Norfolk County Council: Council Tax 2022-23

This briefing note is intended to support Members, customer service and communications teams, and District Councils (as the billing authority) in responding to enquiries received from members of the public (and others) regarding:

1. The level of council tax and Budget for 2022-23;
2. Presentation of council tax bills 2022-23;
3. Presentation of the Adult Social Care precept on 2022-23 council tax bills; and
4. The Energy Bills Rebate for 2022-23.

1. Council Tax Increase and Budget 2022-23

At its meeting on 21 February 2022, **Norfolk County Council agreed to increase the council tax for 2022-23 by 2.99%**.

The 2.99% rise comprises:

- an increase in the element relating to county-wide services equivalent to a 1.99% rise in Council Tax; and
- an increase in the element ring-fenced to help fund Adult Social Care (the Social Care Precept) equivalent to a 1.00% rise in Council Tax.

The financial climate in which local government operates continues to be challenging, with significant pressures of £70m across front line services. The agreed council tax increase of 2.99% for 2022-23, is below the referendum threshold set by government of 4%. This balanced approach recognises the financial pressures faced by local taxpayers, while enabling the council to protect vital services and will help to ensure a robust and sustainable financial position in future years.

Key points:

- Norfolk County Council has agreed a net budget of £464.126m for 2022-23.
- The increase in council tax amounts to £44.01 per year for a Band D property (equivalent to about £0.84 per week), and increases the County Council's share of a Band D bill to £1,516.95.
- The council has absorbed significant and ongoing cuts in central government funding, a total of £220m between 2010-11 and 2019-20, while continuing to protect social care services.
- The 2022-23 Budget provides for the Council to make further significant investment, while addressing continuing severe pressure on services, including:
    - Adults: £35.478m of growth pressure (including for the National Living Wage), against planned savings of £10.465m.
    - Children's: £23.244m of growth pressure, against planned savings of £12.088m.
    - Community and Environmental Services: £11.208m of growth pressure, against planned savings of £3.496m.
- The council faces a remaining forecast budget gap of £97m to be closed over the period to 2023-26.

- Norfolk County Council also agreed a £718m capital budget, which pays for investment in infrastructure, property and equipment.
- Examples of capital investment include: the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing, Long Stratton bypass, Norwich Western Link, the Castle Keep Museum, Better Broadband, and the investment in specialist school places and services (SEND school provision).

Further details about council tax can be found on our website:
https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/our-budget-and-council-tax/council-tax

2. Presentation of council tax bills 2022-23

The 2022-23 council tax attributable to Norfolk County Council includes a precept to fund adult social care. In respect of a Band D property this results in the following amounts for Norfolk County Council:

Norfolk County Council Share Band D	**£**
2021-22 Total council tax	1,472.94
Of which general council tax	*1,321.47*
Of which Adult Social Care precept	*151.47*
General council tax increase 2022-23 £1,472.94 x 1.99%	29.34
Adult Social Care precept 2022-23 increase £1,472.94 x 1%	14.67
2022-23 Total council tax	**1,516.95**
Of which general council tax	*1,350.81*
Of which Adult Social Care precept	*166.14*

The increase of 2.99% for 2022-23 is calculated based on the total Band D council tax charged by Norfolk County Council in 2021-22 (i.e. a 2.99% increase on £1,472.94).

The figures for other council tax bands, and the detailed calculations, are shown in **Appendix 1** to this note.

3. Presentation of the Adult Social Care precept on council tax bills

The presentation of council tax bills is set out by Government (the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) in regulations each year.[1]

For **2022-23** the prescribed approach in relation to the precept is unchanged from 2021-22 and requires cash and percentage increases to be shown for both the precept

[1] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2022/127/contents/made

and the general council tax. The **Government considers the precept to be a charge which accumulates in value over the years from 2016-17 to 2022-23**. This is because the council is expected to continue spending all of the additional council tax charged for the precept in previous years (which has become part of the council tax baseline) on Adult Social Care services. In the case of Norfolk County Council, the 2016-17 Band D precept was £22.90, the 2017-18 Band D precept increase was £35.72, the 2018-19 Band D precept increase was £37.43, no increase in 2019-20, the 2020-21 Band D precept increase was £27.16, the 2021-22 Band D precept increase was £28.26, and the 2022-23 Band D precept increase is £14.67 resulting in a **total precept worth £166.14** for Band D in 2022-23.

In line with Regulations, council tax bills in 2022-23 will show:

Norfolk County Council Share Band D	Bill for this year	Change from last year
Norfolk County Council – General	£1,350.81	2.0%*
Norfolk County Council – Adult Social Care Precept	£166.14	1.0%

*1.99% rounded to one decimal place

The presentation of the precept and values for all Bands in 2022-23 are shown in **Appendix 2**.

It should be noted that **the presentation of the percentage increase for the Norfolk County Council share of rates is not consistent with the presentation of percentage increases elsewhere on the council tax bill**.

