

Dover District Council

Your Council Tax

2023/24

Dover District Council, Kent County Council, The Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority together deliver most of the local services in your area. Your local parish or town council also provides some local services.

The Council Tax you pay is collected by Dover District Council on behalf of all the above authorities. The total amount is then divided between these authorities.

Dover District Council
Council Tax Section
Email: council.tax@dover.gov.uk
dover.gov.uk/counciltax

Phone: 01304 872199

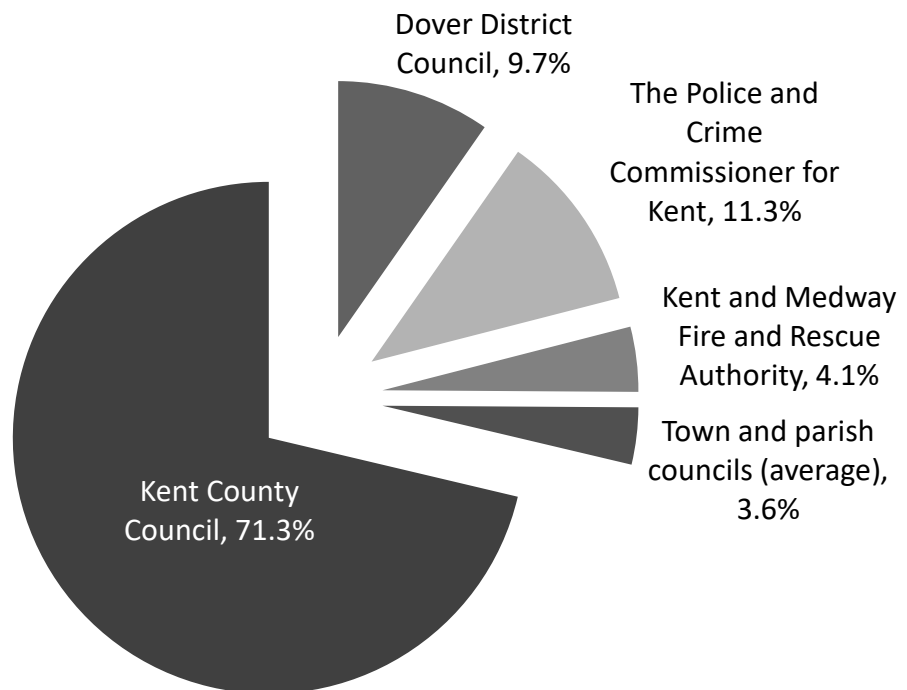


Where your Council Tax goes 2023/24

Council Tax breakdown by band (excluding parish precepts)

House Band	Kent County Council £	Dover District Council £	The Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent £	Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Authority £	Total Council Tax (excluding parish precepts) £
A	1,022.82	138.78	162.10	58.20	1,381.90
B	1,193.29	161.91	189.12	67.90	1,612.22
C	1,363.76	185.04	216.13	77.60	1,842.53
D	1,534.23	208.17	243.15	87.30	2,072.85
E	1,875.17	254.43	297.18	106.70	2,533.48
F	2,216.11	300.69	351.22	126.10	2,994.12
G	2,557.05	346.95	405.25	145.50	3,454.75
H	3,068.46	416.34	486.30	174.60	4,145.70

Council Tax percentage breakdown



Does everyone pay the same amount of Council Tax?

How much you pay depends on:

- the Council Tax 'band' your home is put in
- the town or parish you live in
- if your home is occupied by less than two adults
- if you are entitled to any reductions, exemptions, discounts or Council Tax Support that can help reduce your Council Tax payments.

What band is my home in?

The band for your home is printed on your bill. The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) values domestic properties for council tax. This valuation is used to set your council tax band. You might need to contact the VOA if you think your council tax band is wrong.

The Council Tax banding letters A – H shown in the banding table below, are based on the capital value or selling price of your property as it would have been on 1 April 1991.

The Valuation Office Agency places every home into one of the following bands:

Valuation band range of values

Band A Up to and including £40,000

Band B £40,001 - £52,000

Band C £52,001 – £68,000

Band D £68,001 - £88,000

Band E £88,001 – £120,000

Band F £120,001 – £160,000

Band G £160,001 - £320,000

Band H More than £320,000

What if I think my Council Tax band is wrong?

