

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20190243**
Date FOI Received: **20/03/2019**
Department: **Council Tax**
Title: **Council tax increase**
Description: **Information on what the increase in Council Tax for 2019/20 is for when they receive no council bins or access to Controlled Parking Zones.**

Request: *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

We have received our council tax bill. We notice the cost of policing has increased. Have we employed more police? I have yet to see any police on foot or in vehicles patrolling the area. The council tax has increased by 4.1%. Our pensions are not keeping up with the increase. We have no rubbish bins supplied by the council. They have drastically reduced parking in our area. All surrounding roads have parking zones but we are not allowed a permit because we live above the shops. It's very frustrating when commuters are parking in the only available road and we cannot park anywhere.

Response: *(Response as Redacted sent by service)*

Hertsmere collects Council Tax on behalf of all precepting authorities namely: Hertsmere Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire and your local Parish Council. Hertsmere's element of the overall Council Tax is only around 10% of the total bill that you pay with the remainder being split between the County Council (77%), the Police (11%) and Parish Councils (2%). The overall Council Tax increase of 4.1% is a combination of the increases from all of these authorities.

For 2019/20 Hertsmere has increased its element of the Council Tax by £5 to an average of £177.34 for the year, depending on which parish area you live in. This equates to an increase of 2.9% and has been necessary to ensure that the Council can continue to provide essential services to its residents whilst central government funding continues to reduce.

In relation to the specific services you mention the council would comment as follows:

With regard to having no bins at your property, you have advised you reside above the shops <REDACTED>, these flats receive a weekly collection of refuse sacks. The council provides residents with the clear plastic sacks upon request.

The residential properties that are located in <REDACTED> above the shops are not part of the controlled parking zone and as <REDACTED> suggests are not entitled to apply for parking permits to park in the restricted parking bays in the controlled parking zone. It needs to be noted that although the two side roads on the same side of the shops are controlled parking, the road opposite, <REDACTED> is not part of the controlled parking zone and not restricted to residents of that road.

If residents have concerns about all day commuter parking then they can refer to the Parking Management Strategy ([https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Documents/10-Transport--Streets--Parking/Transport/Parking-Strategy-\(5\).pdf](https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Documents/10-Transport--Streets--Parking/Transport/Parking-Strategy-(5).pdf)) on the HBC website and there is a section in this advising on new CPZ schemes and provides an understanding of the investigation process that residents can choose to initiate.

Further information about Hertsmere's Council Tax and its Budget for 2019/20 can be found in our Council Tax leaflet and Budget Summary via the following links:

Hertsmere Council Tax Leaflet: <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Documents/01-Benefits--Council-Tax/Council-Tax/CT-HBC-Leaflet-2018.pdf>

Hertsmere Budget Summary: <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Documents/11-Your-Council/2019-20-Draft-Budget-Summary.pdf>

Unfortunately Hertsmere Borough Council can only comment specifically on Hertsmere's share of the overall Council Tax increase of £5 however, the council can direct you, via the following links, to further information published by Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire in respect of their respective Council Tax increases, including details on how to contact them directly.

Hertfordshire County Council:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/council-tax-in-hertfordshire.aspx>

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Documents/01-Benefits--Council-Tax/Council-Tax/CT-PCC-policing-hertfordshire-2018-2019.pdf>

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545700
Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services