

# PAYING YOUR COUNCIL TAX OR BUSINESS RATES

Direct Debit is the most efficient and cost-effective method of payment for both the Council Taxpayer/Business Ratepayer and the council. This method also gives you the added advantage of the Direct Debit guarantee. To arrange payment by Direct Debit, just complete the instruction enclosed with your bill and we will do the rest.

The bill enclosed with this leaflet contains detailed information regarding your Council Tax or Business Rates.

When you move house, please remember to tell us. It will help if you can provide the following information -

- The date you are to move
- If you have sold the property, the date of completion and who has purchased it
- The name and address of the landlord (if you are the tenant)
- Your new address

If you have any query regarding your Council Tax bill or Business Rates, please ring the relevant helpline number shown on the right, or contact the Revenue Services Division at the address on your bill.

## REMEMBER...

You are liable for payment even if you have an appeal outstanding against your Council Tax band, or Rateable Value. If your appeal is successful, you will be entitled to a refund of any overpaid amount.

# HOW BUSINESS RATES ARE SET

The Rateable Value of non-domestic property is assessed by the Valuation Officer. All non-domestic property is revalued every five years. From 1 April 1995 the rateable value of a property represents its annual open market rental, as at 1

# IF YOU NEED HELP

**Council Tax Benefit** can help with your Council Tax, but will be restricted to a maximum amount, equivalent to Council Tax charged at Band E.

**Housing Benefit** can help with some, or all, of your rental liability. The amount of Benefit you may receive will depend on the amount of your rent (or the Rent Officer's determination of a fair rent, if this is lower), your personal circumstances, income and savings. Benefit entitlement will only be considered once a completed application is received by the council.


*Please note: late application may result in the loss of Benefit.*

Further details about Benefits can be obtained from the Revenue Services Division, Civic Centre, Sandown, or by telephoning the helpline below.

Benefit claim forms are available at council offices and Community Information Points.

## HELPLINES

If you have any questions, dial direct to these numbers:

	<b>Council Tax</b>	<b>823901</b>
	<b>Business Rates</b>	<b>823920</b>
	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>823950</b>

### If you want to find out more

Councillors' addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from the Customer Service Centre at County Hall, Newport (tel **823200**), libraries, or Community Information Points. The council's main telephone number is **821000**.

### Your rights as a citizen

You have important rights, subject to certain limitations, to attend all council and committee meetings and to read and copy all agendas and related reports. You can find out how to lodge a complaint about any council service by contacting the Customer Service Centre (Tel **823200**). If the council cannot resolve the complaint to your satisfaction and you think you have suffered injustice through maladministration by the council, you can put your complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman. A free booklet about this service is available from the council's Customer Service Centre and Community Information Points, or from:

**The Local Government Ombudsman, 21 Queen Anne's Gate,**

INFORMATION ABOUT  
YOUR

# COUNCIL TAX

# 1990-2002



ISLE of  
WIGHT  
COUNCIL



# THE AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX YOU PAY DEPENDS ON THESE FOUR FACTORS...

## THE LEVEL OF TAX SET BY THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

The level of tax set by the council to cover the cost of the services it will provide in 1999-2000 is 8.99 per cent higher than in 1998-99. This is a rise of £1.03 per week for a typical (Band C) Island Council taxpayer, made up as follows....



Per Week

Central government settlement **48p**

PLUS

Extra spending in schools, social services etc **90p**

MINUS

Net savings achieved across the council **35p**

**= £1.03 per week extra**

## THE LEVEL OF SPENDING SET INDEPENDENTLY BY THE HAMPSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY



The element of Council Tax that relates to the Hampshire Police Authority will rise by 7.5 per cent in 1999-2000, equivalent to 6p per week more for a Band C Taxpayer.

## THE PROPERTY BAND YOU ARE IN

The value of your property, on 1 April 1991, will have been assessed by the independent listing officer, a central government agent. Your property will then have been placed in one of eight bands - your bill will show which one.

