

Council Tax 2021-22

The Deal

Foreword by the Leader of Wigan Council

Welcome to this year's Council Tax booklet



Last year was the first time in more than a decade that we were able to set a no-cuts budget.

This was largely due to prudential financial planning and the success of The Deal.

Our residents continue to play their part by being involved in their local communities, helping our local economy and reducing the strain on council services by, for example, boosting recycling rates.

I'm sure everyone will recognise that a lot has changed in the last 12 months with the Covid-19 pandemic dominating many aspects of our lives.

The response across the borough has been phenomenal.

Fuelled by our unique sense of community spirit, we have been determined to protect our most vulnerable and provide help for those that need it.

The council has kept essential services running throughout through sheer hard work and dedication from our staff.

But this has brought with it added financial pressure, on top of the £160m worth of efficiencies we have had to find over the last decade of austerity.

For the first time in eight years therefore, the general council element of your bill will see an increase.

It is an extremely difficult decision given we have had seven years of tax freezes. But the situation we find ourselves in – with the impact of the pandemic and continuing uncertainty about how local government is funded – means it has been a necessary choice.

It is worth emphasising that even with this increase of 0.99%, rates for Wigan Borough will remain among the lowest in Greater Manchester.

We will continue to deliver the priorities of the Deal 2030, that you helped us shape. As we look ahead to a post-pandemic world, our Community Wealth Building principles and support for our local economy will be vitally important.

And we can all help to play our part in making our borough a better and fairer place for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'D Molyneux'.

Councillor David Molyneux
Leader of Wigan Council

About Council Tax

Council Tax is a property tax with a personal element.

Each year we send a Council Tax bill to every domestic property in the borough, whether it's a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette, mobile home or houseboat. Each dwelling is put into one of the eight bands below, based on what it would have cost to buy on the open market on 1 April 1991.

Every year we set the Council Tax for each band. The amounts for 2021/2022 are below. The band given to your property is on the front of your bill.

The Valuation Office Agency decides the band not us. You can appeal against your property's band if you have moved into the property in the last six months or there has been a change in the building or physical state of the local area.

You can contact them at Valuation Office Agency, Manchester Valuation Office, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester, M1 3LD.

Phone **03000 501 501**
www.voa.gov.uk

Band	Band Value	Council Tax for 2021/22
A	Up to £40,000	£1,118.38
B	£40,001 - £52,000	£1,304.76
C	£52,001 - £68,000	£1,491.17
D	£68,001 - £88,000	£1,677.58
E	£88,001 - £120,000	£2,050.37
F	£120,001 - £160,000	£2,423.16
G	£160,001 - £320,000	£2,795.96
H	£320,001 and above	£3,355.16

*Additional parish precepts will apply for properties in Haigh and Shevington

Thank you for doing your part of The Deal

Based on Band A	Council Services	GM Police precept	GM Fire precept	Adult Social Care	Mayoral precept	Total
2014	£794.76	£101.53	£38.42			£934.71
2015	£794.76	£101.53	£38.42			£934.71
2016	£794.76	£104.87	£39.18	£15.89		£954.70
2017	£794.76	£108.20	£39.96	£40.21		£983.13
2018	£794.76	£116.20	£39.96	£65.26	£5.33	£1021.51
2019	£794.76	£132.20	£39.96	£65.26	£11.33	£1043.51
2020	£794.76	£138.86	£44.13	£82.46	£16.50	£1076.71
2021	£803.45	£145.53	£44.13	£108.77	£16.50	£1,118.38

*Additional parish precepts will apply for properties in Haigh and Shevington

Council Services

This covers council services such as bins and recycling centres, schools and Start Well centres, street lights and road repairs.

GM Police

This is a charge levied on behalf of the Greater Manchester Police Service.

GM Fire Service

This is a charge levied on behalf of the Greater Manchester Fire Service.

Adult Social Care precept

This is a charge to cover the cost of Adult Social Care services within councils due to the budget cuts being imposed by central government. On your Council Tax bill the cumulative effect of the Adult Social Care precept will be shown.

Mayoral precept

This is a charge levied on behalf of the Mayor to pay for the running of the Mayor's office and to meet the Mayor's priorities in Greater Manchester.

