

A photograph of a man and a woman standing on a grassy cliff overlooking the sea. The man is wearing a blue jacket and glasses, and the woman is wearing an orange jacket and sunglasses. A dog is visible in the foreground. The background shows a blue sea and a rocky island in the distance under a clear sky.

Your council tax explained

Updated March 2019

image © ERBID

The following guidance outlines how council tax is calculated, how this contributes towards the Council's budget and how it is distributed across the services we provide.

It also has some tips on how to manage your payments, and what help is available if you are worried about how you are going to pay your bill.

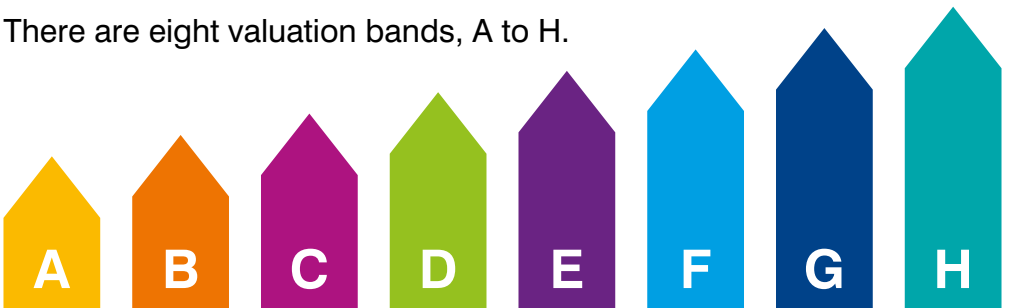
Your council tax band

Your property has been assessed for Council Tax by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Valuation Office Agency.

The valuation is based on the property estimated sale value as at 1 April 1991.

If you think the Council Tax band of your home is wrong, please visit www.torbay.gov.uk/counciltaxbandappeals

There are eight valuation bands, A to H.



Discounts

The full Council Tax assumes that two people live in the property.

If only one person has their main residence in the dwelling a 25% discount is allowed.

In other circumstances some or all of the residents may not be counted when looking at the number of adults in the dwelling.

In 2014 the government introduced a

50% discount for a separately banded annexe

occupied by a relative of the person liable to pay Council Tax in the main part of the premises. If you think this may apply to you, please go to www.torbay.gov.uk/annexes.

Exemptions

Some dwellings are exempt from Council Tax, including property which is:

Owned by a charity

(six months exemption followed by full charge)

Left empty

because the previous occupier has gone to prison, moved to provide care or moved to receive care.

Vacant and unfurnished property forming part of a deceased person's estate

will receive six months exemption from the date on which probate is granted, after which the full Council Tax will become due.

Has been repossessed

or is the responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee.

Occupation prohibited by law

or is

Occupied solely by people aged under 18, full-time students or those designated as severely mentally impaired.

Help with paying your bill

Choose the payment plan that suits you

Did you know you can pay your bill weekly, 2 weekly or on 1st, 8th, 15, or 25th if paying monthly? To make a change, visit www.torbay.gov.uk/paying-your-bill

Set up a regular bank payment

Have you thought about setting up a Standing Order with your bank to pay the bill? Simply take the bill to your bank and they will take care of the rest.

Alternatively you can set up a regular payment if you use internet banking.

Please quote the following details:

Sort Code: 55-70-01

Account number: 06040411

Account Name – Torbay Council

Please also remember to quote your Council Tax number to ensure your payment is allocated correctly.

If you are currently experiencing difficulty in meeting your monthly payment please see our website at: www.torbay.gov.uk/change-your-payments or call us on 01803 207201

On a low income?

If you are working age, on a low income and have less than £6,000 in capital you may qualify for Council Tax Support. This is available to owner occupiers as well as tenants.

