

Babergh District Council

Council Tax information 2023/24

Message from Councillor John Ward, Leader of Babergh District Council



In these challenging economic times, every penny counts – not just in terms of how much we ask from you in council tax, but also how we spend it.

This has been at the forefront of our minds as we set this year's budget and priorities. All of us at Babergh District Council feel passionately about doing the right thing for our residents, businesses and communities.

We have faced a challenging balancing act. We are not immune to rising costs ourselves, but also recognised we must find a way of funding our vital services without placing an unreasonable burden on residents.

This year there is a 2.99% increase to Babergh's share of the council tax - the equivalent of £5.30 a year, or 10p a week for a Band D property.

Any decision to put up council tax is not one we take lightly, particularly when we know you are already feeling the squeeze and having to make tough financial decisions.

Alongside this small increase, there will be additional help for those in the greatest financial need. There will now be a council tax discount of up to 100% for residents with the lowest incomes and a simplification of the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme for residents on Universal Credit.

The 2.99% rise should also be set against the context of an almost 20% increase in the net cost of delivering our services - from £10.43m in 2022/23 to £12.45m in 2023/24.

Thankfully, prudent investments and financial management over recent years mean we have been able to deliver a balanced budget and ensure ongoing support for our district's residents, businesses and communities.

We take great pride in providing good quality public services, protecting vulnerable people and helping our district to grow stronger.

We collect your rubbish and recycling, provide leisure facilities, maintain parks, provide housing, help homeless people, tackle antisocial behaviour, protect your health and wellbeing and breathe new life into areas through regeneration projects.

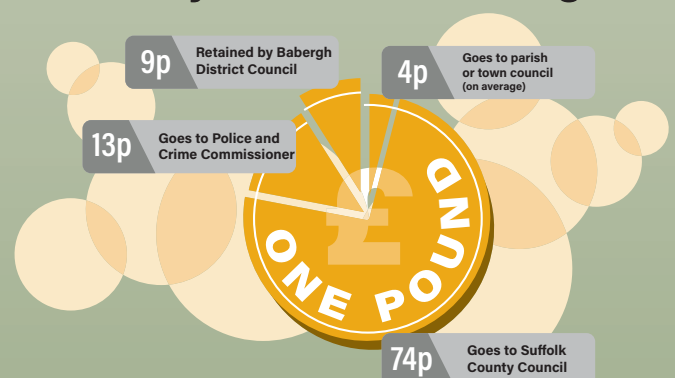
The work we do to tackle the climate emergency has never been more important. In the last year we have added solar car ports at Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury, and rolled out our new fleet of bin lorries powered by environmentally-friendly HVO fuel. We've also planted trees and hedgerows, including hundreds of trees in our 'Tree for Life' scheme for parents.

In 2023/24, we will continue to tackle rural isolation and improve access to services for our communities. We will continue to support the economic growth of our towns and high streets, while also continuing to invest in new social housing and improving the energy efficiency of our existing council homes.

We will continue to support our towns and businesses, investing in our visions for Hadleigh and Sudbury, as well as our areas of natural beauty and tourist hotspots.

Every penny paid to Babergh through your council tax payments will support this vital work in our wonderful district. Thank you.

Where your Council Tax goes



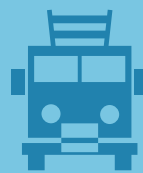
Find out more at: www.babergh.gov.uk/council-tax

We spend **75p** of every **£1** we receive supporting those that need it most.

This includes older people, children and those who are the most vulnerable in Suffolk. These are important public services that we provide 365 days of the year.



The remaining **25p** in every **£1** pays for other vital services, including Suffolk Fire and Rescue, road maintenance, footpaths, public transport, waste services, libraries, culture, leisure, trading standards, community safety, biodiversity and tackling climate change.



Your council tax means we can make a positive difference in your community and continue to provide services that you can rely on.

Your contribution makes a real difference.

Councillor
Matthew Hicks
Leader of Suffolk
County Council



www.suffolk.gov.uk/counciltax

OUR AMBITIONS FOR SUFFOLK

Looking after our
health and wellbeing

Strengthening
our local economy

Protecting and enhancing
our environment

Providing value for
money for our residents

Message from Tim Passmore, Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk



Suffolk Constabulary does a good job for the communities it serves. It is a low-cost force which offers good value for money.

This year the Constabulary was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and was rated as 'Good', which for a small force like Suffolk is a great result. I truly believe Suffolk punches above its weight compared to the bigger metropolitan forces.

We started this year with a new Chief Constable. Rachel Kearton joined Suffolk Constabulary in 2015 as Assistant Chief Constable and was promoted to Deputy

Chief in 2019. She has a wealth of experience and knows the enormous challenges ahead for us including finance, increasing demand and the changes in the pattern of crime. Improving public trust and confidence will be fundamental to her role and I look forward to working with Rachel to provide the very best police service possible.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, setting the budget is one of my most important responsibilities. I must ensure that the Constabulary has the resources needed to provide an efficient and effective service, whilst ensuring that I use Suffolk taxpayers' money for the maximum benefit.

Sadly, as has been the case for several years now, our funding from Government is just not enough. Suffolk is one of the lowest-funded forces in the country and faces significant challenges so I felt I had no choice but to opt for the 6% increase permitted by the Policing Minister. Our funding from Government increased by



only 1.75% and we are facing significantly higher cost pressures as a result of inflation, so hopefully you will appreciate there was a significant gap.

The additional council tax funding will increase the policing budget by £3.9m and give the Constabulary the resources it needs to help keep pace with the increased demands placed upon it. Fuller detail of how this funding will help us to meet with the changing policing needs is detailed on my website.

In addition to the seven extra officers and 18 staff to be funded by this precept, Suffolk Constabulary has increased by 228 police officers since 2020. This will mean we will have over 1400 officers in Suffolk by the end of March 2023, many more than there has ever been since I was first elected. This is good news for Suffolk because it will clearly help improve policing visibility countywide.

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Find out more at: www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk