

# Council Tax 2018 to 2019



This leaflet forms part of your Demand Notice and should be read along with the information contained in the notice. For an electronic copy of this leaflet please visit [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk).

If you wish to sign up to receive an electronic copy of your bill visit [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/paperless](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/paperless)

Council Tax is applied across a range of bands from A to H, with all bands having a relationship with band D, known as the multiplier. The Scottish Government changed the council tax multipliers for properties in Bands E to H from 1 April 2017. In addition to the 3% increase in Council Tax charge, if your property is in Band E to H, your 2018/19 notice will reflect this change. For more information on this change visit [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-tax-bands](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-tax-bands)

## • WATER AND WASTE WATER CHARGES

The Scottish Water and Sewerage Charges have increased by 1.6%. For more information contact customer helpline on **0800 0778778** or visit their website at [www.scottishwater.co.uk](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk)

## • THE BEST WAY TO PAY IS BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you opt to pay by Direct Debit you can pay over 10 or 12 months and can choose from five dates to assist with budgeting.

**Set up a Direct Debit – Freephone 0800 163491.**

For details of other methods of payment, see your Council Tax notice or visit [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk)



## • COUNCIL TAX - WHO PAYS?

A couple who are married, civil partners or living together as a couple and joint owners or joint tenants are jointly and severally liable i.e. individually and together. **There is one notice for every household**

## • HAVING PROBLEMS PAYING?

**If you have missed any of your payments, please call us on 01698 403210 as soon as possible. Remember that if we do not know you are having problems paying, we cannot help you.** If you are experiencing financial difficulties or you would like information or advice on debt management, budget planning or ethical lending help and assistance available at [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/yourmoney](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/yourmoney)

## • DISCOUNTS

You may be entitled to a 25% Discount if you are the only adult in your home or there is another adult (18 years and over) who falls into certain disregarded categories such as student/student nurse, apprentice/skillseekers. More information on discount categories is available at [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-tax-discounts](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-tax-discounts)

## • EMPTY PROPERTY DISCOUNTS

The discount is 10% or 50% where the property is not a liable person's sole or main residence depending on the circumstances. However, if the property is continuously empty for more than 12 months, it may be subject to an increased levy of 100% Council Tax charge. **More information is available at** [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/empty-property-discount](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/empty-property-discount)

## • DISABLED PERSONS REDUCTION

You can claim a Disabled Person's Reduction if certain adaptations have been made to your home; or if extra rooms are needed for the disabled person's wellbeing. More information is available at [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/disabled-persons-relief](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/disabled-persons-relief)

## • EXEMPTIONS

You may be exempt from paying Council Tax for six months if your home is empty and unfurnished. This also applies to other categories such as occupied only by students; anyone under 18 years old; property occupied solely by people with severe mental impairment; where owner is deceased or resident in a nursing home or hospital. More information on exemption categories is available at [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-tax-exemptions](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-tax-exemptions)

## • APPEALS

You may have the right to appeal against your council tax banding. Such appeals are currently only possible in limited circumstances.

**You can appeal online at [www.saa.gov.uk/proposals.html](http://www.saa.gov.uk/proposals.html) or in writing to The Lanarkshire Joint Valuation Board, Phone 01698 476000**

**Email: [assessor@lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk](mailto:assessor@lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk)**

You may also appeal if you are aggrieved at the actions of the Council in calculating or collecting your council tax. Write to:

**Head of Revenue & E-Government Solutions, PO Box 9060, Motherwell, ML1 1SH** stating your grounds for appeal. If you are not satisfied with the response you do have a further right of appeal to a Valuation Appeal Committee. Please contact your local council tax office for further information on the procedures you must follow to submit a valid appeal. **You must continue to pay your Council Tax until a decision on your appeal has been made.**

## ● COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION (CTR)

If you are a low earner, a pensioner, or on benefits, and are responsible for paying Council Tax, you may be entitled to claim CTR of up to 100%. CTR will not cover Scottish Water's charges. You can complete an application online at [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/benefitcalculator](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/benefitcalculator).

