

What is Council Tax? video transcript

[Background audio: instrumental music]

[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.

[Text: Council Tax supports 262 schools and colleges]

[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 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.

[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. Aerial view of buildings in Jade Business Park.]

[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.