Dear Resident,

The Government’s cuts in funding for public services and particularly Local Government will once again have a severe impact in the year ahead upon Halton and the essential services which the Council delivers for residents. The scale of cuts in Government grant funding since 2010 has been unprecedented.

The Government’s spending power analysis shows that Halton is expected to lose £34m (25%) in funding over the period 2010 to 2020, which equates to £273 per head. In comparison the average loss nationally is £167 per head or 16%. Government grant funding is essential for a borough like Halton, which has high levels of deprivation and an increasing high demand for council services.

I must stress to you that we are doing all we can to limit the impact of these cuts, trying as far as possible to protect those services that support the most vulnerable members of our community. However, in some areas such as children’s social care and adult social care, services are coming under severe pressure. Over recent years, like other councils all across the country, we have seen a huge rise in demand for both children’s and adult social care services and as result, costs have escalated.

We are unfortunately, having to consider all possible ways to fill the significant budget gap we face. As the external auditors regularly confirm, Halton is a well-managed, efficient, Council which has demonstrated strong financial management and provides value for money. We continue to challenge everything we do and spend in order to identify efficiencies and savings wherever possible. However, we have reached a point where we can simply no longer afford to run all of our services at the same level as we have done previously.

You will have already noticed some changes and reductions to services delivered across the Borough, many of which we would not have wanted to consider. In order to limit service reductions as far as possible, the Council is constantly reviewing its cost base and making efficiencies through greater use of ICT, improved procurement, rationalisation of accommodation and maximising use of available assets. Over recent years we have also reduced our workforce significantly, reduced staff pay, terms and conditions and made arrangements to share services with neighbouring councils. Over the coming year we will be consulting with the community about further changes to services.

It is with this complex and challenging backdrop that we have had no choice but to take the difficult decision to increase Council Tax this year by 2.99%, the maximum permitted by the Government. We know that this places further burden on already stretched household budgets, however, we do not see any alternative in order to continue to provide essential public services.

These are difficult messages to have to give, and I must thank local people for their continued support during these testing times. We know that many of you will have friends, neighbours and family that rely on Council services in their everyday lives - please be reassured that we are working tirelessly to ensure we do whatever we can to continue to offer this essential support.

Cllr Mike Wharton
Executive Board Member - Resources
About this leaflet

This leaflet contains important information about your Council Tax bill, how your money is spent, what your bill is for the coming year and different ways to pay.

The amount of Council Tax you pay depends on:
· The value of your property based on values at 1 April 1991; and
· Your personal circumstances

For a property that is in Band D (a ‘typical’ property for the UK) the tax is £1716.26 made up of the following:

- Halton Borough Council charge £1318.10
- Halton Borough Council * £100.98
- Police Authority charge £200.44
- Fire Authority charge £77.74
- LCR Mayoral precept £19.00

Total £1716.26

* The Council Tax attributable to Halton Borough Council includes a precept to fund adult social care.

Details of how properties are ‘banded’ are shown below. A full table of tax for each type of property and parish is below.

Range of valuation bands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Up to and including £ 40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>£40,001 - £ 52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>£52,001 - £ 68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>£68,001 - £ 88,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>£88,001 - £120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>£120,001 - £160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>£160,001 - £320,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>More than £320,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What you will pay in 2019/20

Council Tax charges 2019/20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Halton</th>
<th>Hale</th>
<th>Moore</th>
<th>Daresbury</th>
<th>Preston</th>
<th>Sandymoor</th>
<th>Halebank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1,144.18</td>
<td>1,187.84</td>
<td>1,153.81</td>
<td>1,163.20</td>
<td>1,166.07</td>
<td>1,162.03</td>
<td>1,170.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1,334.87</td>
<td>1,385.81</td>
<td>1,346.10</td>
<td>1,357.06</td>
<td>1,360.41</td>
<td>1,355.70</td>
<td>1,365.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1,525.56</td>
<td>1,583.77</td>
<td>1,538.40</td>
<td>1,550.92</td>
<td>1,554.75</td>
<td>1,549.36</td>
<td>1,560.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1,716.26</td>
<td>1,781.75</td>
<td>1,730.70</td>
<td>1,744.79</td>
<td>1,749.10</td>
<td>1,743.04</td>
<td>1,756.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>2,097.65</td>
<td>2,177.69</td>
<td>2,115.30</td>
<td>2,132.52</td>
<td>2,137.79</td>
<td>2,130.38</td>
<td>2,146.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>2,479.03</td>
<td>2,573.63</td>
<td>2,499.89</td>
<td>2,520.24</td>
<td>2,526.47</td>
<td>2,517.71</td>
<td>2,536.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>2,860.44</td>
<td>2,969.59</td>
<td>2,884.51</td>
<td>2,907.99</td>
<td>2,915.17</td>
<td>2,905.07</td>
<td>2,926.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>3,432.52</td>
<td>3,563.50</td>
<td>3,461.40</td>
<td>3,489.58</td>
<td>3,498.20</td>
<td>3,486.08</td>
<td>3,512.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making it easier to pay your bill

