

Your Council Tax 2010/11

for Kent



This booklet contains details of how your council tax contributions are used to provide services in your area.

Kent
Police
Authority





Overseeing your policing

Kent Police Authority is responsible for an efficient and effective police Force - from officers, staff, buildings, to IT and equipment. We're an independent body made up of 17 members - a mix of elected councillors and local people. We hold the Chief Constable to account for police performance. Working together we aim to provide you with the best possible policing service.

'This year our main focus is on maintaining our police services. After much debate Police Authority members have agreed to a 2.99 per cent increase. For the average band D house this is a small increase of 8p a week – £4 a year – bringing the total police payment to £139 a year.

'The decision follows months of discussions between the Chief Constable and members of the Kent Police Authority as to the pressures on the Force during 2010. This year has been one of the hardest decisions for the Authority as demands on policing continue. But I'm pleased to say this is in fact our lowest police council tax rise in the last ten years. No one likes putting up taxes but we're working within a very tight financial climate. The Authority needs to balance the pressures on the Chief Constable with a value for money service for the public – this year's police budget will be £285million.

'We've consulted widely about the increase and we are satisfied that this amount is the

very minimum we can set for this year's police council tax. There was considerable public support for an increase in the police council tax of between 2.5-4.99 per cent. We're the second lowest police council tax for a shire in England and Wales and I think that this shows how prudent the Authority is with finances – as recognised by our external auditors. We need to maintain the improvements the Force has made so far.

'We're already making savings in-house through our joint working with Essex Police but we need to do more. I'm really keen for Kent to become a top performing Force but we need to continue how we're doing – and do even more – to provide the best possible policing service we can.'

Ann Barnes,
Chair of
Kent Police Authority





How we're spending your money this year



- Investment will continue to be made in neighbourhood task teams dedicated to reducing anti-social behaviour and crime. The teams, made up of one sergeant and five police constables, were paid for through the last two council tax increases.

- We will set up a dedicated project team that will focus on finding where other savings can be made within the Force during the next four years. The Government has clearly signalled that in future years the financial climate will be extremely demanding.
- Public confidence is also high on the agenda. Funds will be invested in improving communications with the

public through ward based community safety newsletters. Residents will be able to find out how police, local councils and partner agencies are dealing with crime where they live. To view your latest edition visit:

www.kent.police.uk/newsletters

- We will also review how Kent Police is structured and find the best ways of working for the future. Part of this will involve a wide consultation programme by the Authority.
- Kent Police will visit all victims of crime, and repeat and vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour during 2010/11.





Police spending

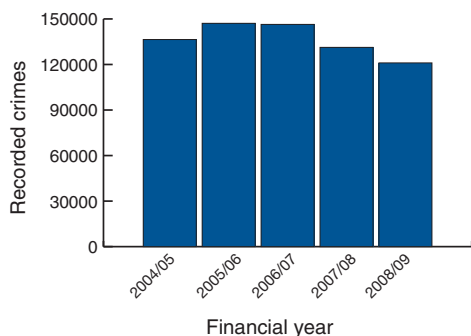
How we are funded	£'000	£/resident
Central Government grants	197,390	0.00
Council tax collected on above estimate in 2009/10	252	0.15
Balance to be met by council taxpayers in 2010/11	87,358	53.44
Total	285,000	53.60

Budget breakdown – what we are spending money on	2010/11 £'000	2009/10 £'000
Police pay	162,462	163,309
Police pensions	33,881	33,859
Support staff pay	88,914	86,045
Other expenditure e.g. premises, computers, transport	57,281	50,832
Gross revenue budget (total of above)	342,538	334,045
Income generated by external parties outside of Kent Police	-57,538	-57,555
Total	285,000	276,490

Budget breakdown – cost of service	2010/11 £'000	2009/10 £'000
Reducing crime	15,135	15,673
Investigating crime	120,044	118,400
Promoting public safety	102,388	96,542
Assistance to the public	44,733	43,300
Providing special protection and all other protection duties	250	194
Funds to run Kent Police Authority	1,694	1,569
Police pensions, including ill health and early retirement	2,840	2,736
Pension administration costs	181	176
Net income from chargeable services	-2,265	-2,100
Total	285,000	276,490

Why spending has changed	£'000
Revenue budget for 2009/10 (day to day running of Kent Police)	276,500
Pay and price changes	10,300
Critical policing pressures	300
Further efficiency savings	-2,100
Total budget requirement for 2010/11	285,000

Crime is going down across the county



In 2009 there were almost 30,000 fewer crimes than in 2004 and crime has fallen by a fifth (21 per cent) in five years.

Kent Police has also been recognised as providing a quality service. The Force was one of only eight in the country to achieve a good grade as part of the Home Office Policing Pledge. The Pledge sets out the minimum standards the public can expect.

Contact numbers

- In an emergency dial **999** if there is a threat to life or public safety, or a crime is in progress
- Call our single non-emergency number **01622 690 690** to report a non-urgent crime and anti-social behaviour

Have your say

We welcome your feedback.

Visit our website:

www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk

to tell us what you think.

You can also join us on



and



or take part in discussion groups or surveys email:

citizens.panel@kent.pnn.police.uk



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(Contact details are inside the front cover.)



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