You need to contact the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and ask to have the banding reviewed. You can find out more about when you can challenge your band and what you need to do at gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band. If you challenge your band, you must continue to pay council tax at your current band until your appeal is decided. You can contact the VOA at gov.uk/contact-voa

If you are unable to use the online service you can also contact the VOA on 03000 501 501.

Do bear in mind that band A is the lowest band. If your home is in band A, the band cannot be reduced further. You may, however, be entitled to a reduction on your bill – see our Council Tax discounts section.

Council Tax charges 2023/24

Council Tax has to be paid for most homes, whether rented or owned, lived in or not. The actual amount you pay depends on the band your property has been given and your personal circumstances. The table below shows the amount payable for each band in Dover for 2023/24:

Area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alkham	1,415.18	1,651.05	1,886.90	2,122.77	2,594.49	3,066.23	3,537.95	4,245.54
Ash	1,430.56	1,668.99	1,907.41	2,145.84	2,622.69	3,099.55	3,576.40	4,291.68
Aylesham	1,462.63	1,706.40	1,950.17	2,193.94	2,681.48	3,169.03	3,656.57	4,387.88
Capel-le-Ferne	1,429.69	1,667.98	1,906.25	2,144.54	2,621.10	3,097.67	3,574.23	4,289.08
Deal	1,427.99	1,665.99	1,903.98	2,141.98	2,617.97	3,093.97	3,569.97	4,283.96
Denton-with-Wootton	1,434.09	1,673.10	1,912.11	2,151.13	2,629.16	3,107.19	3,585.22	4,302.26
Dover	1,453.32	1,695.54	1,937.76	2,179.98	2,664.42	3,148.86	3,633.30	4,359.96
Eastry	1,430.51	1,668.93	1,907.34	2,145.76	2,622.59	3,099.43	3,576.27	4,291.52
Eythorne	1,419.96	1,656.62	1,893.28	2,129.94	2,603.26	3,076.58	3,549.90	4,259.88
Goodnestone	1,410.03	1,645.04	1,880.04	2,115.05	2,585.06	3,055.08	3,525.08	4,230.10
Great Mongeham	1,405.05	1,639.22	1,873.39	2,107.57	2,575.92	3,044.27	3,512.62	4,215.14
Guston	1,447.27	1,688.49	1,929.69	2,170.91	2,653.33	3,135.76	3,618.18	4,341.82
Hougham-without	1,429.24	1,667.45	1,905.65	2,143.86	2,620.27	3,096.69	3,573.10	4,287.72
Langdon	1,426.00	1,663.67	1,901.33	2,139.00	2,614.33	3,089.67	3,565.00	4,278.00
Lydden	1,423.69	1,660.98	1,898.25	2,135.54	2,610.10	3,084.67	3,559.23	4,271.08
Nonington	1,403.00	1,636.84	1,870.66	2,104.50	2,572.16	3,039.84	3,507.50	4,209.00
Northbourne	1,410.22	1,645.26	1,880.29	2,115.33	2,585.40	3,055.48	3,525.55	4,230.66
Preston	1,418.13	1,654.48	1,890.83	2,127.19	2,599.90	3,072.61	3,545.32	4,254.38
Ringwould-with-Kingsdown	1,414.69	1,650.47	1,886.25	2,122.03	2,593.59	3,065.16	3,536.72	4,244.06
Ripple	1,404.90	1,639.05	1,873.20	2,107.35	2,575.65	3,043.95	3,512.25	4,214.70
River	1,411.12	1,646.31	1,881.49	2,116.68	2,587.05	3,057.43	3,527.80	4,233.36
St Margarets-at-Cliffe	1,429.18	1,667.38	1,905.57	2,143.77	2,620.16	3,096.56	3,572.95	4,287.54
Sandwich	1,472.54	1,717.97	1,963.38	2,208.81	2,699.65	3,190.51	3,681.35	4,417.62
Shepherdswell-with-Coldred	1,424.84	1,662.32	1,899.78	2,137.26	2,612.20	3,087.16	3,562.10	4,274.52
Sholden	1,414.83	1,650.64	1,886.44	2,122.25	2,593.86	3,065.48	3,537.08	4,244.50
Staple	1,407.69	1,642.31	1,876.92	2,111.54	2,580.77	3,050.01	3,519.23	4,223.08
Stourmouth	1,429.97	1,668.30	1,906.62	2,144.95	2,621.60	3,098.26	3,574.92	4,289.90
Sutton-by-Dover	1,413.68	1,649.30	1,884.90	2,120.52	2,591.74	3,062.98	3,534.20	4,241.04
Temple Ewell	1,411.65	1,646.93	1,882.20	2,117.48	2,588.03	3,058.59	3,529.13	4,234.96
Tilmanstone	1,414.58	1,650.35	1,886.10	2,121.87	2,593.39	3,064.93	3,536.45	4,243.74
Walmer	1,430.55	1,668.98	1,907.40	2,145.83	2,622.68	3,099.54	3,576.38	4,291.66
Whitfield	1,417.63	1,653.91	1,890.17	2,126.45	2,598.99	3,071.54	3,544.08	4,252.90
Wingham	1,432.73	1,671.53	1,910.31	2,149.10	2,626.67	3,104.26	3,581.83	4,298.20
Woodnesborough	1,412.36	1,647.76	1,883.14	2,118.54	2,589.32	3,060.12	3,530.90	4,237.08
Worth	1,416.93	1,653.09	1,889.24	2,125.40	2,597.71	3,070.03	3,542.33	4,250.80