You can pay your Council Tax by direct debit, card, cash, cheque or online.

Your Council Tax bill is normally payable by ten monthly instalments, however if you wish to pay over 12 months, please contact us by 15 April. If you become liable part way through the year or receive a bill after the start of the year your instalments will be reduced accordingly.

Details of the monthly instalments for the current year are shown at the bottom of your bill. You may pay fortnightly provided the monthly amount is paid in full by the due date.

We’re here to help. If you have difficulty in paying your Council Tax, please call us immediately, we will make an arrangement to help you clear the debt.

Direct Debit
Monthly installments starting 1st, 10th, 20th or 28th April

Half yearly
1st installment due 15th April, 2nd installment due on or before 1st September

Annually
Payable on or before 15th April

Debit/credit card
Payment can be made over the telephone using most major debit / credit cards.
Please call the automated payment line on 0303 333 4300 (open 24hrs, seven days a week)

Online
Payment can be made online at www.halton.gov.uk
You will need to have your account reference number to hand

Cheque
Cheque payments are no longer accepted at Halton Direct Link. Please send by post to Halton Borough Council, Revenues & Benefits, PO Box 223, Widnes WA8 2DA

Please make your cheque payable to Halton Borough Council

Cash
Pay by monthly installments starting 15th April using one of the payment kiosks located at any Halton Direct Link (see last page for locations) or the Libraries detailed below:

Runcorn Library
Granville Street, Runcorn WA7 1NE

Ditton Library
Queens Avenue, Ditton, Widnes WA8 8HR

Click here for library opening times.
Please do not send cash through the post.

The easy way to pay. If you already pay other bills by direct debit, you will know how simple it is.

With direct debit there is no more queuing, postage and you have the peace of mind knowing your bill is being paid on time. You can set up your direct debit by calling us on 0151 511 7771, or in person at any Halton Direct Link, just remember to have your bank details with you. We will confirm details of your direct debit within three working days. As well as being simple and safe for you, paying by direct debit helps us keep costs down too, therefore helping to keep the Council Tax as low as possible.

Having problems paying? We’re here to help –

If you have difficulty in paying your Council Tax, please call us immediately and we will make an arrangement to help you clear the debt.
A guide to Council Tax

Council Tax is payable on most homes. How much you pay, before benefits and discounts, depends on the “banding” of the property. A ‘typical’ house in the UK is one that was valued at 1 April 1991 at between £68,000 and £88,000 and so is in tax ‘band D’. Houses with lower values are put in bands A to C and pay less tax, while those with higher values are put in bands E to H and pay more tax.

The band of your house and the amounts you pay are shown on your bill.

Are you paying too much?

The Council Tax bill for each band assumes that there are at least two adults living in each property. If there is only one adult, a 25% discount will be given.

Any person over 18 years old is counted as an adult. The following people may not count when we look at the number of adults who live in a property:

- Full time students, student nurses and Youth Training trainees
- Patients resident in hospital
- Anyone being looked after in care homes
- Anyone with a severe mental illness
- Anyone who lives in a hostel or a shelter
- 18 and 19 year olds still at or just left school
- Care-workers working for low pay (Less than £36 per week)
- Anyone caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under 18
- Diplomats and visiting services staff
- Members of religious communities (monks & nuns)
- People in prison (except those in prison for non-payment of Council Tax or fine)
- Annexes occupied by members of the main household’s family, or used as part of the main dwelling are entitled to 50% discount

Your bill will show if you are entitled to a discount. If none is shown but you think you could be entitled to one, call us immediately on 0151 511 7771.
Should you be paying Council Tax?