If you wish to appeal your CTR assessment write to: **Head of Revenue & E-Government Solutions, PO Box 9060, Motherwell, ML1 1SH**

If you are still dissatisfied with your decision you can seek an independent ruling from the Council Tax Reduction Panel who will conduct a further review. An application should be made directly to them by yourself or representative. Further Information, including application forms, are available via their website [www.counciltaxreductionreview.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.counciltaxreductionreview.scotland.gov.uk) or by telephoning 0141 302 5840.

## ● SPENDING ON OUR SERVICES

Where your money is spent – analysis of Service Expenditure

	2018-19 Net Expenditure £'000	2017-18 Net Expenditure £'000	Change from 2017-18 £'000	%	Band D Council Tax Equivalent £
Chief Executive	18,006	19,502	-1,496	-7.67%	145
Infrastructure	136,422	139,333	-2,911	-2.09%	1,095
Education, Skills & Youth Employment	399,184	391,405	7,778	1.99%	3,204
Enterprise & Housing Resources	22,180	22,118	62	0.28%	178
Health & Social Care	168,551	167,578	973	0.58%	1,353
Joint Boards	12,377	12,453	-76	-0.61%	99
<b>Totals</b>	<b>756,720</b>	<b>752,390</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>0.58%</b>	
<b>Financed by:-</b>					
Government Grants	504,244	495,939			
Non Domestic Rates	114,474	111,898			
Use of Balances and Reserves	2,502	14,000			
Total needed from Council Taxes	135,500	130,553			
Band 'D' council tax 2018-19	1,130.94				
Band 'D' council tax 2017-18		1,098			
Scottish average band 'D' council tax for 2017-18	1,173				
Council employees (full time equivalent)					
2017-18		12,259			
2018-19 estimate	12,149				
decrease	110				

### Comparison of council expenditure proposals per household with Government provisions

Expenditure figures assumed by Government in Aggregate External Finance provisions (grant support)	£4,788
Proposed spending by council on comparable basis	£5,011

### Revenue Budget 2018-19

North Lanarkshire Council set its net budget for 2018-2019 at £756.720m, of which £618.718m (82%) is estimated to be funded by government grants and non-domestic rates, £135.500m from council tax, and £2.502m from one-off Council balances.

The Band D council tax level will increase by 3% to £1,130.94, continuing the trend of a council tax rate below the Scottish average. With council tax levels ranging from £753.96 (Band A) to £2,770.80 (Band H), your council tax helps fund a variety of much needed services to the community including: educating children, supporting the most vulnerable members of our society, improving and maintaining our roads and local environment and providing cultural, leisure and recreation facilities. In setting its 2018-2019 budget, the Council has continued its commitment to tackle the poverty related attainment gap by increasing the level of assistance provided through clothing grants, extending the level of Breakfast Club provision and by investing a further £27.5m in the Schools and Centres 21 Programme. As in previous years, the Council continues to face challenging financial times, with its 2018-2019 government grant showing only a minor increase of 0.3% on the previous 2017-2018 grant level on a like for like basis, despite the Council facing significant cost pressures. However, the Council has set a balanced budget, which per the service expenditure table provided, illustrates additional spend of £4.331m compared to the 2017-2018 position.

In setting its 2018-2019 revenue budget, the Council has therefore:

- Funded unavoidable cost pressures totalling £13.953m in respect of employee costs, contractual obligations and strategic priorities;
- Approved base budget adjustments totalling £17.409m to reflect efficiency measures undertaken, including staff restructures. These base budget adjustments significantly reduced the potential budget gap and the consequent need for savings;
- Approved savings totalling £2.608m, and service enhancements of £4.097m
- Approved the use of £2.502m of the balances it holds;
- Remained committed to protecting and providing vital services required by its community.

The number of posts within the Council is estimated to decrease by 110 (1%) to reflect the reconfiguration of services which result from the Council approving service restructures and the 2018-19 savings package noted above.

**AUDIT SCOTLAND NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE** - North Lanarkshire Council is participating in the Audit Scotland National Fraud Initiative. Further information is available at [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/national-fraud-initiative](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/national-fraud-initiative) or Audit Scotland's website [www.audit-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk) or call 01786 233376.