What do the council's services cost to run?

The net budget requirement for 2023/24 is estimated at £18,732k, an increase of £1,347k (7.7%) on last year's forecast. The Council's Band D Council Tax has increased by £6.03 for the year, which is less than 12 pence per week.

Dover District Council	Gross Expenditure £000	Total Income £000	Budget Net cost 2023/24 £000	Forecast Net cost 2022/23 £000
Chief Executive	2,955	-186	2,769	2,825
Operations and Commercial	9,500	-4,169	5,331	6,244
Corporate Resources	33,032	-24,838	8,194	7,001
Shared Services hosted by DDC	28,411	-19,491	8,920	8,102
Special Revenue Projects	0	0	0	113
Corporate Adjustments	462	-603	-141	-356
Directorate costs recharged to HRA & Capital Projects	0	-5,288	-5,288	-4564
Contributions to/-from Reserves & Balances	0	-70	-70	-1040
Interest and Investment Income	0	-1,935	-1,935	-1640
Other Financial Items/ Adjustments	2,228	-1,276	952	700
Total: General Fund	76,566	-57,856	18,732	17,385
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	23,668	-23,668	0	0
Totals 2023/24	100,256	-81,524	18,732	17,385
2022/23 Comparison	106,209	-67,387	17,385	

Calculation of Council Tax Income 2023/24	£'000
Planned spending 2023/24	100,256
Less, income 2023/24	-81,524
Net cost of services	18,732
Less, from the Government and Business Rates Payers –	
Revenue Support / Lower Tier Services Grant	-1,148
Business Rates Share	-8,562
New Homes Bonus Grant	-645
Less Collection Fund Deficit	-55
Remaining amount to collect as Council Tax	8,322

How is my 2023/24 Council Tax worked out?

The council tax for Dover District Council is worked out by looking at what money is needed to run the services we provide, based on what we have set as our budget for the coming year.

The total amount of council tax we need to collect is identified as the difference between the budget we need and the money we already have to spend on services. This is shown in the table below:

Budget Summary	2023/24 Budget £'000	2022/23 Budget £'000	Difference %
Net Budget 2023/24	17,385		
Inflation	2,691		
Net movement in contributions to reserves & balances (Note 1)	-1,018		
One-offs (Note 2)	960		
Growth (Note 3)	682		
Identified savings (Note 4)	-1,968		
Net Budget 2023/24	18,732	17,385	7.75%
Less: Funding:			
Business Rates Share	8,562	7,746	10.53%
Government Revenue Support & Other Grants	1,148	482	138.17%
New Homes Bonus Grant	645	1,229	-47.52%
Collection Fund Deficit	55	-109	
Total Funding	10,410	-9,348	11.36%
Expenditure to be met by Council Tax payers	8,322	8,038	3.53%
Divided by equivalent number of Band D properties	39,974.37	39,763.21	0.53%
	£	£	%
Dover Tax level (Band D)	208.17	202.14	2.98%
Add:			
Kent County Council precept	1,534.23	1,461.24	4.99%
The Police & Crime Commissioner for Kent precept	243.15	228.15	6.57%
Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Service precept	87.3	82.35	6.01%
Council Tax level (Band D)	2,072.85	1,973.88	5.01%

Notes:

- 1) Use of reserves to smooth the impact of current pressures from macro economic environment.
- 2) Anticipated changes relating to the Port Health Service and Leisure Service support requirements.
- 3) Service impacts from Homelessness and Benefits due to economic environment.
- 4) Expected savings and income generation anticipated in year.

Parish Council charges 2023/24

All areas within Dover have parish or town councils and they also ask Dover District Council to collect their “precepts”. These precepts are calculated by the parish or town councils and then divided up as shown below.

Area	Tax Base 2023/24 No.	Precept 2023/24 £	Band D 2023/24 £	Band D 2022/23 £	Difference £	Difference %
Alkham	309.08	15,430.00	49.92	45.38	4.54	10.00%
Ash	1,294.18	94,465.00	72.99	71.99	1.00	1.39%
Aylesham	1,634.04	197,865.90	121.09	113.17	7.92	7.00%
Capel-le-Ferne	669.42	47,993.00	71.69	70.54	1.15	1.63%
Deal	6,884.60	475,932.40	69.13	69.13	0.00	0.00%
Denton-with-Wootton	177.57	13,900.00	78.28	78.29	-0.01	-0.01%
Dover	8,352.16	894,782.00	107.13	103.87	3.26	3.14%
Eastry	852.66	62,167.44	72.91	71.50	1.41	1.97%
Eythorne	799.85	45,665.00	57.09	55.50	1.59	2.86%
Goodnestone	176.20	7,435.96	42.20	42.08	0.12	0.29%
Great Mongeham	292.75	10,164.28	34.72	34.04	0.68	2.00%
Guston	446.39	43,773.00	98.06	102.48	-4.42	-4.31%
Hougham–without	179.54	12,750.00	71.01	69.18	1.83	2.65%
Langdon	241.89	16,001.00	66.15	66.07	0.08	0.12%
Lydden	298.29	18,700.00	62.69	59.01	3.68	6.24%
Nonington	300.82	9,520.00	31.65	31.93	-0.28	-0.88%
Northbourne	278.97	11,850.00	42.48	42.50	-0.02	-0.05%
Preston	392.71	21,338.00	54.34	53.55	0.79	1.48%
Ringwould-with-Kingsdown	1,020.66	50,200.00	49.18	42.43	6.75	15.91%
Ripple	154.40	5,326.80	34.50	33.00	1.50	4.55%
River	1,487.94	65,216.00	43.83	43.83	0.00	0.00%
St Margarets–at–Cliffe	1,325.39	94,000.00	70.92	70.97	-0.05	-0.07%
Sandwich	2,048.68	278,538.53	135.96	135.96	0.00	0.00%
Shepherdswell-with-Coldred	784.02	50,500.00	64.41	59.02	5.39	9.13%
Sholden	731.21	36,122.16	49.40	49.63	-0.23	-0.46%
Staple	244.61	9,464.00	38.69	33.26	5.43	16.33%
Stourmouth	115.75	8,346.00	72.10	66.64	5.46	8.19%
Sutton–by–Dover	311.66	14,858.00	47.67	42.39	5.28	12.46%
Temple Ewell	675.93	30,170.00	44.63	42.51	2.12	4.99%
Tilmanstone	162.40	7,961.00	49.02	46.61	2.41	5.17%
Walmer	3,372.32	246,119.85	72.98	67.95	5.03	7.40%
Whitfield	2,236.86	119,900.00	53.60	53.73	-0.13	-0.24%
Wingham	709.28	54,080.84	76.25	75.06	1.19	1.59%
Woodnesborough	511.38	23,364.95	45.69	44.80	0.89	1.99%
Worth	500.74	26,315.00	52.55	50.05	2.50	5.00%
TOTAL /Average	39,974.37	3,120,216.11	78.06	75.93	2.13	2.81%

Parish Council charges 2023/24 (continued)

For more information about parish or town council's budgets and activities, please contact your parish clerk. You can find their contact details on our website dover.gov.uk

The following parish and town councils intend to raise more than £140,000 through Council Tax for the financial year 2023/24.