Further information regarding the gross expenditure of the council, relevant precepting authorities and levying bodies (including their Council Tax requirements) can be found at www.wigan.gov.uk/IncomeAndSpending

The Deal and our pandemic response – key statistics

12,253 vulnerable/isolated residents supported during the Covid pandemic (calls and webforms into self-iso hub)

36,807 Food parcels packed and delivered with support of third sector partners

800 local residents registered to volunteer to support the Covid response

Distributed over **12,000** Covid business grants totalling over **£86m** (March '20 – Jan '21)

£3m of funding awarded to over **21,000** economically vulnerable households

7,285 children receiving School Uniform Grant totalling **£182,125** (4,280 households)

Distributed over **1,000** devices to vulnerable children, hospitals and care homes to help residents get on-line.

Adult Social Care provided over **14,000** items of equipment at **2,500** adaptations to maintain people's independence and ensure they can remain safe and well at home.

99.9% of bins collected first time

53% of household waste recycled – one of the best performing authorities in Greater Manchester

Planted **60,000** new trees making our borough a cleaner, greener place to live

Winner of the Municipal Journal Award for Health Integration

Winner of the Association of Public Service Excellence award for Best Service Team: Highways, Winter Maintenance and Street Lighting Service

Winner of the Association of Public Service Excellence Innovation awards for Highways Maintenance Services

Winner of the Keep Britain Tidy Team of the Year Award

By switching **36,500** street lights to LED we have reduced carbon emissions by 4,927 tCO2 reducing energy consumption by **63%**

Opened the A49 link road – 2.3km dual carriage way representing the first step of our wider plans for connectivity. Generating **£2m** in social value

£3.8 million of Growth Deal funding secured to deliver a programme of cycling and walking improvements across the borough. With a further **£19.8m** ringfenced and scheduled for delivery in 2022/23

£3.1m of Arts and Culture investment secured thanks to the borough's Cultural Manifesto

81 Apprentices employed in the Council, with a further **233** staff upskilling through the apprenticeship programme



Community Wealth Building

Throughout the last year, our borough has drawn on its community values like never before.

It has seen everyone rally around one another to support the most vulnerable, protect the NHS and help out with a sense of neighbourly spirit.

Before the pandemic, Community Wealth Building was going to play a key role in our Deal 2030 plans.

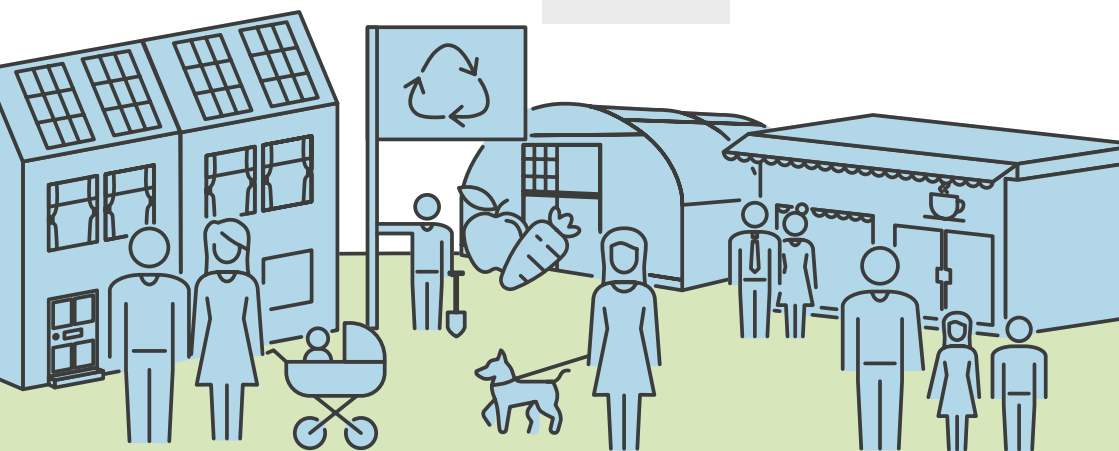
It's a way of shaping things that plays to our strengths; like the borough's sense of community and

the ways of working that have been successful through The Deal.

