

YOUR COUNCIL TAX 2019/20



Special Expenses on your bill?

Fylde Borough Council (FBC) collects Council Tax on behalf of Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and for all of the Parish and Town Councils within the borough, as well as for its own purposes.

Approximately 12 per cent of your bill is retained by FBC – the rest is passed on to these other authorities. If you live in Lytham or St Annes, you will see two charges from FBC on your bill: one for “Special Expenses” (the cost of maintaining parks and gardens in Lytham and St Annes) and one in respect of a standard borough-wide charge for all other FBC services.

If you live outside Lytham and St Annes you will only see the standard borough-wide charge.

This is because for all other areas of the borough the parks and gardens are owned and maintained by the Town or Parish Council, which is funded through the amount that you pay to them direct, as shown on your bill.



**Councillor
Sue Fazackerley MBE**
Fylde Council Leader

The requirement for local authorities to ‘tighten their belts’ continues with the reduction in Whitehall support, one of our main sources of funding – the Revenue Support Grant – being phased out by 2019/20. In order to continue to invest in the Borough and to keep delivering services to a high standard, a modest increase in Council Tax of less than 10 pence per week on average has been approved this year. No-one likes tax increases but I hope you will agree that this increase, which is less than the amount the government allows us to increase and less than the majority of other Lancashire authorities, still represents value for money for our residents.

We will continue to support facilities that deliver important non statutory services including Lowther Pavilion and two swimming pools, which is rare for local authorities nowadays. We have also approved major capital projects across the borough including the exciting new water feature, ‘Splash’ which will be opening this Spring and, in addition to the Wartime Weekend we are investing in additional support for events across the Borough, including St Annes International Kite Festival to ensure its continuation. These events are not only enjoyed by residents but also bring thousands of people into our Borough, boosting the local economy.

The Fairhaven and Church Scar Sea Defence project, ensuring our safety for generations to come, is progressing well, and we have been successful in securing a grant of £1.5m from the Heritage Lottery fund for the restoration of Fairhaven Lake - a scheme which promises to see the Lake restored to its former glory.

Please read the information below relating to discounts and reliefs - some of the advice may help reduce your bill and save you money.

About your Council Tax

There is one bill per dwelling and each property is allocated one of eight valuation bands according to its open market capital value at 1st April 1991. Your band is shown on your bill.

There are strict time limits for appeals against your banding, and this must be made within six months of you becoming liable for the council tax on your property.

You can appeal against your banding by visiting www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band. Alternatively you can call 03000 501501 or email ctonline@voa.gsi.gov.uk.

The Valuation Office Agency are responsible for banding properties, not the council.

Universal Credit

If you make a claim for Universal Credit you should claim Council Tax Reduction from the Council straight away, as this cannot be backdated.

You can claim online at: www.fylde.gov.uk/Benefits

Payment by 12 monthly instalments

You may choose to pay your Council Tax in 12 monthly instalments instead of 10. To do this you must contact the Council on 01253 658658 by 12 April 2019 to allow us to amend your bill.

Instalment dates

There are several different instalment dates available. If you would like to change the date allocated to you, please contact an advisor on 01253 658658 to discuss your account.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Council Tax Reduction (CTR) provides assistance to people on a low income to help pay their Council Tax. If you receive CTR the amount you get will be shown on this bill. Details of the scheme can be found on the Council’s website, where you can apply online or report a change of circumstances.

If you receive CTR you have a duty to tell us immediately about any change to your



Renew your green waste subscription for 2019/20

fylde.gov.uk/greenwaste recycle for Fylde



Fylde residents can park on any council owned car parks for just £25 per year!

For more information visit fylde.gov.uk/frps

Terms and conditions apply



circumstances. Failing to comply with that duty could mean you repaying any amount you were not entitled to and you could face prosecution.

Examples of changes we need to be told about include any change to your income, to your household, your Universal Credit award, or if you move address. If in doubt, tell us of the change.

You can report your changes online at: www.fylde.gov.uk/benefits

If you think any decision we have made about your CTR is wrong you must tell us within one month of this notice or we may not be able to help. You can ask for an explanation of our decision, ask us to look at it again, or appeal (in writing) against it.