	Aylesham Parish Council £'000	Deal Town Council £'000	Dover Town Council £'000	Sandwich Town Council £'000	Walmer Parish Council £'000
Nature reserves, Allotments & Recreation	27	4	145	7	13
Grants awarded	20	23	59	0	5
Tourism & Regeneration	0	(7)	108	28	17
Public conveniences	0	35	10	22	16
Other services	151	425	732	298	195
Transferred to/(from) balances	0	(4)	(159)	(76)	0
Precept	198	476	895	279	246

Percentage increases shown on your Council Tax bill.

The Council Tax regulations require the Council Tax bill percentage increases to be shown to one decimal place. The percentage increases for 2023/24 are as follows:

Precept	Band D value £	Percentage increase	Percentage increase on Council Tax bill
Kent County Council	1,331.82	2.9995%	3.0%
Kent County Council – Adult Social Care (ASC)	202.41	1.9956%	2.0%
Kent Police & Crime Commissioner	243.15	6.57%	6.6%
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority	87.30	6.01%	6.0%
Dover District Council	208.17	2.98%	3.0%

Council Tax discounts

Only one adult lives in my property – what discounts apply to me?

The amount of Council Tax due, based on your band, is also based on at least two adults living in a property as their main home. When we say 'adult' we mean a person over the age of 18. People under 18 years old are not counted for Council Tax. You should contact us about a discount if there are not two adults living in your property.

The most common discount is a 'single occupier discount'. This is where only one adult lives in a property as their only or main home. This discount gives a 25% reduction on the full Council Tax.

Other Council Tax discounts and exemptions

There are other discounts and exemptions that can apply to certain people or types of properties. Some people are not counted for Council Tax purposes, such as full-time students. Here are examples of the personal circumstances that could affect how much Council Tax you pay:

- full-time students, student nurses, apprentices or youth trainees
- people residing permanently in hospital or care homes
- severely mentally impaired people
- people aged 18 and 19 years, who are at or have just left school
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under 18
- people who have been detained (unless imprisoned for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine)
- people in respect of whom Child Benefit is payable

If all but one of the adults is not counted (are disregarded) for Council Tax purposes a 25% discount can be given. If all the adults are not counted (are disregarded) for Council Tax purposes the discount will be 50% (unless you would qualify for an exemption).

Disabled person relief

If your property has been changed to make extra space to allow for the needs of a disabled person, you may be entitled to a reduction. The requirements of the relief are if the disabled person needs:

- sufficient floor space to permit the use of a wheelchair and the disabled person needs to use a wheelchair indoors
- a room set aside for equipment used only or mainly by the disabled person, or
- an extra bathroom or kitchen which has been added to meet the disabled person's needs.

With this reduction, the disabled relief will reduce the Council Tax by one band or if the property is already in a band A, by the equivalent of one ninth of Band D.

Reductions that can apply to certain types of people or certain types of properties:

- care workers working for low pay, usually for charities
- diplomats and their non-British spouses
- full time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth training trainees
- members of international organisations
- members of religious communities
- non-British spouses of students
- people aged 18 and 19 who are at or have just left school
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under 18
- people permanently residing in hospital
- people staying in certain hostels and night shelters
- people who are being looked after in care homes permanently
- people who are severely mentally impaired
- people who have been detained (except for those in prison for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine)
- persons for whom Child Benefit is payable.

Properties that need or are undergoing structural alterations or major repair works

Properties that are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished and require or are undergoing structural alterations or major repair works to make them habitable will be able to get a 100% discount on their Council Tax bill for up to 12 months.