Owners of empty properties will be liable for Council Tax.

Some properties that have no one living in them may be exempt if they:

- are owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months)
- are left empty by someone who has gone to prison
- are left empty by someone who has moved in order to receive personal care in a hospital or a home or elsewhere
- are left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person
- have been left empty by students
- are waiting probate or letters of administration to be granted (and for up to six months after)
- have been repossessed
- are the responsibility of a bankrupt’s trustee
- are empty because no one is allowed to live there by law
- are waiting to be lived in by a minister of religion
- are unoccupied granny annexes
- are made up of a pitch or a mooring which is not occupied by a caravan or a boat
- are solely occupied by students, under 18’s, or severely mentally impaired people.

There are no discounts for properties which are unoccupied and unfurnished which do not fall into any of the exemption categories listed above. These properties are subject to 100% charge.

Second Homes are also subject to 100% charge. However some second homes may still be eligible for 50% discount. If you are responsible for Council Tax on two furnished properties one of which is not your main home, you may be eligible for a 50% discount if you are required to occupy either property as a condition of your employment (it is specified as part of your employment contract).

This discount may also apply to members of the armed forces.

For a property to be deemed a job-related dwelling it must meet the conditions outlined in the Schedule contained within The Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003 as follows:

1. (1)... a dwelling is job-related for a person if it is provided for him by reason of his employment or for his spouse by reason of the spouse's employment, in any of the following cases-

   (a) where it is necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the employment that the employee should reside in that dwelling;
   (b) where the dwelling is provided for the better performance of the duties of the employment, and it is one of the kinds of employment in the case of which it is customary for employers to provide dwellings to employees

2. (1)...a dwelling is job-related for a person if he or his spouse is required, under a contract to which this sub-paragraph applies, to live in that dwelling
From 1st April 2018, people aged between 18 and 25 who were previously under the care of a Local Authority may be entitled to a discount.

From 1st April 2019, Halton Borough Council will provide a 100% discretionary council tax discount for all foster carers resident within the borough who foster Halton children directly with the Council. Please contact us on 0151 511 7771 for further information.

Properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than two years are subject to 100% empty homes premium.

A billing authority also has discretion to reduce the amount of Council Tax payable for situations that are not covered by national discounts and exemptions. This can be used in individual cases or to determine classes of case in which liability may be reduced.

If you think your property may be exempt, please contact us on 0151 511 7771.

How to appeal

You may only appeal against the band your home is in if one of the following applies:

- The property has significantly changed in value because of demolition or adaptation work or because of a change in the area such as a major new road next to the property.
- You start or stop using part of the property as a business, or the balance between domestic and business use changes.
- The Listing Officer has altered a list without a proposal having been made by a taxpayer.
- You become the taxpayer of the property for the first time (you must appeal within six months).

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of your bill.

If you wish to appeal, you should contact the Listing Officer, The Valuation Office Agency, 17th Floor, 53 Portland Street Manchester M1 3LD Tel: 03000 501501.

You may also appeal if you consider that you are not liable to pay Council Tax, or you believe there has been a mistake in calculating your bill.

If you wish to appeal on these grounds, you should contact Halton Borough Council in writing.

If your appeal is successful, you will be entitled to a refund of any overpaid tax. If you think your property may be exempt please contact the Council Tax team on 0151 511 7771.

Important information about your Council Tax data

Halton Borough Council is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes. For further information, please visit www.halton.gov.uk/dataprotection.
Are you entitled to Council Tax reduction?

Over 35% of people who are entitled to claim money off their Council Tax bill are missing out – could you be one of them?

You do not have to be unemployed to claim Council Tax reduction. If you are in work but on a low income, Council Tax reduction could pay some of your Council Tax bill.

Housing Benefit

If you pay rent for your home and are on a low income, you may also qualify for help towards paying this too. You may be able to get Housing Benefit if you are on other benefits, work part-time, or work full-time on a low income.

How much will you get?

If you are eligible for housing benefit and/or Council Tax reduction, the amount you receive will depend on how much you have to pay in rent/Council Tax and your circumstances. This includes:

- Your income (and partner’s income if you have one)
- Your savings
- The number of children that live with you
- Other people in your household
- If you or someone in your family has a disability

Second adult rebate

You may also be able to reduce your Council Tax bill if you live with someone who is on a low income and you would normally be entitled to a single person discount if they were not living with you. The rebate is based on the income of any second adult that lives with you, not on your income or savings.

