tunnels	16.5	19.4	(2.9)	24.6	23.6	1.0
ITA	3.5	0.0	3.5	3.4	0.0	3.4
Grant to Nexus	101.3	0.0	101.3	104.1	0.0	104.1
Total	121.3	19.4	101.9	132.1	23.6	108.5
Transfer to Reserves			(3.8)			(6.6)
Total Budget Requirement			98.1			101.9
Less Rail Grants and Miscellaneous Grants			(27.9)			(31.7)
Levy			70.2			70.2

Change in levy (Total Budget Requirement) between years is attributable to:

	£m
Inflation and other cost pressures	3.6
Increase on Tyne Tunnels budget	8.0
Increased income	(4.2)
Budget reductions	(0.8)
Movement on contribution from reserves	(2.8)
Total	3.8
Sunderland's proportion of the Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority levy is £17.506m in 2013-2014 (2012-2013 £17.778m)	

BUDGET INFORMATION

Precepting Authorities

Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria						
	Last Year 2012-2013			This Year 2013-2014		
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Police General	311.6	40.7	270.9	300.6	22.5	278.1
Contingencies	1.0	0.0	1.0			0.0
Total Budget Requirement	312.6	40.7	271.9	300.6	22.5	278.1
Less: Formula Grant			235.1			240.2
Localised Council Tax Support Grant			0.0			7.0
Collection Fund Surplus			0.2			0.1
Precept			36.6			30.8

Change in Precept (Council Tax Requirement) between years is attributable to:

	£m
Increases in pay and prices	2.3
Changes in Government Grants	(1.7)
Budget Savings	(16.5)
Reduction in use of Reserves	10.1
Total	(5.8)
Sunderland's proportion of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria precept is £5.551m in 2013-2014 (2012-2013 £6.795m)	
This represents £86.61 of the Band D Council Tax and equates to an increase of £2.93. (Equivalent to a 3.5% increase)	
Council Tax represents 10.3% of Gross Expenditure (2012-2013 11.7%) this decreases the reliance on Council Tax as a funding stream.	

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority						
	Last Year 2012-2013			This Year 2013-2014		
	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Fire Service	62.2	6.2	56.0	59.7	7.1	52.6
Total	62.2	6.2	56.0	59.7	7.1	52.6
Contingencies			0.5			0.9
Interest on Balances			(0.2)			(0.2)
Core Grants			(0.7)			0.0
Total Budget Requirement			55.6			53.3
Less Revenue Support Grant			0.6			20.4
Business Rates			31.1			0.0
Collection Fund Surplus			(0.1)			0.0
Top up Grant			0.0			9.6
Retained Business Rates			0.0			4.0
Transitional Relief Grant			0.0			0.1
Council Tax Freeze Grant			0.0			0.2
Precept			24.0			19.0

Change in Precept (Council Tax Requirement) between years is attributable to:

	£m
Cost pressures	1.4
Additional income	(0.2)
Government funding	2.0
Local share of business rates	(4.0)
Efficiency savings	(4.2)
Total	(5.0)
Sunderland's proportion of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority precept is £4.689m in 2013-2014 (2012-2013 £5.941m)	
This represents £73.16 of the Band D Council Tax and equates to a Council Tax freeze.	
Council Tax represents 31.4% of Gross Expenditure (2012-2013 38.2%) this decreases the reliance on Council Tax as a funding stream.	

Benefits are changing

To find out how these changes will affect you and your family visit: www.sunderland.gov.uk/benefitchanges
Alternatively call 0191 520 5551 or visit a Customer Service Centre



Stay informed, plan ahead


Sunderland
City Council