	Value of property (at 1/4/91)	Council Tax (excluding parishes)
<b>BAND A</b>	Up to £40,000	£522.98
<b>BAND B</b>	£40,001 - £52,000	£610.14
<b>BAND C</b>	£52,001 - £68,000	£697.31
<b>BAND D</b>	£68,001 - £88,000	£784.47
<b>BAND E</b>	£88,001 - £120,000	£958.80
<b>BAND F</b>	£120,001 - £160,000	£1,133.12
<b>BAND G</b>	£160,001 - £320,000	£1,307.45
<b>BAND H</b>	Over £320,000	£1,568.94

**Want to appeal against your property banding?**  
Further information about this is provided on your Council Tax bill

## WHETHER YOU LIVE IN AN AREA WHICH HAS A LOCAL COUNCIL

If you live in an area which has a local council - a town or parish council - your bill will include an amount towards its costs (see table, right).



# HOW IT ALL ADDS UP...

The combined cost to a Band D Council Taxpayer of the tax set by the Isle of Wight Council and Hampshire Police Authority, and of the individual parish and town council levies, is shown in this table.

	£ PER BAND D PROPERTY	£ TOTAL 1999-2000	£ TOTAL 1998-99
Isle of Wight Council	730.56	35,542,548	32,345,400
Hampshire Police Authority	53.91	2,622,781	2,419,000
<b>Parishes</b>			
Arreton	5.27	2,000.00	1,900.00
Bembridge	14.02	25,500.00	24,500.00
Brading	15.86	12,725.00	8,500.00
Brighstone	9.39	7,554.00	7,100.00
Calbourne	17.77	6,400.00	6,400.00
Chale	9.86	2,700.00	2,400.00
Cowes	15.83	55,140.00	40,000.00
East Cowes	8.83	17,500.00	17,000.00
Freshwater	11.96	27,035.74	26,000.00
Gatcombe	10.23	1,750.00	1,500.00
Godshell	9.91	5,775.00	5,000.00
Gurnard	8.67	6,240.00	6,000.00
Lake	9.34	17,000.00	12,000.00
Nettlestone & Seaview	7.40	10,900.00	10,300.00
Newchurch	8.12	8,600.00	8,600.00
Niton & Whitwell	8.22	7,500.00	6,500.00
Rookley	8.93	2,150.00	2,000.00
Sandown	27.97	58,100.00	56,100.00
Shalfleet	11.65	8,000.00	8,000.00
Shanklin	13.43	43,500.00	43,500.00
Shorwell	6.21	2,000.00	2,300.00
St Helens	15.43	8,300.00	3,100.00
Totland	11.81	13,431.00	12,900.00
Ventnor	17.76	42,500.00	42,500.00
Wootton Bridge	7.01	10,000.00	8,800.00
Wroxall	12.16	7,820.00	7,600.00
Yarmouth	15.94	6,800.00	5,700.00

NOTE: The council is required to show costs as they affect...



## KEEPING YOU INFORMED...

The council is legally required to provide a range of information about your Council Tax bill which is enclosed with this leaflet. On this side of the leaflet, statutory information is given about the council's budget for the coming financial year. Overleaf, you'll find details about how Council Tax is calculated and where you can pay your bill.

### Background to the budget

This year, the Government has not, at this stage, set a spending limit for local authorities such as the Isle of Wight Council, although it has retained powers to reduce, later on, any council's budget which it considers to be excessive. Instead, the Government has set a guideline level of spending based on what it thinks councils should spend on each of their major services. Any council which spends above its guideline will suffer a financial penalty, by way of reduced housing Benefit Subsidy. This penalty increases as spending rises.

The guideline of a 5.3 per cent increase for the IW Council for 1999-2000 allows for £1.2 million of new spending in schools, and £48,000 of new spending for care of older people, children's services and people with disabilities. This additional spending will be provided in full by the council in its coming budget.

The council will also be providing extra funding specifically for:

- community budgets to be administered in partnership with parishes, local organisations, and others across the Island;
- raising the Island's profile in the tourism market;
- delivering the first phase of a refurbishment programme for public toilets.