How to claim

If you are unsure if you will qualify, you should make a claim to find out. For expert advice, leaflets and application forms, contact our Benefits Service:
- In person – at any Halton Direct Link
- By telephone – 0151 511 7772
- By email – benefits@halton.gov.uk

You will find more information about benefits on our website www.halton.gov.uk/benefits
Don’t delay, report today!

If you receive Council Tax reduction and/or housing benefit, you should tell us immediately if your circumstances change. Things you need to tell us about include:

- A change in your income, including the type of income or the amounts you receive
- A person moving in or out of your home, including additions to your family
- A child leaving school, or further/higher education
- A change in the income of anyone living in your home, other than yourself or you partner

It is important that you tell us about these changes so that you do not miss out on benefits you are entitled to, or that you do not receive benefits you are not entitled to. If you receive more than you are entitled to, we may claim the money back by taking it off future payments, or by sending you a bill.

Maximise your income – claim it or lose it

Every year the Welfare Rights Service helps residents of Halton to claim over £2.5 million in welfare benefits.

This is money that people are often unaware they are entitled to. Much of this money is not “means tested”, but depends on your state of health and will not affect any other benefit entitlement.

Our Welfare Rights Service can help in a number of ways:

- Benefit check – a free and confidential benefit check to maximise your income and advise and apply for any welfare benefits you may be entitled to

- Appeals – help in making an appeal against a decision for any welfare benefits, where you have refused or think the decision is wrong

- Money advice – free and confidential advice and debt management to help you with your finances

To contact the Welfare Rights Services call 0151 511 8930.
How the money is spent

The calculation of the amount of Council Tax is based on the spending requirements of Halton Borough Council, Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Cheshire Fire, Liverpool City Region Mayor and, if appropriate, the relevant Parish Council.

The Council’s spending (known as the ‘Budget Requirement’) is planned to be £108.621m. Schools are funded by a specific grant known as the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The following chart demonstrates how the operational budget requirement is split over each of the Council’s services.

Budget Requirement by Service 2019/20

Local Government Settlement Funding (incorporating Top-Up Grant), Business Rate Retention and a surplus contribution from the Collection Fund (Business Rates & Council Tax), are deducted from the Budget Requirement to give the ‘Council Tax Requirement’.

Council Tax is calculated by reference to the number of equivalent band D properties in Halton, which is 34,950 (called ‘The Tax Base’) and is expressed as a charge per band D property. Charges for other bands are then arrived at using a set ratio (see Council Tax Charges on Page 3 for details of all the band charges).
Halton’s band **D** charge is £1,419.08 and is calculated from the following figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2018/19</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross expenditure</strong></td>
<td>384,621,486</td>
<td>379,559,945</td>
<td>5,061,541</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(less) Income</strong></td>
<td>276,000,636</td>
<td>270,332,735</td>
<td>5,667,901</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUDGET REQUIREMENT</strong></td>
<td>108,620,850</td>
<td>109,227,210</td>
<td>-606,360</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top Up Grant</strong></td>
<td>4,895,713</td>
<td>7,468,595</td>
<td>-2,572,882</td>
<td>-34.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business Rate Retention</strong></td>
<td>51,006,749</td>
<td>49,456,198</td>
<td>1,550,551</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection Fund Contribution</strong></td>
<td>3,121,542</td>
<td>4,855,199</td>
<td>-1,733,657</td>
<td>-35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Council Tax Requirement</strong></td>
<td>59,024,004</td>
<td>61,779,992</td>
<td>-2,755,988</td>
<td>-4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1** The Collection Fund contribution is as a result of the net surplus in business rates and council tax billed to 31 March 2019 compared to forecast amounts.

**Note 2** – The increase in the council tax requirement is a combination of an increase of 2.99% to the council tax charge for the council and an increase of 515 (1.5%) to the Tax Base.

The band **D** charge is calculated by dividing the above Council Tax Requirement by the Tax Base.