Discount for annexes

You may get a 50% discount on the Council Tax for an annexe if:

- the annexe forms part of a single property which includes at least one other property; and
- the person living in it is a relative (under the age of 65) of the person who is responsible for paying the Council Tax on the main property; or
- the annexe is being used as part of the main home by the person liable to pay Council Tax.

Reductions for Ukrainian Refugees

The Government has set out new guidelines to help protect Council Tax payers whose bills might have increased as a result of helping out under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. In addition there is a reduction for Ukrainian refugees who are renting an empty property. This applies to all Ukrainian refugees who have permission to enter or to stay in the United Kingdom granted under the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Further information can be found on the Dover District Council website at dover.gov.uk/CouncilTax/Discounts-and-exemptions

Council Tax exemptions

Any property that falls within one of the following classes (B – W) will be exempt from Council Tax. Please note there is no class A or class C Council Tax exemption.

B	Vacant for up to six months and owned by a charity (providing use for the purpose of that charity)
D	Property left empty by someone who has been detained (except for those in prison for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine)
E	Property left empty by someone who is permanently in care or hospital
F	Property left empty by a deceased person , waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted
G	Occupation prohibited by law
H	Vacant and being held available for a minister of religion
I	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to receive personal care
J	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to provide personal care
K	Vacant but previously occupied by students
L	Vacant where mortgagee is in possession
M	Student Halls of Residence
N	Properties only occupied by students
O	Properties owned by Secretary of State for Defence – armed forces accommodations
P	Properties occupied by members of visiting forces
Q	Vacant property where liable person is bankrupt
R	Vacant pitch or mooring
S	Property occupied by under 18's
T	Vacant annexe that cannot be let separately
U	Occupied only by people severely mentally impaired
V	Occupied by a diplomat
W	Annexe occupied by a dependent relative of the residents of the main building

Council Tax premium for long-term empty properties

An additional amount of Council Tax (a 'premium') is charged when a property has been empty and unfurnished for two years or more. From 1 April 2021, the following premiums apply:

- for properties that have been empty and substantially unfurnished for two years, but less than five years, the premium will remain set at 100%
- for properties that have been empty and substantially unfurnished for five years, but less than 10 years, the premium will be 200%
- for properties that have been empty and substantially unfurnished for 10 years or more, the premium will be 300%.

Government statement concerning adult social care funding

The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

Appeals about Council Tax

If you think that you shouldn't be billed for Council Tax, or the council has made a mistake in calculating your bill, you can appeal. Appeals should be made in writing to us and should tell us why you think your bill is wrong.

We will look at your appeal first and try to resolve any issues with you. If you are not happy with the answer, we will give you details on how to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal Service, who are independent from the council. You should keep paying your bill, even if you have appealed. If your appeal is successful, any overpayments will be refunded to you.

Council Tax Support

If you are on a low income, you may be entitled to some help to pay your Council Tax. To find out if you are entitled to Council Tax Support please see our website or contact us.

You must continue to pay your Council Tax even if you have made an appeal or are waiting for your Council Tax Support application to be processed. If your appeal or Council Tax Support claim is successful, any overpayment will be refunded to you.

In exceptional circumstances the council has the discretion to reduce or remit Council Tax. For further information, please contact us.

Council Tax instalments

You have the opportunity to make payment of your Council Tax over 12 instalments rather than 10. If you wish to make payment over 12 instalments you must contact us no later than 31 March 2023 and a revised bill will be sent to you.

Kent County Council's offer to care leavers

If you're leaving care to become independent and you're aged between 16 and 25, Kent County Council may be able to help support you through their local offer. If you have left care, and Kent County Council has appointed you a personal adviser, please pass your Council Tax bill to them to arrange payment.

You can find out more on the Kent County Council website at kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/childrens-social-work-and-families-policies/care-leavers-local-offer

Joint working

To make our service to you more efficient, Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council and Thanet District Council now process Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Council Tax liabilities and Business Rates liabilities for all three authority areas as part of an outsourced shared service.

The information you have supplied to us is held securely, but may now be accessed by staff authorised by Canterbury, Dover and Thanet, in order to work out entitlement to Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support or Council Tax and Business Rates liability.