



Harborough District Council

# Council Tax Guide 2021-22

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This leaflet is available in large print electronically as a PDF at [www.harborough.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/counciltax)

If you would like this leaflet in another language, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us.

Email: [customer.services@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@harborough.gov.uk)

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Website: [www.harborough.gov.uk](http://www.harborough.gov.uk)

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# Welcome to the Harborough District Council Tax Guide

Harborough District Council is responsible for collecting council tax in the district, which is then distributed to authorities providing public services in the district:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Leicestershire Fire Authority
- Harborough District Council
- Parish and town councils

Please read on to find out about the different ways to pay your council tax, discounts and exemptions, and support schemes.

## Drowning in paper?

Register for #paperfree in just a few minutes

Council tax – Business rates – Benefits

[www.harborough.gov.uk/paperfree](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/paperfree)



# Your council tax explained

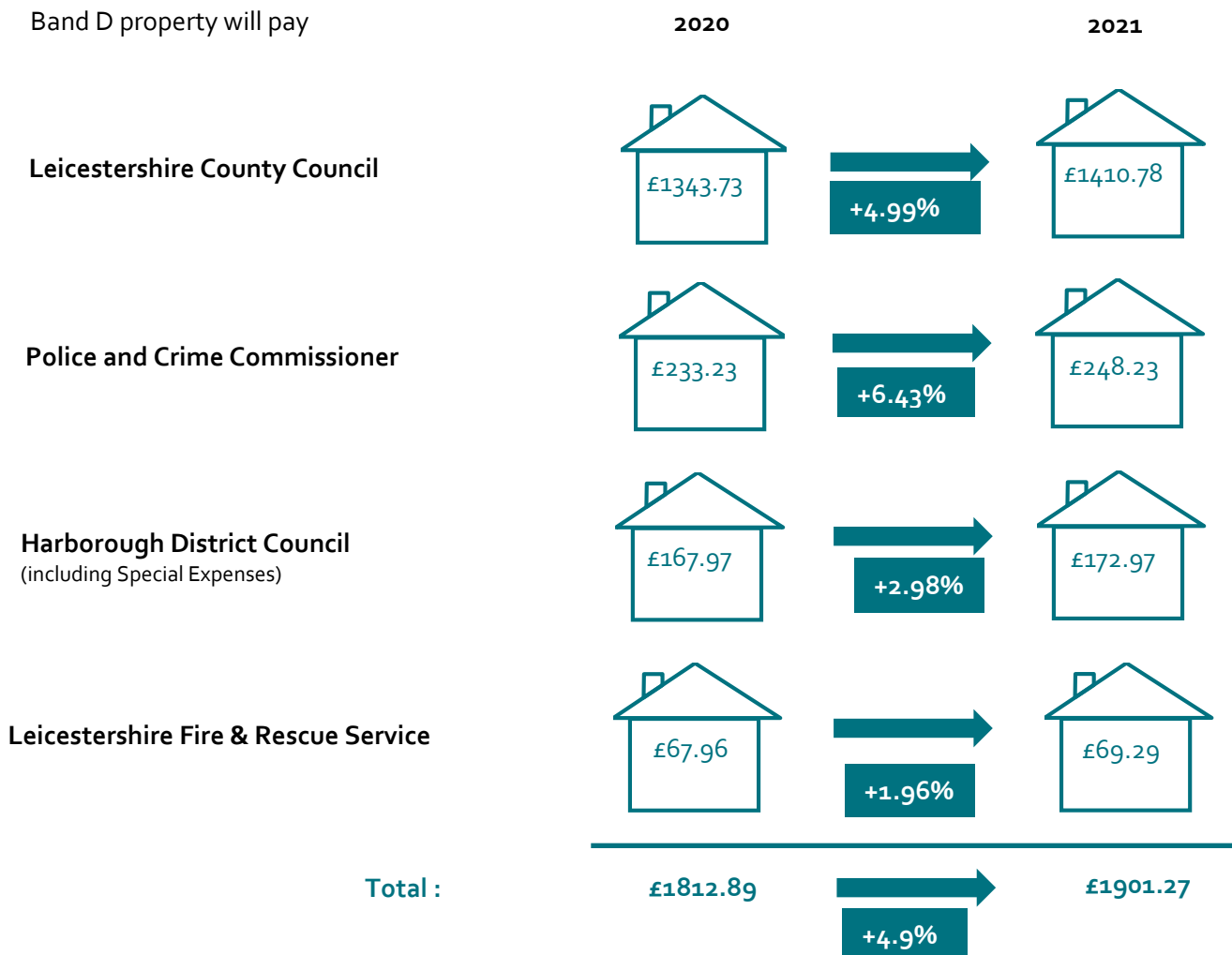
Council tax is a local tax used to fund local services. Council tax contributes to Council, police and fire services, together with income from Government grants and other charges.

