

Council Tax 2015-2016

As part of the Government's approach to reducing the cost of public services, funding for the Fire Service has been reduced for the fifth successive year. The amount of Government funding allocated to Cleveland Fire Authority for 2015/16 is £15.1m. This is nearly £1.8m less than the amount allocated in 2014/15, a reduction of 10.4%.

The total funding cut since 2010/11 is £7.4m, a reduction of 32.9%. This funding reduction means that we have had to look at more innovative ways of delivering services.

To balance the 2015/16 budget and address the £1.8m Government grant cut the Authority has restructured back office support services, which will save nearly £1m per year and introduced new technologies and vehicles which will save £0.4m per year. These changes have not impacted on the safety of the community which remains at the heart of our work.

The remaining shortfall has been addressed from a combination of a 1.9% Council Tax increase and growth in the number of houses within the Authority's area, which increases income by £0.4m per year.

The table below shows the amount payable depending on the banding of your property. Council Tax for a Band D property will be £70.36 per year (£1.35 per week).

Property Band	Property Value as at 1st April 1991	Fire Authority Charge (£)		Weekly Cost
		2014/15	2015/16	2015/16 (£)
A	Up to £40,000	46.03	46.91	0.90
B	£40,001 to £52,000	53.71	54.72	1.05
C	£52,001 to £68,000	61.38	62.54	1.20
D	£68,001 to £88,000	69.05	70.36	1.35
E	£88,001 to £120,000	84.39	86.00	1.65
F	£120,001 to £160,000	99.74	101.63	1.95
G	£160,001 to £320,000	115.08	117.27	2.26
H	Over £320,001	138.10	140.72	2.71

Where the money will be spent

The following table shows the breakdown of the budget for the coming year and how it will be spent

	Budget 2014/2015 £m	Budget 2015/2016 £m
Community Fire Safety	3.867	3.321
Fire fighting and Rescue Operations	17.714	17.505
Management and Support Services	7.652	7.307
Corporate Expenses	0.249	0.230
Gross Expenditure	29.482	28.363
LESS:		
Income from Fees and Charges	-0.663	-0.756
Net Expenditure	28.819	27.607
Funded by:		
Contributions from balances and collection fund surpluses	-0.284	-0.230
Business Rates	-1.935	-2.100
Government funding	-16.959	-15.236
Expenditure to be met from Council Tax	9.641	10.041