Your council tax

This year the county council has taken the step of reducing its part of your council tax bill by 2%.

I am sure you will agree this is good news but, even so, I appreciate it is still 'another bill' and one that most of us would probably rather not have to pay – so I wanted to share some of the ways in which your payment will make a difference.

Council tax enables the county council to support more than 600 schools, provide social care to more than 20,000 older people and maintain more than 4,000 miles of roads. It allows us to work hard to improve the local economy, which has directly secured and helped to create hundreds of jobs in the county over the last year alone.

Over the next few years we will be supporting our future generation by helping to increase employment opportunities for 16-24 year olds, providing new places for young people to spend their spare time and setting up a mentoring programme in schools for armed forces veterans to share their experiences.

At the same time, for the benefit of residents and employers we will be investing heavily in transport. By improving roads, public transport, and walking and cycling facilities, we will keep Lancashire moving. Together with our plans to make Lancashire one of the first counties to receive extensive superfast broadband coverage, we believe this will help create a bright future for all Lancastrians.

We are doing all this and more despite reducing council tax and seeing big reductions in the funding we receive from the Government. I would like to thank the county council's employees who have done a fantastic job and I would also like to thank you too – with your support we are creating a better Lancashire.

Geoff Driver

Leader of Lancashire County Council

Lancashire County Council

www.lancashire.gov.uk

Our budget plans for 2013/14

The total amount of council tax receipts has reduced considerably between 2012/13 and 2013/14 as a result of the government's change to funding of council tax benefit. This does not directly impact on Band D charges.

	2012/13 £ million	2013/14 £ million
Children and young people	1,020	1,023
Adult & community services	481	483
Public health	0	58
Environment	264	260
Other services	79	51
Capital financing	35	32
Gross expenditure	**1,879**	**1,907**
Less income and grants	-1,124	-1,131
Net expenditure on services	**755**	**776**
Contribution to capital	-2	-
Budget	**753**	**776**
Less:		
Central government grant	-328	-416
Council tax requirement	**425**	**360**

Out of our total spend of £1,907m across Lancashire, £776m will come from council tax payments (46%) and government funding (54%).

	£ million	%
Net Budget 2012/13	**753**	
Budget pressures	42	5.6
Budget savings	-82	-10.9
Changes in funding from central government	63	8.4
Net Budget 2013/14	**776**	

Levies

This table sets out the levy made to the Environment Agency in 2012/13, and the amount set in 2013/14:

Gross Expenditure 2012/13	£34,441,000
Gross Expenditure 2013/14	£42,429,000
LCC Contribution 2012/13	£603,514
LCC Contribution 2013/14	£624,509

The Environment Agency uses council tax to support flood defence expenditure in the north west flood region. For further information please visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk

More information

You can call **0845 053 0000**, email **enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk**, visit **www.lancashire.gov.uk,** follow us on twitter **@lancashirecc** or visit our facebook page at **www.facebook.com/lancashirecc**