Owner-occupiers usually have to pay their council tax bill. In rented homes, the tenants have to pay. In the case of the majority of empty homes, the owner has to pay. The owners of the following properties also pay council tax:

- Residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels
- Those occupied by:
  - a) A minister of religion or a religious community
  - b) More than one household
  - c) Resident staff or asylum seekers.

Harborough District Council receives less than 10% of the total council tax. The rest contributes to services provided by the county council, the police and crime commissioner, the fire authority, and parish/town councils.

## Financial information

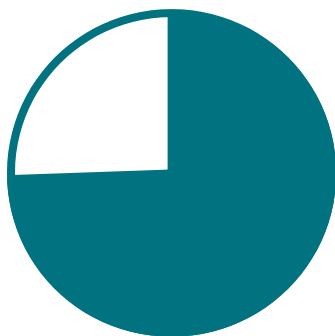


## Where your money goes

In 2021/22, a Band D property will pay **£1,885.57** in council tax (not including the amount paid to parish or town councils, or special expenses). The four main authorities receive the amounts show below. Visit each authority's website for more details on how this income contributes to public services.



**£1,410.78**



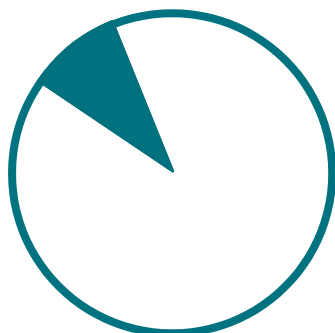
74.82%



[www.harborough.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/counciltax)

**£157.27**

[Excludes Special Expenses]



8.34%

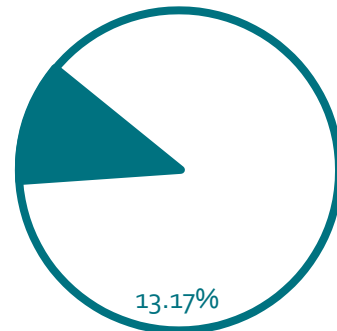


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[www.leics.pcc.police.uk/counciltax](http://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/counciltax)

**£248.23**

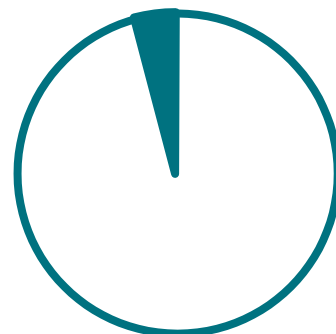


13.17%

**LEICESTERSHIRE  
FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE**

[www.leicestershire-fire.gov.uk](http://www.leicestershire-fire.gov.uk)

**£69.29**



3.67%

## Council tax valuation bands

The Valuation Office Agency (not local councils) puts every property into one of eight **valuation bands**, labelled **A** to **H**. Further details are available on the Valuation Office Agency website at [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk).