Register now to view your CTR award online at: www.fylde.gov.uk/advantage

Disabled Relief

This is awarded where special adaptations have been made to your home to accommodate a disabled resident.

If you qualify you can get a reduction equivalent to one band on your bill. An initial inspection of your home will be made prior to the award of this relief, and a new application is required each year.

Discounts and Exemptions

Discounts are available in certain circumstances. Single Occupier Discount. If a 25% discount has been applied to your bill it is because you have previously declared that you are the only adult resident at the address.

If your circumstances have changed and this is no longer the case – maybe another adult has moved into this address or a child has become 18 – you must inform the Council immediately so that your bill can be adjusted. The council will check to see that the information you provide is correct. This may involve cross-checking data with external bodies. In certain circumstances discounts are available to the following groups of people:

- Single person households
- Patients of residential care homes
- People who are severely mentally impaired
- 18 year olds for whom child benefit is payable
- 18 and 19 year olds in full time education
- Students and student nurses
- Youth training trainees
- Apprentices
- Long stay hospital patients
- Persons detained in custody
- Care workers
- People staying in night shelters/dormitory-type hostels
- Members of religious communities
- Members of visiting forces
- People with diplomatic immunity

Other discounts are also available. Properties that are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished may qualify for a 100% discount up to a maximum of 6 months. Properties that are undergoing or require major structural alterations and are unoccupied and uninhabitable may qualify for a discount of 100% up to a maximum of 12 months.

A 50% Council Tax reduction applies where certain criteria are met in relation to annexes occupied by a relative of the occupier of the main dwelling, or for people with annexes which are unoccupied. If you think we've made a mistake with your Council Tax, or you think you may be able to get a discount, exemption or relief, please contact us in writing and we will look at it again.

Some properties are exempt from Council Tax, which means you do not have to pay Council Tax for them. These are the different classes of exemption:

- B. An unoccupied property owned and previously used by a charity. The maximum exemption period is 6 months
- D. An unoccupied property that was the home of someone detained in custody
- E. An unoccupied property that was the home of someone who has moved permanently into a residential home or hospital to receive care

- F. An unoccupied property that is waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted. The maximum exemption is for 6 months after probate or letters of administration have been granted
- G. A property that is unoccupied because the law forbids occupation
- H. An unoccupied property reserved for a minister of religion
- I. An unoccupied property that was the home of someone who has permanently moved into another residence (not a residential home or hospital) to receive personal care
- J. An unoccupied property that was the home of someone who has permanently moved away to provide personal care to another person
- K. An unoccupied property where the owner is a student, and the property was last occupied as their main home
- L. An unoccupied property where a mortgage lender is in possession
- M. Student halls of residence
- N. A property occupied only by students
- O. An armed forces barracks
- P. Accommodation for visiting forces and dependants
- Q. An unoccupied property where the person who would normally pay the Council Tax is bankrupt
- R. A vacant caravan pitch or boat mooring
- S. A property occupied only by people aged under 18 years
- T. An unoccupied annexe that may not be let separately without a breach of planning control
- U. An occupied property where all of the residents, including the person who would normally pay the Council Tax, are severely mentally impaired
- V. A property occupied by a foreign diplomat
- W. An annexe occupied by a dependant elderly or disabled relative.

Premium Charge

Properties left empty for more than two years will be charged a Premium. This means that for these properties Council Tax will be set at 200% of the normal charge.

Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Funding

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.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the financial information relating to the website links on your bill, free of charge, your request should initially be made in writing to the address on your Council Tax bill.

Data Protection Legislation

Fylde Council will process the information you provide in accordance with the current Data Protection Legislation. The information will only be held and processed for the purpose of the assessment and collection of taxes and revenues and other compatible purposes such as corporate information systems and the prevention and detection of fraud or crime. The Council is obliged to comply with the requirements of the National Fraud Initiative. Further information from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-fraud-initiative> You have rights under the Act. Information available at: www.fylde.gov.uk or from the Information Commissioner's Office or website (www.ico.gov.uk)

This information leaflet forms part of the demand notice.

Did you know? Council tax discounts are available for those living with some mental health conditions such as dementia.
For more information visit www.fylde.gov.uk/council-tax