Details on how to apply for Council Tax Support together with further information on the scheme can be found at www.torbay.gov.uk/cts

Services provided By Torbay Council

The Council is budgeting to spend approximately £380m on revenue and capital, in line with the council's priorities contained within the Torbay Corporate Plan. The Council Tax requirement for the provision of services within Torbay will be £69m. The Corporate Plan along with financial information about the council including its budget, Statement of Accounts and its rolling financial plan, the Medium Term Resource Plan, are available on the Council's website: www.torbay.gov.uk

Torbay Council Budget 2019/2020

Torbay Council has set a basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 based on its gross expenditure and income. For Torbay Council this results in a **2.99%** increase.

Expenditure and income for each class of service

2018/2019 restated			SERVICES	2019/20		
Exp £m Restated	Inc£m	Net Exp £m Restated		Exp £m	Inc £m	Net Exp £m
51	(10)	41	Adult Social Care	53	(14)	39
78	(47)	31	Children's Services*	88	(52)	36
10	(1)	9	Public Health	10	(1)	9
88	(81)	7	Corporate Services	80	(74)	6
41	(18)	23	Director of Place	40	(19)	21
21	(20)	1	Finance	21	(21)	0
289	(177)	112	Net Budget	292	(181)	111
0	(47)	(47)	General Funding	0	(42)	(42)
289	(224)	65	Total	292	(223)	69
		65	Council Tax Requirement, the amount to be raised by Council Tax			69

* The Dedicated Schools Grant for 2019/20 included in income is approximately £40m

Full details of the 2019/20 service budgets can be found on the Council webpage at: www.torbay.gov.uk/budget-201920

Why our Council Tax requirement has changed

Reductions to general central government grant funding of £5m

Changes in Council Tax: Growth in Torbay Council's Council Tax Base and 2.99% increase in Torbay Council's Council Tax Precept.

Changes to net Budget: This £1m net decrease comprises £7m service pressures including inflation and investment in services, offset by £8m reductions in service expenditure and increased income.

Who will receive funds from Council Tax in 2019/20?

2018/19			Amount to be raised by Council Tax:	2019/20		
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
Excluding parish precept	Parish precept	Including parish precept		Excluding parish precept	Parish precept	Including parish precept
65,477	0	65,477	Torbay Council	68,688	0	68,688
8,447	0	8,447	Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall	9,701	0	9,701
3,769	0	3,769	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	3,954	0	3,954
0	281	281	Brixham Town Council	0	317	317
77,693	281	77,974	Total Amount to be raised by Council Tax	82,343	317	82,660
			Tax Base (average number of chargeable properties):-			
44,866			Torbay Council Tax Base	45,700		
	6,004		Brixham Town Council Tax Base		6,188	
£1,731.69	£46.77	£1,778.46	Amount per Band D Property (Total amount to be raised divided by Tax Base)	£1,801.84	£51.29	£1,853.13

The amounts to be raised by Council Tax for Torbay Council, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority and Police & Crime Commissioner



for Devon & Cornwall are applicable to all Torbay residents. The Parish Precept is **only applicable** to residents in the Brixham Town Council area. If applicable this will be detailed on your Council Tax demand.

Changes in amount per Band D property compared year on year:

	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	Change %
Torbay Council	1,459.40	1,503.04	2.99%
Police and Crime Commissioner	188.28	212.28	12.75%
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	84.01	86.52	2.99%
Sub-Total	1,731.69	1,801.84	4.05%
Brixham Town Council (only payable by Brixham residents)	46.77	51.29	9.66%
Total	1,778.46	1,853.13	4.20%

The amount per Band D Property is used to calculate the Council Tax requirements for all the Valuation Bands as follows:

Valuation Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ratio of each band to Band D								
Torbay Council	£1,002.03	£1,169.03	£1,336.04	£1,503.04	£1,837.05	£2,171.05	£2,505.07	£3,006.08
Police and Crime Commissioner	£141.52	£165.11	£188.69	£212.28	£259.45	£306.63	£353.80	£424.56
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	£57.68	£67.29	£76.91	£86.52	£105.75	£124.97	£144.20	£173.04
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements ex. Town Council	£1,201.23	£1,401.43	£1,601.64	£1,801.84	£2,202.25	£2,602.65	£3,003.07	£3,603.68
Brixham Town Council	£34.19	£39.89	£45.59	£51.29	£62.69	£74.09	£85.48	£102.58
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements including Brixham Town Council	£1,235.42	£1,441.32	£1,647.23	£1,853.13	£2,264.94	£2,676.74	£3,088.55	£3,706.26

Capital Programme

The Council currently plans to spend £91m on capital projects during 2019/20 to maintain and improve the Council's service delivery and includes £30m to be used on Investment Fund properties. Over the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 the Council plans to spend £118m on capital projects. The capital programme will be funded primarily from a combination of grants, sale of assets and external borrowing.