Band	Range of values at 1 April 1991	Proportion of Band D tax payable
A	Up to and including £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9/9
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9
H	More than £320,000	18/9

## Council tax appeals

If you do not agree with the band for your home and wish to make an appeal, please contact the Valuation Office on 03000 501501 or go to the Valuation Office website: [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk)

## Other appeals

If you wish to appeal against any other matter regarding your council tax, please do so in writing to the Council Tax Team. You can email the team at [counciltax@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@harborough.gov.uk) or write to us at:

F.A.O. Council Tax Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ.

You should continue to pay your original council tax demand notice whilst your appeal is outstanding. In the event of an overpayment, the credit will be offset against any outstanding balance and the remainder refunded to you.

# Council Tax Support Scheme

From April 2013, **Council Tax Benefit** was replaced by a local **Council Tax Support Scheme**.

The Government reduced the amount of money local councils received to provide full discounts on Council Tax for working age people.

Everyone under state pension age must pay some council tax.

In 2021/22, working age people (in receipt of maximum Council Tax Support) have to pay 15% of their council tax charge.

It is important that you contact us as soon as you receive your council tax demand notice if you need help and advice on how to pay your charge.

People of pensionable age who were in receipt of council tax benefit are protected from these changes. You will continue to receive the same level of support that you would have done under the council tax benefit rules.

## Important note:

If your circumstances change you should report this to the council within a month of the change occurring. Failure to do this will be dealt with as an act of fraud. You can ring us on **01858 828282**, email: [benefits@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@harborough.gov.uk) or write to us at: **F.A.O. Benefits Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ**.

## How to pay

### Paying council tax over 12 months

Council tax instalments can now be spread over 12 months instead of 10. Following your request, the number of payments will be dependent on the number of months remaining in the financial year. Your written request for 12 monthly instalments will automatically apply to the next financial year. If you would prefer to revert back to paying over ten months, please notify us in writing and we will amend our records.

If you would like to pay your council tax over 12 months, please email your request detailing your name, full address and council tax reference number (shown on your notice) to [counciltax@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@harborough.gov.uk) or write to us at **F.A.O. Council Tax Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ**. Alternatively, please call Customer Services on **01858 828282**.

## Pay your council tax or business rates by Direct Debit

Direct debit is simple, convenient and secure.

You only need to set up a direct debit for council tax or business rates once. There is no need to cancel it at the end of the financial year.

Your payments will be collected automatically from your bank account on the dates shown on your demand notice.

After your final 2021/22 instalment has been collected, no further payments will be taken until the 2022/23 financial year starts and the first instalment becomes due in April 2022.

Set up a Direct Debit online by going to [www.harborough.gov.uk/council-tax-pay](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/council-tax-pay)

Alternatively, call us on 01858 828282. Please have your bank account details and reference number to hand to allow us to set this up over the telephone.

### Are you struggling financially? We are here to help

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are having difficulty paying your council tax or business rates instalments.

We can help you by:

- Referring you to a money advisor at Citizens Advice
- Referring you to our Benefits Team
- Agreeing an alternative payment arrangement with you
- Giving you advice about discounts, exemptions and reliefs.