The council has no discretion about the presentation of these aspects of the bill, which have been defined by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in *The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017*.[2] The explanatory memorandum to these regulations states:

7.5 …in relation to any authority that has used the adult social care precept since 2016-17, the notice must contain the following information:

- a) *the amount of council tax set by the authority excluding any adult social care precept charged in the year to which the notice relates;*
- b) *the total amount of adult social care precept charged since the scheme began in 2016-17;*
- c) *the number of percentage points **contributed to the authority's overall change** in its basic amount of council tax in the year to which the notice relates by:*
  - i. *the change attributable to general expenditure; and*
  - ii. *the change attributable to the adult social care precept.*

The explanatory memorandum to the 2020 Regulations confirms an update to the prescribed text, but no other changes to the presentation of council tax bills.

[2] http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/13/contents/made

Norfolk County Council (and the relevant District Council in producing council tax bills) are obliged to include the information in this prescribed format.

4. The Energy Bills Rebate for 2022-23

In February 2022, the Government announced an "Energy Bills Rebate"[3] intended to support households as part of a response to the rise in the energy price cap. A £150 non-repayable council tax rebate will be made for most households that are liable for council tax in bands A to D in England. This is expected to benefit around 80% of homes in England. The rebate will be made directly by local authorities (District Councils as billing authorities) from April 2022. In addition, billing authorities will be given £144 million of discretionary funding to support those who need help with energy bills but who are not eligible for the council tax rebate.

Council tax bills issued in respect of 1 April 2022 will be required to include the following text on the face of the bill:

"The Government is providing a £150 one-off Energy Bills Rebate for most households in council tax bands A-D".

The Government expects to provide a leaflet about the rebate which is to be issued alongside council tax bills

The rebate does not impact on the calculation of the council tax due for 2022-23 and will be managed separately by District Councils acting as the Billing Authority.

5. Further details

Financial Projects and Planning Team, 21 February 2022.
Questions about the content of this note can be directed to:
finance.enquiries@norfolk.gov.uk

[3] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-to-receive-350-boost-to-help-with-rising-energy-costs

Appendix 1: Norfolk County Council detailed council tax calculations

Norfolk County Council share of council tax

Band	**2021-22 total Adult Social Care precept**	**2021-22 total general council tax**	**2021-22 total council tax**	**2022-23 Adult Social Care precept *increase***	**2022-23 total Adult Social Care precept**	**2022-23 general council tax *increase***	**2022-23 total increase in council tax**	**2022-23 total general council tax**	**2022-23 total council tax**
Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**
Calculation			(Col 1 + Col 2)	1% x 2021-22 total council tax (1% x Col 3)	2021-22 ASC precept + 2022-23 ASC precept increase (Col 1 + Col 4)	1.99% x 2021-22 total council tax (1.99% x Col 3)	2022-23 ASC precept increase + general council tax increase *or* 1.99% x 2021-22 total council tax (Col 4 + Col 6 *or* 2.99% x Col 3)	2021-22 total general council tax + 2022-23 general increase (Col 2 + Col 6)	**2021-22 total council tax + 2022-23 ASC precept increase + 2022-23 general increase (Col 3 + Col 4 + Col 6)**
Band A	£100.98	£880.98	£981.96	£9.78	£110.76	£19.56	£29.34	£900.54	£1,011.30
Band B	£117.81	£1,027.81	£1,145.62	£11.41	£129.22	£22.82	£34.23	£1,050.63	£1,179.85
Band C	£134.64	£1,174.64	£1,309.28	£13.04	£147.68	£26.08	£39.12	£1,200.72	£1,348.40
Band D	**£151.47**	**£1,321.47**	**£1,472.94**	**£14.67**	**£166.14**	**£29.34**	**£44.01**	**£1,350.81**	**£1,516.95**
Band E	£185.13	£1,615.13	£1,800.26	£17.93	£203.06	£35.86	£53.79	£1,650.99	£1,854.05
Band F	£218.79	£1,908.79	£2,127.58	£21.19	£239.98	£42.38	£63.57	£1,951.17	£2,191.15
Band G	£252.45	£2,202.45	£2,454.90	£24.45	£276.90	£48.90	£73.35	£2,251.35	£2,528.25
Band H	£302.94	£2,642.94	£2,945.88	£29.34	£332.28	£58.68	£88.02	£2,701.62	£3,033.90

Appendix 2: Norfolk County Council figures appearing on council tax bills

For **2022-23**, there is no discretion in relation to the presentation of the ASC precept, bills will show:

BAND	Total ASC precept	% increase attributable to ASC precept	2021-22 Non-ASC charge	% increase in precept less ASC*
A	£110.76	1.0%	£900.54	2.0%
B	£129.22	1.0%	£1,050.63	2.0%
C	£147.68	1.0%	£1,200.72	2.0%
D	£166.14	1.0%	£1,350.81	2.0%
E	£203.06	1.0%	£1,650.99	2.0%
F	£239.98	1.0%	£1,951.17	2.0%
G	£276.90	1.0%	£2,251.35	2.0%
H	£332.28	1.0%	£2,701.62	2.0%

*1.99% rounded to one decimal place.