Now, the importance of Community Wealth Building has grown as we collectively work towards our recovery in a post Covid-19 world.

So what is it and how will it affect me?

In its simplest form, it's about making lots of small changes that can add up to have a major impact. The result of this can be a fairer and stronger local economy that everyone benefits from.



Did you know?

Even before Covid-19, a third of the borough's jobs paid below the real living wage, average earnings were falling and jobs were becoming less secure.

What can we do?

- As individuals or families, changes such as buying from local, independent traders helps keep money within the local economy. It can help to put control back in the hands of our communities. Likewise, supporting local co-operatives, social enterprises and community housing schemes can have a similar effect.
- As business owners, changing the sources of goods and services to fellow firms within the borough all helps. Through supporting local training and skills initiatives, the next generation of the local

workforce can bolster a more resilient economy.

- Public sector organisations – like the council, the local NHS, schools and colleges – can increase the amount they spend in the local economy. It can mean millions being kept within the borough. They can also identify gaps in supply chains, leading to them being filled by borough based initiatives. They can also make sure training, skills and development programmes have a wider impact.
- All of us can help to promote a cleaner, greener borough. From getting your household recycling right and reducing waste costs to organisations investing in green jobs, helping to cut energy bills and enhancing the environment. It all contributes to a more robust local economy.

When you may not have to pay Council Tax

You may not have to pay if only the following people occupy your property:

- Full time students,
- Care Leavers up to the age of 25,
- People under the age of 18, or
- People who have a severe mental impairment and would otherwise be liable to pay Council Tax.

You may not have to pay for a limited time if your property is not occupied because it is:

- Newly built and not yet occupied (no charge for 1 month); or
- Substantially unfurnished (no charge for 1 month); or
- Owned by a charity (exempt for 6 months).

You may not have to pay for any of the following types of properties even if they are occupied:

- Armed Forces' accommodation.
- Visiting Forces' accommodation.
- A self-contained annexe.
- Occupied by someone who has diplomatic, commonwealth or consular privilege or immunity.

You may not have to pay for your property whilst it is:

- Left empty by the owner or tenant, who was the last occupier, and who has moved to receive or provide personal care in either a hospital or home elsewhere.
- Repossessed by a mortgage company.
- Empty because occupation is forbidden by law.
- Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion.
- The responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee.
- Left empty by a student owner who lived in it immediately before leaving to study elsewhere.
- An empty caravan pitch or houseboat mooring.
- Unoccupied because the last occupier, who was also the owner, had died and probate or letters of administration have not yet been granted (and for 6 months after).

For further information, and to make an application for discount, exemption or reduction please visit

www.wigan.gov.uk/CouncilTaxDiscounts



Ways to pay less Council Tax

The full Council Tax bill assumes that there are 2 or more adults living in a property.

If you are the only adult living in your property your bill can be reduced by 25%. We can also consider local discounts for other reasons as well.

When we work out if you are entitled to a discount we don't count these people:

- Children under 18.
- People over 18 that still qualify for Child Benefit.
- 18 or 19 year olds who leave school after 30 April are not counted until 1 November of the same year.
- People with a severe mental impairment.
- Apprentices.
- Youth Training Trainees.
- Care Workers.
- Carers.
- People in residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels that provide a high level of care.
- Resident hospital patients.
- Student nurses.
- Prisoners in detention (unless for non payment of fines or Council Tax).

- Students in full time education.
- Diplomats and members of international organisations with headquarters in the UK (and their non British spouses).
- Members of religious communities such as monks or nuns.

Certain qualifying conditions apply.

People with disabilities

If you, or a person that lives with you, has a disability you may qualify for a reduction.

Your home will need to have an extra bathroom, kitchen or other room that is used mainly to help with the person's disability. You can also qualify if the disabled person uses a wheelchair in the home.

If you qualify we will work out your Council Tax charge again using the valuation band below the one your property is in.

The Council have additional discretionary powers to reduce the Council Tax liability where national discounts and exemptions cannot be applied.