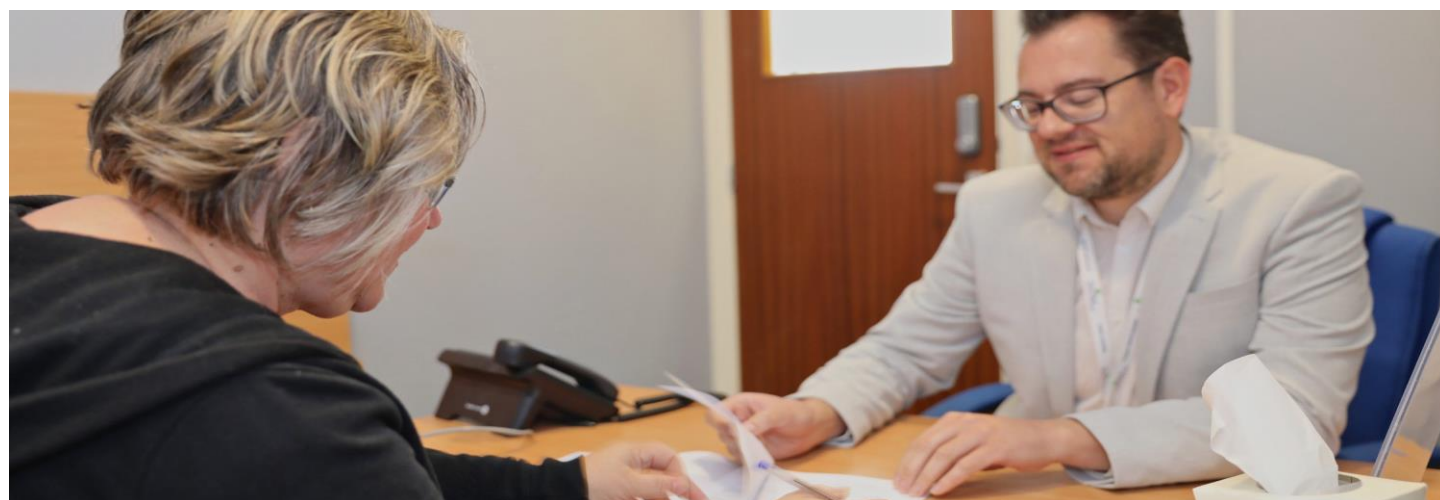
Don't wait until you have lost your right to pay by instalments. We will be able to help if you contact us at an early stage, before any recovery action is taken.

You can call us on **01858 828282** or email [counciltax@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@harborough.gov.uk)



Protected by the direct debit guarantee

78% of  
council tax  
payers  
pay by  
direct debit





## Discounts

Council tax assumes there are at least two adults living in the home. If you live on your own, you are entitled to 25% discount.

If the property is a second home, or is a house that is unoccupied but furnished, there is no discount in the charge.

If an adult within the household falls into one of the following categories then a discount may apply:

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices, youth training trainees and foreign language assistants
- 18/19 year olds who are at or have just left school or college
- Patients resident in hospital or being looked after in care homes
- Severely mentally impaired people
- People in hostels or night shelters
- Low paid care workers usually employed by charities
- People caring for a person with a disability who is NOT a partner or child under 18 years old
- Members of religious communities such as monks or nuns
- People in detention (except for non-payment of council tax or a fine)
- Members of visiting forces, certain international and defence organisations.

Temporary absences owing to holiday or work will not normally result in discount entitlement.

### Local discounts – empty property

Harborough District Council also has a local discount scheme for properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished. These properties are entitled to a one month discount of 100%.

**Annexe discount** – From 1 April 2014 annexes meeting certain criteria are entitled to a 50% discount. To qualify for a discount the annexe must be occupied by a relative of the person who is liable to pay council tax on the main home. If it is unoccupied the annexe must be being used as part of the main home. Please contact us for more details. If you wish to apply, we will send you an application form.

## Disabled people

A property band reduction in the charge may be applicable if you, or someone who lives with you, is disabled and uses a wheelchair within the property or requires a room to meet their needs, or requires an extra bathroom / kitchen. Please contact the Council Tax Team if you wish to apply.

## Cyber Crime



If you are worried that you have been scammed, defrauded or have experienced cyber crime, Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud. You can also find information on their site about free cybercrime protection and prevention advice.

[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

## Exemptions

Some properties may be exempt from council tax and the following is a broad description.

Class	Unoccupied properties	Entitlement
B	Owned by a charity	Up to 6 months
D	Left empty by someone who has gone to prison	No charge
E	Previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care	No charge
F	Waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted	Up to 6 months after probate is granted
G	Empty because occupation is forbidden by law	No charge
H	Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion	No charge
I	Left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness	No charge
J	Left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person	No charge
K	Owned by a student and last occupied by a student	No charge
L	Subject to a Repossession Order	No charge
Q	The responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee	No charge
R	A site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring	No charge
T	'Granny annexes' or similar type of property	No charge