**Band D Council Tax Charge Calculation:**  \[
\frac{49,596,846}{34,950} = £1,419.08
\]

The aggregate band **D** charge for Halton is made up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2018/19</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Council Band D Charge</strong></td>
<td>1,419.08</td>
<td>1,377.88</td>
<td>41.20</td>
<td>2.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Police Authority Band D Charge</strong></td>
<td>200.44</td>
<td>176.44</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>13.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fire Authority Band D Charge</strong></td>
<td>77.74</td>
<td>75.48</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>2.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liverpool City Region Mayor Band D Charge</strong></td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Council Tax Band D Charge</strong></td>
<td>1,716.26</td>
<td>1,629.80</td>
<td>86.46</td>
<td>5.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Properties in the parishes will be liable to pay an extra charge to cover the parish needs. The 2019/20 Tax Base, Precept, and Band D charge for each Parish are shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Tax Base</th>
<th>Parish Precept</th>
<th>Band D Charge</th>
<th>Band D Charge</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hale</td>
<td>£660</td>
<td>£43,225</td>
<td>£65.49</td>
<td>£65.00</td>
<td>£0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore</td>
<td>£329</td>
<td>£4,752</td>
<td>£14.44</td>
<td>£13.80</td>
<td>£0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daresbury</td>
<td>£173</td>
<td>£4,935</td>
<td>£28.53</td>
<td>£27.33</td>
<td>£1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston Brook</td>
<td>£359</td>
<td>£11,788</td>
<td>£32.84</td>
<td>£33.52</td>
<td>£-0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halebank</td>
<td>£526</td>
<td>£20,905</td>
<td>£39.74</td>
<td>£32.34</td>
<td>£7.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandymoor</td>
<td>£1,216</td>
<td>£32,559</td>
<td>£26.78</td>
<td>£26.18</td>
<td>£0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total precept</td>
<td></td>
<td>£118,164</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£110,004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non-Domestic Rates

Non-Domestic Rates, or business rates, collected by local authorities are the method by which those who are liable for non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Under the business rates retention arrangements, from April 2017, local authorities will keep 100% of the business rates collected locally.

This money, together with revenue from council tax payers, revenue support grant provided by the Government and certain other sums, is used to pay for the services provided by Halton Borough Council and other local authorities in your area. Further information about the business rates system, including transitional and other reliefs may be obtained at www.gov.uk.

For 2019/20, the Government has set the standard non-domestic rating multiplier at **50.4** pence per £ of rateable value and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier will be **49.1** pence.

Valuation of Property

All rateable values are provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), which is a division of HM Revenue & Customs. More detailed information on the valuation of properties can be obtained by visiting their website at www.voa.gov.uk. For further details, you can e-mail the VOA at: ratingnorthwest@voa.gsi.gov.uk, write to the Agency at Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 7HS or call them on **03000 501501**

Please note that you must pay in accordance with the instalments shown on your bill, pending any appeal against the rateable value for the property.

Empty Property Rates

The rating liability of empty property is presently 100% of the rate due, using the standard non-domestic rating multiplier, once the initial exemption period has expired. The exemption is three-months for offices, shops and other non-industrial properties and six-months for industrial premises, such as factories, workshops and warehouses.

The Government reduced the threshold for the exemption for empty properties in 2011/12 only vacant premises with a rateable value below £2,900 qualify for this exemption. This condition will continue to apply for the 2019/20 financial year.

Contact the Team

You should not hesitate to contact the Non-Domestic Rate Team on **0151 511 8932** or by email at business.rates@halton.gov.uk, should you require any further information on any rating matters.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 6500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

### North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018/19 000’s</th>
<th>2019/20 000’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>£46,481</td>
<td>£83,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Levies Raised</strong></td>
<td>£3,938</td>
<td>£4,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Council Tax Base</strong></td>
<td>2,110</td>
<td>2,145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by this committee has increased by 2.0%.

Worried about money?

If you have lost your job, are working less hours, or just struggling to pay your bills because of growing debt, we are here to help you. Our advisors can give you practical help, advice on managing your debts, money saving tips, benefits advice and ways to deal with other financial problems. Give us a call today on 0303 333 4300.

Looking for work?

If you are unemployed, at risk of redundancy, looking for a career change or you think you need to improve your skills, there is a range of help at hand.

Our Adult Learning team offers courses to improve English, Maths and ICT skills - visit www.halton.gov.uk/adultlearning or call us on 0303 333 4300.

The Halton Employment Partnership Award is a programme aimed at enhancing your job prospects by combining employability skills with sector-specific training.