The significant areas of spend in 2019/20 include £28m on regeneration projects, £4m for major highways schemes, and £3m for schools related projects. Other significant projects include Affordable Housing, major repairs on infrastructure, including on-going highway improvements, as well as £30m on the development of the Council's investment portfolio.





Brixham Town Council spending plans

Brixham Town Council was established in May 2007. The Town Council precepts Torbay Council as a billing authority to fund its activities. This precept is received from the Council Tax payers in the area covered by Brixham Town Council, which are based on the wards of Berry Head with Furzeham and St Marys with Summercombe.

Analysis of the budget requirement for Brixham Town Council

The table below shows the 2019 / 2020 total budget requirements.

	Total Expenditure £000's
General Administration	178.7
Community Projects	52.7
Council Services	45.5
Premises	78
Community and the Environment	57.5
Less Income	85
Total Budget Requirement 2019/20	317.4

The Town Council has continued working towards its aims and objectives from the adopted Strategy Document. These aims and objectives are to explore all avenues to provide a better quality of life for all residents of Brixham ensuring a value for money service to the community and a strong voice is heard in Torbay.

Brixham Town Council has held a budget consultation to establish the community's expectations from the Town Council. The results of which have been considered as part of the budget planning and precept setting process.

As part of that strategy the Council has agreed to continue to provide the Information Point service and increase the Town Lengthsman Service. The Town Council will continue to support local services such as Brixham Does Care, Brixham Heritage Centre and Youth Genesis.

As always, the budget set will enable the Town Council to fulfil their strategy objectives in conjunction with the Strategy Document.

The Town Council can be contacted at Brixham Town Council, First Floor, Brixham Town Hall, New Road, Brixham, TQ5 8TA. Telephone number 01803 859678 and e mail info@brixhamtowncouncil.gov.uk or visit the Town Council website: www.brixhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority

It is a requirement for the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority to set a level of revenue budget and council tax before the commencement of the forthcoming financial year 2019/20.

At the budget setting meeting on 19 February 2019, the Authority approved a total net revenue budget of £75,142,000 for 2019/20, funded as shown in the table below.

	£000
Formula Funding Grant	£6,286
Share of Non-Domestic Business Rates	£15,617
District Councils Collection Funds	£53,239
Total	£75,142

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority is responsible for the governance arrangements for Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service.

Spending Plans	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m
Gross expenditure	77.4	83.1
Income from specific grants, fees and charges	(2.5)	(7.2)
Council tax freeze grant	(1.1)	(1.1)
Central Government funding	(17.4)	(16.6)
Business Rates Retention – Local Authority	(5.4)	(5.2)
Council tax requirement	51.0	53.0

Changes in spending

In 2019/20 the spending requirement for the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority will be £1.3m more than in 2018/19. These changes are a result of the following:

Classification of spend	Changes to expenditure £m	Changes to income £m
Contractual pay and price increases	1.502	-
Inescapable commitments	1.960	-
Budget savings	(2.588)	-
Section 31 grant for pension shortfall	-	(3.742)
Revenue Contribution to Capital Increase	0.112	-
Increase to pension charges	4.027	-
Total changes	5.013	(3.742)

The Authority requires a council tax level of £86.52 for a Band D household. This represents an increase of 2.99% compared to the 2018/19 figure.

Changes to Fire Service funding

The Government's grant funding to the Authority has reduced by 25.4% by 2019/20. The Authority is expecting to make savings of between £8.4m and £14.6m by 2022 and will continue to raise issues with the Government around the problems faced by rural public authorities.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall

Please see www.devon-cornwall.police.uk for details.