For further information, and to make an application for discount, exemption or reduction please visit

www.wigan.gov.uk/CouncilTaxDiscounts



Council Tax for empty dwellings and second homes

When a dwelling first becomes empty

A dwelling that becomes newly empty will be given a maximum 1 month full exemption followed by a 25% discount for a maximum of 5 months.

Long term empty dwellings

Dwellings left empty and unfurnished for longer than 6 months, or have already been empty for between 6 months and 2 years, will be charged 100% Council Tax.

Empty Homes Premium

Long term empty dwellings that remain empty and unfurnished for longer than 2 years will attract an Empty Homes Premium. The premium will be an extra 50% charge in addition to the 100% charge for a long term empty dwelling.

Second homes

Dwellings that are unoccupied but furnished are classed as second homes. There is no discount for these dwellings. The charge for a second home is 100%.

If your property becomes empty, contact us straight away and we can tell you if you qualify for any reduction.

A property in need of, or undergoing, major repairs

If you own a property that is either in need of, or undergoing, major repairs you may be entitled to a reduction of 75% from your bill for a maximum of 12 months, or until the work is completed if that is sooner. You will be asked to provide evidence of the extent of the works required to render the property habitable. Only one major repairs reduction can be given for any period during which a property is continuously empty. Certain qualifying conditions apply for all reductions.

Family Annexe

If your property has an Annexe which has a separate Council Tax band and is occupied by a relative, they may be entitled to a reduction from their Council Tax.

For further information, and to make an application for discount, exemption or reduction please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/CouncilTaxDiscounts



Council Tax Reduction

Our Council Tax Reduction scheme helps households on low incomes to pay their Council Tax bill.

1. The National Council Tax Reduction Scheme – pensioner households and households with children under 5

These households:

- Can apply for support.
- Can apply for Second Adult Rebate if the only other adult living in the property is on a low income.
- Can apply for backdated support. This will only be awarded if there is good cause why the claim wasn't made from the earlier date.

2. The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme – working age households with no children under 5

These households:

- Can apply for support under our local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- Will have their entitlement calculated using the national scheme but support will be reduced by 20%.
- Cannot apply for Second Adult Rebate.

- Can only get support from the date a claim for reduction is made.

Who can apply for Council Tax Reduction?

To apply for Council Tax Reduction you must be the person whose name is on the Council Tax bill.

You may qualify if you are:

- On Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit;
- On Pension Credit, Guaranteed Credit and in some cases Saving Credit;
- Working and on low pay (including people who are self employed);
- On a low income. For example you might only get a retirement pension or be getting social security benefits like Incapacity Benefit;
- A working age household with capital / savings under £12,000; or
- A pensioner household, or household with a child under 5, with capital/savings under £16,000.



In April 2018 the government made changes to all Local Council Tax Reduction schemes that may affect how much Council Tax Reduction we can award you.

These include changes to:

- Limit the child premium to two children for new claims or where you become responsible for a third child;
- The amount of the Non Dependant Deductions for some customers who have another

adult (not their partner) living with them;

- The Applicable Amounts we use to work out how much Council Tax Reduction you are entitled to;
- Limit the length of time you are allowed to leave the country and keep your claim active to 4 weeks.

For a full list of these changes and for more information on this please visit: www.wigan.gov.uk/CouncilTaxReduction

How to apply

You can find out more information and apply online at www.wigan.gov.uk/CouncilTaxReduction

You cannot make a claim for Council Tax Reduction through Job Centre Plus or the Pensions Service.

If you rent your home you might also be entitled to Housing Benefit. For more information about Housing Benefit visit www.wigan.gov.uk/HousingBenefit

Need help to make an application?

- You can get help and use our online facilities at our Life Centres in Wigan, Marsh Green, Atherton, Leigh Town Hall, Ince and Platt Bridge.
- If you are a tenant of Arena Housing, Adactus Housing, or Riverside Housing, your landlord can help you fill in and check your benefit claim online.
- If you do not have access to a computer or are unable to visit us at any of the above places, contact us **01942 489002**.

