

2019/20 Council Tax bills – County Council elements

Example using Band D – percentage increases apply to all Bands

	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	Increases *
Main Element	1,163.20	1,200.35	3.0%
Adult Social Care Precept	79.40	91.83	1.0%
Total	<u>1,242.60</u>	<u>1,292.18</u>	<u>4.0%</u>

* Per Government guidance, each percentage is calculated as an increase to the 2018/19 total (£1,242.60 in the case of a Band D property). Percentages are shown to one decimal place, as displayed on council tax bills. The actual overall increase is 3.99%

The Government introduced the Adult Social Care Precept in 2016/17, based on 2% of the 2015/16 council tax. The Government subsequently allowed Councils to make increases of up to 6% across the three financial years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 with a maximum of 3% in any one year. The County Council approved a 2% increase in 2017/18, a 3% increase in 2018/19 and has now approved a further 1% increase for 2019/20.

It should be noted that the Adult Social Care Precept was introduced to help address the significant pressures faced by Councils regarding this particular service. Around 50% of the main element of the County Council's council tax is also spent on Adult Social Care.

The following paragraphs are required to be included with information to be made available to bill-payers. They explain that the County Council can raise an additional amount of Council Tax, for Adult Social Care, without requiring a referendum:

"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."