The course is delivered in two parts. During the first two weeks you will cover:

CV and letter writing, job search and job applications, interview skills, IT for work, team working, communication and assertiveness, setting goals and action planning, time management.

The following two weeks offer you the opportunity to access sector specific training in Customer Care, Hospitality & Leisure or Retail. The course also includes achievement of a Health & Safety Certificate.

For more information call 0151 511 8931, visit www.halton.gov.uk/hep or email: hep@halton.gov.uk.

Halton People Into Jobs can offer a wide range of support to help you get back to work if you are unemployed, visit www.halton.gov.uk/hpij or call 0303 333 4300.

Other sources of help include:

- Citizens Advice Bureau (www.citizensadvice.org.uk t: 08451 304055) can give you advice on managing your finances and any tax issues.
- StepChange (www.stepchange.org t: 0800 1381111) is a charity that provides confidential free counselling and money management advice.
- The National Debtline (www.nationaldebtline.co.uk t: 0808 808 4000) provides free debt advice and support.

Contact details:

- Council Tax:
  Tel: 0151 511 7771
  Email: council.tax@halton.gov.uk

- Business Rates:
  Tel: 0151 511 8932
  Email: business.rates@halton.gov.uk

- Benefits:
  Tel: 0151 511 7772
  Email: benefits@halton.gov.uk

- Cheshire Police Authority
  Tel: 01244 614003

- Cheshire Fire Authority
  Tel: 01606 868484

You can also write to:
Strategic Director – Policy & Resources
Halton Borough Council
Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF
Each year, the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner uses funds raised from Council Tax to support Cheshire Constabulary’s budget to keep communities safe.

More information of how they use those funds can be found at https://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-i-publish/what-i-spend-and-how-i-spend-it/precept/

This information can also be found on pages 18 and 19.

For further information, contact:
Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner
www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01606 364000

Each year the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service uses funds raised from Council Tax to support their services.

More information of how they use those funds can be found at http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/council-tax-leaflets

For further information, contact:
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Winsford
Cheshire
CW7 2FQ
Tel: 01606 868700
Halton Direct Link
All together - a better way

We are here to help you however you choose to contact us:

In person

If you would like to speak to one of our expert advisors face-to-face you can visit us at Halton Direct link. You will find us at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Halton Lea Shopping Centre</th>
<th>Widnes Brook Street</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>9:00 – 17:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>9:00 – 13:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call us

If it is more convenient for you to use the telephone, then just call our contact centre on 0303 333 4300 we are open 8am - 6pm Monday to Friday.

Whichever way you choose to get in touch, our expert staff will be there to help. They are fully trained to help with Council Tax queries and payments, benefits advice, street lighting repairs, pest control, waste management enquiries and much, much more.

If they cannot help you directly themselves they will ensure your query is passed on to the correct person and that you receive a prompt response.

Visit our website

Don’t forget that our website www.halton.gov.uk has lots of useful information about council services, our borough, facts and figures, what’s on and other local news.

You can also pay your Council Tax online or email us with your questions and comments.

If you do not have access to the internet at home or work, you can use the internet for FREE at one of our libraries or any Halton Direct Link.
Office of the Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region
The Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region works with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) to ensure we all share in the benefits of a successful economy with no-one left behind.

He’s accountable to, and represents the people of, all six boroughs in Liverpool City Region: Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral.

The Metro Mayor steers the work of the Combined Authority, leading on issues such as the economy, transport, housing and skills.

The Metro Mayor represents Liverpool City Region people, enabling them to speak with one voice to make the case for a fairer deal and better quality of life, at the heart of government and on the world stage.

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
The LCRCA consists of the six councils in the Liverpool City Region and the Metro Mayor, and works with other local services, businesses, trade unions, communities and other partners to improve the city region.

The LCRCA gives local people more control over issues affecting our lives and is delivering an investment programme worth over £1 billion.

The Metro Mayor and the LCRCA have already delivered real benefits for the city region, including:
- 9,000 jobs and 5,500 apprenticeships;
- £189m in extra government funding for transport, homelessness and skills;
- £6m to support local high streets;
- 800 families into employment through Households into Work;
- £1 fast tag Mersey Tunnels toll;
- Half price bus travel for apprentices;
- £8.3m of new cycling and walking routes; and,
- New state of the art trains for the Merseyrail network.