The Government guideline does not, however, fully reflect the extra spending needed to maintain council services at the same level, because of the impact of inflation, the cost of financing government-approved investment, and new legislative requirements.

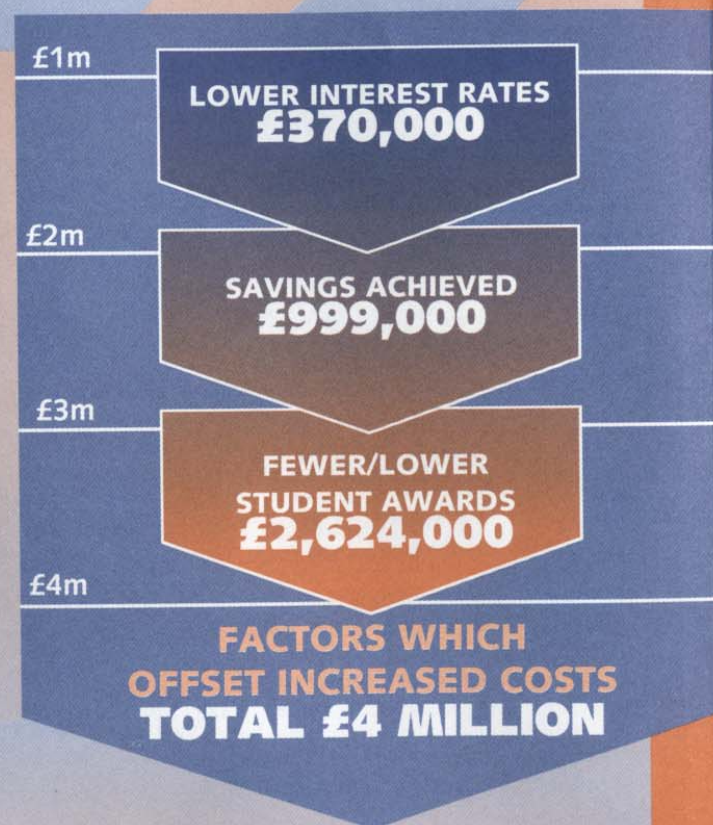
This means that to achieve the improvements outlined above, the council has had to identify a further £1 million of savings, in addition to those made in previous years. Even after finding such savings, the Council Tax increase for the IW Council's services will be 8.99 per cent, compared to the Government guideline of 5.3 per cent. This will result in a Government financial penalty, by way of reduced housing Benefit Subsidy, of £172,000.

When the Hampshire Policy Authority element of Council Tax is included, the increase becomes 8.89 per cent, equivalent to £1.09 per week for the typical (Band C) Island Council Taxpayer.

The 1999-2000 budget is outlined in more detail on the right

# YOUR GUIDE TO THE C

The Isle of Wight Council plans to spend £113.3 million in 1999-2000 on providing services for Islanders. This is £5.5 million higher than the 1998-99 budget. These are the main features of the forthcoming budget



Once increased costs and the factors which offset those increased costs have been taken into account, the budget increase over 1998-99

**£5.5 million**

## INCREASED COSTS FACING THE COUNCIL

**TOTAL £9.5 MILLION**

INFLATION  
**£3,565,000**

EXTRA SOCIAL SERVICES SPENDING  
**£548,000**

MORE MONEY FOR SCHOOLS  
**£1,155,000**

CAPITAL INVESTMENT FINANCING  
**£1,197,000**

NEW INITIATIVES  
**£460,000**

LOWER GOVERNMENT SPECIFIC GRANTS  
**£1,073,000**

BENEFIT PAYMENTS AND OTHER COSTS OF CONTINUING EXISTING SERVICE LEVELS  
**£1,476,000**

£9m

£8m

£7m

£6m

£5m

£4m

£3m

£2m

£1m

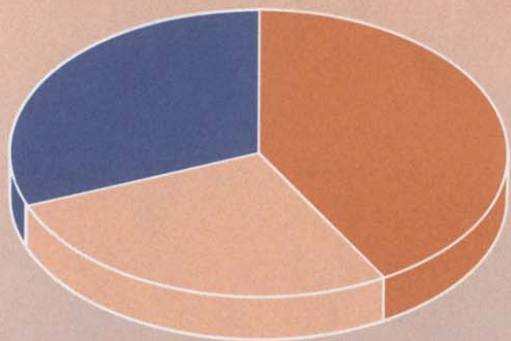


# COUNCIL'S BUDGET 1999-2000



These tables outline the Isle of Wight Council's anticipated income and expenditure in the coming financial year, and the revised figures for the current year (1998-99)

## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

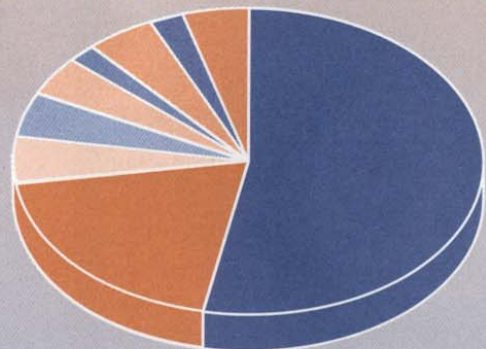


**Government grant** £45.5m/£361.21 per head/40.1%

**Business Rates** £32.1m/£255.30 per head/28.4%

**Council Tax** £35.7m/£283.82 per head/31.5%

## WHERE THE MONEY WILL GO



**Education** £60.2m/£477.89 per head/53.1%

**Social Services** £22.2m/£176.47 per head/19.6%

**Highways** £4.7m/£37.71 per head/4.2%

**Fire Service** £5.4m/£43.25 per head/4.8%

**Refuse** £4.8m/£37.90 per head/4.2%

**Environmental Health** £2.1m/£16.66 per head/1.9%

**Recreation & Tourism** £5.5m/£43.90 per head/4.9%

**Planning & Econ. Dev.** £1.3m/£9.93 per head/1.1%

**Other Services** £7.1m/£56.62 per head/6.2%

	GROSS EXPENDITURE £'000	INCOME £'000	NET EXPENDITURE £'000	GROSS EXPENDITURE £'000	INCOME £'000	NET EXPENDITURE £'000
Education	64,483	4,319	60,164	64,772	7,141	57,631
Social Services	31,773	9,556	22,217	31,243	10,067	21,176
Housing	1,220	442	778	1,150	461	689
Highways	4,981	234	4,747	5,192	235	4,957
Fire	5,510	65	5,445	5,350	62	5,288
Refuse collection and disposal	4,780	9	4,771	4,771	25	4,746
Environmental Health	2,157	59	2,098	2,195	61	2,134
Recreation and Tourism	6,123	596	5,527	6,086	555	5,531
Planning and Econ. Dev.	1,973	723	1,250	2,202	674	1,528
Other services	48,583	42,232	6,351	44,952	40,849	4,103
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>171,583</b>	<b>58,235</b>	<b>113,348</b>	<b>167,913</b>	<b>60,130</b>	<b>107,783</b>

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

As well as the revenue spending shown above, the council has estimated resources of over £14 million for investment in schools, road construction, housing, coast protection and other capital projects during 1999-2000. Most capital investment is financed by borrowing sanctioned by central government. Outstanding net borrowings at 31 March 1998 amounted to £54.1 million.

### INVESTING IN PEOPLE

The budget for 1999-2000 provides for the equivalent of 3,243 full-time posts, compared to 3,204 in 1998-99. This increase is due to more school staff and the council winning the contract to manage Ryde Ice Arena.

### CONTINGENCIES & RESERVES

The council's general reserve is estimated to stand at £1.9 million by 31 March 2000. The council also has other reserves to meet various future liabilities – mainly asset renewals and self-insurance cover, as well as balances held by schools with delegated budgets. These specific reserves are expected to total £6.8 million by 31 March 2000.

### LAND DRAINAGE LEVY

The council's budget includes £288,662 for land drainage, payable to the Environment Agency (formerly the National Rivers Authority). This compares with £274,919 in 1998-99.