

Council Tax Transcript

[Text: Durham County Council logo. What is Council Tax?]

[images: Pictures of different types of houses including terraced, detached with solar panels on the roof and an aerial shot of streets of houses with trees outside.]

[Narrator] Council Tax is collected by Durham County Council to help towards paying for services in your community. Every home in the county is put into a council tax band between A and H, based on its size, location, value, and other factors.

[Text: What does your Council Tax get used for?]

[images: Two Durham County Council employees wearing high visibility jackets repairing path on a high street. A Durham County Council road grit spreader. A female Durham County Council library employee using a telephone.]

[Narrator] The Council Tax you pay is not for the services you use but helps to fund all services provided by the Council.

[Images: A female Durham County Council employee with a headset on. An older woman in a chair talking to a younger woman who is sitting next to her. A man standing behind two seated young disabled people. A man and a woman walking through a park holding the hands of two young children. A disabled child touching a glowing sensory lamp.]

[Narrator] We provide social care services for the most vulnerable people in our community. Over 60% of the council's expenditure is invested in caring for vulnerable adults and children.

[Images: A snow globe around a statue of a man on a horse, with the message "I love Durham" in pink neon. An old mining facility. A woman in a sports centre riding a cycle, she is in front of a large window which a swimming pool is visible through.]

[Narrator] We also invest in our culture and sport, supporting the health and wellbeing of people in County Durham.

[Images: A child in a full classroom holding up their hand. A man writing on a sheet a paper while looking at a younger man.]

[Narrator] Council Tax supports 266 schools and colleges, ensuring children have the opportunities to reach their full potential.

[Images: Two Durham County Council employees pulling three bins along a residential street. A Durham County Council employee carrying two recycling boxes along a residential street, there is snow on the ground. A County Durham County Council bin wagon. Two men wearing high visibility jackets in front of a pile of household rubbish. A household waste recycling centre.]

[Narrator] We empty over 6 million rubbish bins and 6 million recycling bins every year. This allows us to recycle and compost over one hundred thousand tonnes of material from kerbside collections and household waste recycling centres.

[Image: Durham County Council employees repairing a road. A man in a hard hat installing the lighting unit of street light. An ariel shot of a business park. A Durham County Council sign saying "This road has been resurfaced using recycled plastics. The exterior of the Hitachi building. Sign saying "Aykley Heads – Coming soon. Up to 6,000 new jobs worth £400 million to our economy. Enquiries 03000 261 261. www.durham.gov.uk/future]

[Narrator] We maintain the roads, pavements, and streetlights Your Council Tax is also used to help fund the council's ongoing investment in regeneration and economic development in County Durham.

[Text: Council Tax makes up 21% of the council's annual income.]

[Narrator] 21% of the council's total annual Income comes from Council Tax. The rest is made up of grants and income generated through our chargeable services, for example our leisure centres.

[Text: How do we decide what it will be used for?]

[Image: Five older adults in discussion around a table. A woman casting a vote in a ballot box.]

[Text: Working for the future of County Durham. County Durham Vision 2035 logo, Better for everyone.]

[Narrator] We consult with local communities, partners, businesses, and other groups to ensure we are focusing on the right priorities to achieve the objectives in the County Durham Vision 2035.

[Text: Durham County Council logo. Understanding you Council Tax bill.]

[Image: A Council Tax bill]

[Image: Close-up of a Council Bill on screen focussing on the relevant part of the bill relative to the narration.]

[Narrator] When you receive your bill from us it will look like this. Every bill is addressed to who we consider is responsible for paying it. The partner of the person the bill is addressed to is also jointly liable for council tax, whether or not they are married.

This section shows the issue date of your bill, your account number, the band allocated to your home and the address that the bill relates to.

[Image: Close-up of a Council Bill on screen focussing on the relevant part of the bill relative to the narration.]

[Narrator] This section shows a breakdown of charges. Your bill also includes a charge for the Fire Service and Police Force, as well as the Adult Social Care Precept. Councils which provide social care can increase their council tax and this additional charge is called the Adult Social Care Precept. The income generated from this charge helps to meet for the cost of adult social care. Depending where you live, there may be a further charge from the local town or parish council, and the charter trustees if you are in the City of Durham area.

Please remember the council is only responsible for the collection of the money for other organisations, not the setting of the charge for their services.

[Narrator] The total charge for the period is detailed at the top of the next section.

[Image: Close-up of a Council Bill on screen focussing on the relevant part of the bill relative to the narration.]

[Narrator] This section is where any discounts or benefits are detailed. Single people, those with a Severe Mental Impairment, Apprentices, Students and Disabled People may be entitled to discounts or exemptions. Any deductions, exemptions, discounts, and payments are listed on the bill as CR.

[Text: www.durham.gov.uk/counciltaxdiscounts Customer Services Team Tel: Number 03000 264000]

[Narrator] There is information and applications forms on our website in relation to the discounts and exemptions available or you can ring our Customer Services Team for more information.

[Image: Close-up of a Council Bill on screen focussing on the relevant part of the bill relative to the narration.]

[Narrator] The amount payable for your new council tax bill is shown at the bottom. The final section shows the payment details, payment methods, instalment amounts and the dates they are due to be paid. If you are in arrears with your Council Tax, the amount is displayed at the bottom of this section and should be paid as previously notified.

If you have not already made arrangements to repay your arrears it is important that you contact us to see what we can do to help.

[image: Durham County Council Finding Financial Help and Support leaflet.]

[Text: www.durham.gov.uk/counciltax Customer Services Team Tel: 03000 264 000.]

[Narrator] You can speak to one of our Customer Services advisors discuss your account. You can also find further details of all help and support on our website.

[Image: Close-up of a Council Bill on screen focussing on the relevant part of the bill relative to the narration.]

[Narrator] On the reverse of your bill is details of how you can pay your bill including Direct Debit, online via our website, through your bank, at the Post Office and Pay Point.

[Text: Direct Debit logo. Durham County Council logo. Council Tax Bill.]

[Narrator] If you are paying by Direct Debit, payments are spread across 10 to 12 months, up to either January or March. There is no need to cancel your Direct Debit after your final payment, as we will not take another payment until your new bill is issued.

[Text: www.durham.gov.uk/counciltaxappeals]

[Narrator] If you'd like to appeal against your Council Tax Band, please visit our "make an appeal about council tax" page on our website. Here you can find out how to appeal if you think your bill

has been calculated incorrectly, or you think your property is in the wrong band. This is the role of the Valuation Office Agency.

[Text: or call the Valuation Office Agency Tel: 03000 501 501.]

[Image: A pile of brown boxes.]

[Text: www.durham.gov.uk/counciltax]

[Narrator] If you've recently moved to a new house or had a change in circumstances please let us know as soon as possible. You can do this by visiting our website and completing the online form. If you wish to find out more about Council Tax please visit our website at www.durham.gov.uk/counciltax.

[Text: Durham County Council logo. Find out more: www.durham.gov.uk/counciltax]