### Occupied properties

Class	Occupied properties
M/N	All the residents are students
O	Used for UK armed forces accommodation
P	At least one liable person is a member of a visiting force
S	All residents are less than 18 years old
U	All residents are severely mentally impaired
V	At least one liable person is a foreign diplomat
W	It is annexed to a family home and occupied by that family's elderly or disabled relatives

If you think you may be entitled to a discount or may be exempt, please contact the Council Tax Team on **01858 828282**. If you receive a discount / exemption then you must tell the Council Tax Team within 21 days of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement. Failure to do so may lead to a penalty charge. If the property remains unoccupied and unfurnished after any exemption expires then it will attract a 100% council tax charge for two years. Please note: After two years if the property status does not change then it will attract an additional 50% premium. This will mean that 150% council tax becomes payable.<sup>10</sup>

# Special expenses and local parish precepts

## Special expenses

Special Expenses are services provided by Harborough District Council, which are provided by Parishes and Town Councils elsewhere in the District. These become Special Expenses of the District Council and are only charged to the council tax payers in that area.

Special Expenses are paid to the District Council for; cemetery provision, allotment provision, Harborough in Bloom, Harborough Town Centre Support (including specified events), parks and recreation grounds, memorial gardens, bus shelters and space considered to be the public realm.

The table below shows where the Special Expenses are charged and how those charges are calculated.

Area within the District	Basic amount of HDC council tax before special expense redistribution	Total special expense amount in HDC budget to be redistributed	Redistributed special expense by parish area	Net special expenses adjustment	Parish element	Basic amount of Council Tax by Parish (per Council Tax Resolution)
<b>Blaston</b>	172.97	(15.70)	11.71	(3.99)	0.00	168.98
<b>Foxton</b>	172.97	(15.70)	10.13	(5.57)	35.34	202.74
<b>Great Bowden</b>	172.97	(15.70)	9.30	(6.40)	54.10	220.67
<b>Great Easton</b>	172.97	(15.70)	15.44	(0.26)	37.79	210.50
<b>Lutterworth</b>	172.97	(15.70)	11.47	(4.23)	116.13	284.87
<b>Market Harborough</b>	172.97	(15.70)	51.99	36.29	0.00	209.26
<b>Saddington</b>	172.97	(15.70)	23.96	8.26	11.32	192.55
<b>Thurnby &amp; Bushby</b>	172.97	(15.70)	24.65	8.95	55.46	237.38
<b>Broughton Astley</b>	172.97	(15.70)	4.24	(11.46)	100.54	262.05
<b>Fleckney</b>	172.97	(15.70)	0.74	(14.96)	90.30	248.31
<b>Great Glen</b>	172.97	(15.70)	1.84	(13.86)	113.82	272.93
<b>Scraptoft</b>	172.97	(15.70)	5.54	(10.16)	91.03	253.84

In areas where there are parish or town councils, a portion of your council tax is given to them to provide certain services, such as grass cutting and cemeteries. The following information gives you the financial details for the majority of our parish and town councils. Where there is no parish or town council, the District Council may take on some services. These are called Special Expenses - see page 11 for more information.