Halton has received tens of millions of pounds of funding, which without the Liverpool City Region’s devolution deal it would not otherwise have had, supporting projects including reopening...
the Halton Curve, investment in local colleges and backing Alstom’s train modernisation facilities.

To enable the LCRCA to continue to deliver projects for the city region, such as ultra-fast digital connectivity, a Mayoral Transport Plan, and an apprenticeship portal, and to ensure its long-term financial sustainability, the 2019/20 budget will be funded through a precept based on the following Council Tax Bands:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Charge (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>12.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>14.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>16.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>19.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>23.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>27.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>31.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>38.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, visit www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Transport Levy 2018/19 £’000</th>
<th>Transport Levy 2019/20 £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowsley</td>
<td>10,032</td>
<td>10,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>32,869</td>
<td>33,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Helens</td>
<td>12,107</td>
<td>12,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sefton</td>
<td>18,605</td>
<td>18,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wirral</td>
<td>21,786</td>
<td>21,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>95,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>95,400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For historical and legal reasons Halton Council currently provide transport activities directly within the boundaries of the borough of Halton.

This is funded through a differential transport levy collected by Halton on behalf of the LCRCA which will be £3.1m for 2019/20.

**Mayor Steve Rotheram**

**Transport Funding**
The LCRCA’s transport responsibilities are funded through transport levies across each of the six councils. This funds concessionary travel, subsidised bus services, the Mersey Ferries and a range of other services.

The transport levy 2019/20 for each of the Merseyside Councils within the LCRCA is:

**Metro Mayor Liverpool City Region**

**Mr John Fogarty, B.A. Hons, C.P.F.A.**

Director of Corporate Services: Liverpool City Region Mayoral Combined Authority
Increased investment in front line policing

In the 2019/20 budget, I am increasing investment in neighbourhood policing to enable the Chief Constable to deliver a police service which keeps our communities safe.

Over the next year, Cheshire Constabulary will recruit an additional 43 frontline police officers and 7 PCSOs to help deal with increasing pressures on policing.

These extra officers will help prevent complex crime - which often starts in our communities - at its root-cause. They will also be integral in further developing the community base model, introduced in 2018 to bring back real neighbourhood policing to Cheshire.

We have lost 135 officers since 2010 but this budget will help us start to address the adverse effects austerity has had on police numbers.

In announcing their Provisional Grant Settlement for policing, the Government confirmed that police forces up-and-down the country would receive extra funding in 2019/20 to cover unavoidable pressures on policing. However, it built a fixed council tax increase into the equation.

I consulted Cheshire residents and local businesses and there was strong support for a small increase to the policing precept to increase investment in neighbourhood policing. Many residents told me they want increased police visibility in their communities.

I believe policing should be fully funded by central Government, however, it is comforting to see that the majority of local residents and businesses recognise the benefits of having a police service which is adequately funded.

The precept will rise by an average of £2 per month, per household in 2019/20. As a result, the budget for 2019/20 for Cheshire Constabulary is £214 million.

Cheshire residents can be assured that, through my scrutiny of the Constabulary, I will continue to ensure that your police service delivers value for money and provides the right resources to ensure our communities are some of the safest nationally.

David Keane
Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire
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Cheshire residents can be assured that, through my scrutiny of the Constabulary, I will continue to ensure that your police service delivers value for money and provides the right resources to ensure our communities are some of the safest nationally.

Council tax bands for policing

The Government announced that in 2019/20, Cheshire Constabulary would receive funding to cover unavoidable pressures on policing. However, it built a fixed council tax increase into the equation, lifting the cap on the policing precept by £2 per month for an average Band D property. I consulted on this increase with local residents and businesses and more than two thirds (67%) of respondents to the consultation supported the increase. It does not sit comfortable with me that, once again, the Government has put the burden of police funding on the taxpayer, but based on the public’s views and my strong commitment to investing in front line policing that keeps our communities safe, I have agreed to increase the policing precept to the level suggested by Government. This means that the precept will rise by an average of £2 per month, per household.

Where does the funding come from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government grant</td>
<td>106,963,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council tax precept</td>
<td>75,829,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income &amp; specific grants</td>
<td>31,917,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding and income</strong></td>
<td><strong>214,709,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Want to know more...

- **Follow me on Twitter:** @CheshirePCC
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/cheshirepcc
- **Website:** www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk
- **Telephone:** 01606 364000