



Council Tax 2022-23

The Deal

Foreword By The Leader Of Wigan Council



Welcome to this year's Council Tax booklet.

I would like to thank you once again for your support over

what has been another challenging 12 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We start this municipal year in a stronger position with such diligent work carried out by health teams across the borough in distributing so many vaccines. We owe a great deal of thanks to our health, social care and frontline workers for their dedication.

Last year we increased our section of the Council Tax bill following seven years of tax freezes. We find ourselves in a similar position for 2022/23.

We do not take this decision lightly, but with the ongoing uncertainty about how local government is funded, along with having our budget cut by £160m over the past decade, it is unfortunately a necessary choice.

Local government, like many other sectors, has ongoing financial pressures due to rising costs and demand – even without factoring in how resources have been affected during the pandemic.

But I will again emphasise that even with the increase of 2.99 per cent on the council element of your tax bill,

(which includes the adult social care precept) rates for Wigan Borough will remain among the lowest in Greater Manchester and the wider region.

Here in Wigan Borough, through the prudent financial planning and success of The Deal, we remain able to invest into the areas that we know are important to our communities; providing funding for our community networks, prioritising our green economy and climate change priorities and creating opportunities for young people, to name just a few.

Strengthened with feedback gathered from last year's Big Listening Festival, we will continue to deliver on the priorities of the refreshed Deal 2030 masterplan.

There are lots of reasons to be optimistic about the year ahead. We have the arrival of two major sporting tournaments in the Rugby League World Cup and the UEFA Women's Euros, for example.

And we look forward to making further progress with our Community Wealth Building initiative, to support our local economy, tackling economic inequality and providing greater opportunities for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "David Molyneux". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 2022/2023 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 2022/23
A	Up to £40,000	£1,160.32
B	£40,001 - £52,000	£1,353.70
C	£52,001 - £68,000	£1,547.09
D	£68,001 - £88,000	£1,740.49
E	£88,001 - £120,000	£2,127.25
F	£120,001 - £160,000	£2,514.02
G	£160,001 - £320,000	£ 2,900.81
H	£320,001 and above	£3,480.98

*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	Adults Social Care Precept	Mayoral precept	Total
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
2022	£821.60	£152.20	£47.47	£117.89	£21.16	£1,160.32

*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

Key Statistics

250+ grassroots community projects and organisations supported as part of the Our Community Recovery Fund

£100k distributed as part of the GM Community Safety Fund to local projects

1 Council of the Year Award for 2021 as part of the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards

114 young people offered work placements with 50 local employers as part of the national Kickstart scheme

2 major sporting tournaments arrive in the borough this year; the Rugby League World Cup and the UEFA Women's Euros

£100m+ distributed in a timely manner by the council to borough businesses as part of national Covid support scheme

100+ apprenticeships or graduate jobs created by Wigan Council as part of last year's budget pledge

£160m the amount cut from the council's budget since 2010, working out at £484 per person

0 cuts to services are included in this year's budget

1,168 businesses signed up to the Deal for Business programme

£2.4m investment to transform Pennington Flash Nature Reserve with new facilities, including a new visitor's centre

16% increase - due to rising pressures, in 2011 around 50% of the council's budget was spent on children's and adult's social care. It is now 66%, a rise of 16%.

2021 - The King Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) won the Future Cities Forum's 2021 'High Streets' award

50 - The Turnpike Centre celebrates its 50th anniversary with responsibility for the art gallery transferring to Wigan Council

5 borough greenspaces were awarded prestigious Green Flag status; Jubilee Park, Pennington Hall Park, Mesnes Park, Alexandra Park and Colliers Corner

2 state-of-the-art football hubs are scheduled to open this year in Ince and Wigan

£16.5m secured to help regeneration plans for Wigan town centre as part of the Future High Streets Fund

Community Wealth Building – One Year On Along Our Journey To A Fairer Economy

A bold approach to creating a fairer economy in Wigan Borough has achieved significant milestones in its first year.

The first annual recap for Wigan Council's Community Wealth Building (CWB) framework was published in December, showcasing progress made by the local authority and partners.

Included in the key achievements are new jobs, training and apprenticeship roles, an increase in the number of affordable and accessible homes and more public sector money being spent in the local supply chain.

Support for the CWB principles amongst the borough's business community and social enterprise sector has been a key part of the initial success, all highlighted in the first annual report.

Key achievements include:

- 37 per cent increase in the number of properties leased to the council's Ethical Lettings Agency scheme, providing affordable and accessible homes
- Almost 250 organisations, including social enterprises and community interest companies, supported by the council's Our Community Recovery Fund
- 7 out of 10 businesses surveyed said they were very likely to implement at least one CWB principle as part of their working process
- Wigan Council's spend with local businesses increased as a proportion of total spend

The framework sees public sector and community organisations across the borough working closely together, using their resources to promote growth and reduce inequality with renewed focus.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Keith Cunliffe, said: “Our ambitious approach to rebuild, reform and regenerate our local economy placed CWB at the centre of our post-pandemic recovery plans.

“We’re well on our way to creating an inclusive economy that benefits all of our residents and the progress made with our anchor institutions and wider partners gives us a great amount of optimism for the future.

“Within the council specifically, we have adapted our policies

on recruitment and skills and supported local people back into training and employment.

“And through publishing our commissioning intentions and delivering procurement training for local businesses, we are seeing more of our spend remaining within the boundaries of our local economy.

“This is in addition to focussing on social care, housing and the green economy, helping community co-operatives and social enterprises along the way.”

For more information and to view the annual report, visit www.wigan.gov.uk/communitywealthbuilding



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
- 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)
- Substantially unfurnished (no charge for 1 month)
- 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 aged under 5

These households:

- Can apply for support
- Can apply for Second Adult Rebate if the only other adults (not your partner) 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 aged 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
- A pensioner household, or household with a child under 5, with capital/savings under £16,000



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 Your Housing Group, 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

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
- Build self-reliance

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



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



Information About The Adult Social Care Precept

Wigan Council has responsibility for Adult Social Care functions. The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has given powers to charge an annual 'precept' of 1% on its Council Tax for the financial year 2022/23 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on Adult Social Care for the financial year 2022/23.

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 holds 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 (£)	152.20	177.56	202.93	228.30	279.03	329.76	380.50	456.60

Mayoral General Precept (including Fire)

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Precept Charge (£)	68.63	80.07	91.51	102.95	125.82	148.70	171.58	205.90

Could you be the difference?

Become a foster carer and change the lives of local children and young people



01942 487200

www.wigan.gov.uk/fostering

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

Wigan Council, PO Box 100, Wigan, WN1 3DS

Email: revenues@wigan.gov.uk Phone: 01942 489001

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