## Local parish precepts

2020/21 Precept £	Parish	2021/22 Precept £	2021/22 Tax Base £	Effect on a Band D Property £
1,265	Allexton	1,265	39.90	31.70
14,500	Arnesby	14,500	165.40	87.67
8,400	Ashby Magna	8,400	163.40	51.41
4,128	Ashby Parva	4,993	115.80	43.12
14,983	Billesdon	14,950	426.50	35.05
20,759	Bitteswell with Bittesby	22,445	243.00	92.37
1,310	Bringham	2120	23.90	88.70
318,556	Broughton Astley	329,400	3,276.20	100.54
4,450	Bruntingthorpe	4,600	174.90	26.30
10,265	Burton Overy	12,427	154.90	80.23
10,015	Claybrooke Magna	10,190	251.70	40.48
4,950	Claybrooke Parva	4,950	84.60	58.51
3,205	Cotesbach	3,269	103.70	31.52
4,960	Drayton	3,750	82.60	45.40
12,390	Dunton Bassett	12,890	312.60	41.23
5,277	East Langton	5,794	175.60	33.00
143,150	Fleckney	143,150	1,585.20	90.30
7,745	Foxton	7,562	214.00	35.34
5,135	Frolesworth	5,000	136.00	36.76
33,175	Gilmorton	38,750	539.50	71.83
500	Goadby	500	48.10	10.40
31,250	Great Bowden	33,500	619.20	54.10
12,849	Great Easton	12,849	340.00	37.79
195,000	Great Glen	205,000	1,801.10	113.82
2,208	Gumley	2,200	66.50	33.08
25,200	Hallaton	25,956	268.20	96.78
500	Horninghold	500	48.50	10.31
35,545	Houghton	36,114	710.40	50.84
8,023	Hungarton	9,713	131.30	73.98
65,000	Husbands Bosworth	65,000	533.60	121.81
3,725	Illston	3,886	91.00	42.70

3,000	Keyham	3128	71.30	43.87
84,266	Kibworth Beauchamp	102466	1,815.30	56.45
45,000	Kibworth Harcourt	46350	867.40	53.44
12,120	Kimcote & Walton	11736	276.40	42.46
12,500	Leire	12500	278.90	44.82
1,000	Little Stretton	1000	58.50	17.09
22,500	Lubenham	22500	532.90	42.22
356,299	Lutterworth	423823	3,649.40	116.13
12,256	Medbourne	13440	230.20	58.38
21,560	Misterton	21835	201.40	108.42
8,000	Mowsley	8000	128.50	62.26
1,320	Nevill Holt	1850	25.40	72.83
17,125	North Kilworth	18050	318.60	56.65
2,513	Peatling Magna	2523	103.80	24.31
2,070	Saddington	1545	136.50	11.32
82,000	Scraftoft	88600	973.30	91.03
2,440	Shawell	2440	92.50	26.38
12,865	Shearsby	13060	115.20	113.37
4,800	Skeffington	4800	112.30	42.74
8,499	Smeeton Westerby	8499	157.90	53.83
14,542	South Kilworth	14961	232.00	64.49
8,450	Stoughton	8450	171.10	49.39
18,420	Swinford	19402	268.50	72.26
3,524	Theddingworth	3594	100.90	35.62
69,500	Thurnby & Bushby	79500	1,433.50	55.46
13,750	Tilton	14000	276.00	50.72
11,010	Tugby	12110	178.90	67.69
9,198	Tur Langton	9583	109.10	87.84
14,280	Ullesthorpe	13736	433.10	31.72
8,580	Willoughby Waterleys	9055	146.20	61.94
5,112	Wistow	1000	115.40	8.67
<b>1,896,917</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,039,159</b>	<b>26,537.7</b>	<b>3,490.85</b>

**Note:** Of the 91 Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in Harborough District, 29 of those do not levy a precept.

# Flood defence

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2369km), Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2292km) and Severn and Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2486km). 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.

Leicestershire County Council pays flood defence levies to the following Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC) of the Environment Agency

The financial details are:

## Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

	Trent		Anglian Northern		Severn and Wye	
	2020/2021 £000S	2021/2022 £000S	2020/2021 £000S	2021/2022 £000S	2020/2021 £000S	2021/2022 £000S
Gross expenditure	£75,473	£58,034	£106,388	£88,045	£27,625	£28,012
Levies raised from council	£2,137	£2,180	£1,715	£1,732	£1,174	£1,197
Total council tax base	1,848	1,842	602	603	988	985

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.

	Trent	Anglian Northern	Severn and Wye
2020/2021	£2,137,291	£1,714,625	£1,173,590
Increased %	2.0%	1.0%	2.0%
2019/2020	£2,180,032	£1,731,771	£1,197,062

	2020/2021 £000S	2021/2022 £000S
Anglian Northern	46	46
Severn & Wye	7	7
Trent	243	243
<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>296</b>

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