The following agencies can give advice about your application:

- **Citizens Advice**
Tel: 0808 2787 801
Email: advice@wigancab.org
www.cawb.org.uk
- **Age UK** (for those over 50) Wigan
Tel: 01942 241972
Email: enquiries@ageukwiganborough.org.uk
www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk
- **Wigan & Leigh Carers Centre**
(For registered Carers)
Tel: 01942 705959
Email: info@wlcccarers.com
www.wlcccarers.com

- You can also get **Welfare Rights Advice** from us by emailing welfarerightsadvice@wigan.gov.uk

These facilities are available to all customers:

- Access for wheelchair users at our Life Centres in Wigan, Marsh Green, Atherton, Leigh Town Hall, Ince and Platt Bridge.
- ReciteMe is available on our website so that you can have the information on our web pages read aloud to you.

Changes you need to tell us about

Tell us straight away if you are getting Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction or have a discount or exemption applied and have a change in circumstances.

If you do not tell us about a change as soon as it happens, you could pay the wrong amount of Council Tax, lose benefits or we could pay you too much. If this happens you may have to pay any overpaid amount back and pay any underpaid Council Tax amount.

You can tell us online at www.wigan.gov.uk/BenefitsReportAChange

It is an offence not to tell us about any change in circumstances that affects your entitlement. We may take court action against you.

You can get face-to-face help with any enquiry about a council service at our Life Centres in Wigan, Marsh Green, Atherton, Leigh Town Hall, Ince and Platt Bridge.

Complaints or compliments

Fill in an online form at www.wigan.gov.uk/ContactUs





Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a payment paid by the Department for Work and Pensions to help with your living costs if you are on a low income or out of work.

It replaces existing benefits and credits into a single monthly payment.

From 18th April 2018 most people making a claim for working age benefits and help with housing costs in Wigan Borough will be placed in Universal Credit Full Service.

You will be automatically transferred to Universal Credit in the Wigan borough if you have a change of circumstances that affects your current benefits.

You will have to pay your Council Tax from your monthly Universal Credit payment yourself. If you are on a low income you may qualify for Council Tax Reduction.

Apply at www.wigan.gov.uk/CouncilTaxReduction

Find out more about Universal Credit on the government website www.gov.uk/universal-credit

If you don't have a computer at home you can use one for free at your local library or Life Centre. There are also drop-in sessions for residents that need extra help to get online. For more information about help and support for Universal Credit claimants visit www.wigan.gov.uk/universal-credit

Don't be excluded

If you are struggling to pay your bills or need help and advice, get in touch with those you owe money to as soon as you can.

You can nominate a friend or representative to help you if you find it hard to manage it yourself.

In a crisis?

If you find yourself in a crisis our Local Welfare Support Advisors can help support customers to:

- access financial help and advice,
- gain appropriate referrals e.g. food parcels, white goods, and
- build self-reliance.

For further information go to www.wigan.gov.uk/MoneyAdvice or visit our Life Centres in Wigan or Leigh



Information about the Adult Social Care Precept

Wigan Council has responsibility for Adult Social Care functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has given Wigan Council the option to charge an annual 'precept' of 3% on its Council Tax for the financial year 2021/22 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on Adult Social Care for the financial year 2021/22. For Adult Social Care authorities, Council Tax bills show two percentage changes: one for the part of the overall change attributable to the Adult Social Care Precept, and one for the part attributable to general expenditure.

Information about the Mayoral Precepts

The Mayor of Greater Manchester has the responsibility of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner and the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue services. From 2018/2019 the precept on Council Tax bills for Police services was replaced with the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept Component and this precept funds Police services. The precept for the Fire and Rescue Services was replaced with the Mayoral General Precept Component (including Fire Services). This precept includes an amount for Fire and Rescue Services and an amount to fund the Greater Manchester Mayor and the work he wants to do in Greater Manchester. The information provided by the Mayor indicates that the precept will pay for the running of the Mayor's office and to meet the Mayor's priorities in Greater Manchester. For further information please visit www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/counciltax

Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Precept Charge (£)	145.53	169.78	194.04	218.30	266.81	315.32	363.83	436.60

Mayoral General Precept (including Fire)

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Precept Charge (£)	60.63	70.73	80.84	90.95	111.16	131.37	151.58	181.90

We can make the information in this booklet available in other formats and languages on request.

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