

# Council Tax information 2020/21

Home help, day centres, support for disabled and vulnerable adult residents  
**28.9%**

Bus, rail, waste disposal and other Greater Manchester services  
**13.8%**

Roads and pavements, bins, street lights, regeneration, leisure facilities  
**10.3%**

Schools, teachers, youth services and caring for children  
**27.6%**

Support services and corporate budgets  
**4%**

GM mayoral general services, including fire  
**4.7%**

GM mayoral police services  
**10.7%**

Council Tax  
2020/21

## A message from your City Mayor

Salford City Council's budget has been cut year-on-year since 2010, reaching £211 million this year with national government core funding reduced by 53%.

It has therefore come as a welcome relief that in the upcoming year we have been able to agree a 'no cuts' budget for 2020/21, protecting services that are both important to you and supporting the most vulnerable.

To get to this position we have agreed a three year financial plan which shows how the council will fund services and deliver our priorities for Salford over a longer period.

The three year plan includes existing budget reduction commitments from previous years with a further £3.5 million projected budget cut in year three (2022/23).

We have only reached a stable situation this year through careful financial management, innovation in services, enforced increases in local taxes and growth which has expanded the council tax and business rates base, helping us to protect jobs and services in our city.

We will continue to find innovative ways to deliver effective services, raising income and stretching the resources we have where we can, while working closely with partners. We will also continue to maximise digital and technological solutions to improve access to services.

Extra money was announced after the election and it is welcome – but as well as being uncertain beyond next year, is not enough to meet the needs of our communities. An additional £5.9 million social care grant did not match the 2020 funding gap of £13 million, and that gap is set to rise to £32 million by 2023.

The government's current funding system pushes a form of taxation to balance budgets by expecting councils to increase council tax in 2020/21 by 1.99% and the adult social care precept by 2% to fund services. I appreciate that increases have a negative impact on already hard-pressed residents and I have written to the Secretary of State urging government to provide Salford and other deprived local authority areas with a fair financial settlement in future years to protect our services and provide a real future for everyone.

We continue to lobby for fairer national funding which recognises urban areas like Salford have been hit hardest by austerity.

Yours sincerely,  
**Paul Dennett**, City Mayor



## What will you pay in 2020?

The amount you have to pay depends on which band your home is in. This is shown on your council tax bill.



Band	Band value	Council tax 2019/20	Council tax 2020/21
<b>A</b>	Up to £40,000	£1,235.04	£1,292.99
<b>B</b>	£40,001 to £52,000	£1,440.87	£1,508.50
<b>C</b>	£52,001 to £68,000	£1,646.72	£1,723.99
<b>D</b>	£68,001 to £88,000	£1,852.57	£1,939.51
<b>E</b>	£88,001 to £120,000	£2,264.26	£2,370.50
<b>F</b>	£120,001 to £160,000	£2,675.93	£2,801.50
<b>G</b>	£160,001 to £320,000	£3,087.61	£3,232.50
<b>H</b>	Over £320,000	£3,705.14	£3,879.02

The bands are set by a government body which is part of HM Revenue and Customs. If you feel that your property has been placed in the wrong band you should call the Valuation Office Agency on 03000 501 501 or visit [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk)

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The council provides financial information on our website. This includes information on the charges of the Greater Manchester Mayor (including police and fire) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (including transport and waste).

Detailed information can be found at [www.salford.gov.uk/budget](http://www.salford.gov.uk/budget)

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## What is the increase made up of?

From 1 April your council tax bill will be rising. There is a 3.99% increase for council services, made up of a 1.99% increase in basic council tax and 2% to help fund adult social care.

At Salford City Council raising tax is always a last resort. However, we believe this increase is essential to protect services for vulnerable residents.

Every year, some of your council tax bill goes towards funding both the police and fire services. The Mayor of Greater Manchester is responsible for setting these charges as he is responsible for these services. An additional charge is also applied to fund other mayoral responsibilities. **The Greater Manchester (GM) precepts make up 15.4% of the total bill.**

Further information can be found at [www.salford.gov.uk/budget](http://www.salford.gov.uk/budget) and [www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/counciltax)



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## Ways to pay less council tax

The full council tax charge assumes there are two or more adults living in a dwelling. If you are the only adult resident, or all the other adults living with you are not counted, you can apply for a 25% discount.



The following people are not counted when we work out the council tax charge for your dwelling:

- Children under 18;
- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth training trainees;
- Residential hospital patients;
- People in residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels that are receiving a high level of care;
- People with a severe mental impairment;
- People over 18 that still qualify for Child Benefit;
- 18 or 19 year olds who leave school or college after 30 April are not counted until 1 November of the same year;
- Care workers living in the dwelling, working for low pay and usually employed by a charitable organisation;

- Carers caring for someone with a disability, unless the person being cared for is their spouse or dependent child;
- Prisoners in detention (unless for non-payment of fines or council tax);
- Diplomats and members of international defence organisations with headquarters in the UK (and their non-British spouses);
- Members of religious communities with no income or capital of their own and who are dependent upon the community for their material needs;
- Members of visiting forces;
- Non-British spouses of students who are prevented from taking paid employment or from claiming benefit.

### **People with disabilities**

If you, or a person that lives with you, has a disability you may qualify for a reduction. Your home must have an extra bathroom, kitchen or other room that is used mainly to help with the person's disability. You may also qualify if your dwelling has extra space to allow a wheelchair to be used in the home. If you qualify, your council tax will be charged at the rate of the band below the one your dwelling is in.

### **A family annex**

If your dwelling is an annex to a home occupied by other members of your family, you may be entitled to a 50% discount.

### **Council Tax Reduction**

Council Tax Reduction is support to help you pay your council tax bill if you are on a low income. If you qualify your bill will be reduced. We'll look at your income and savings and who lives with you to work out how much you get. If you think you qualify but it isn't showing on your bill you can apply at [www.salford.gov.uk/ctreduction](http://www.salford.gov.uk/ctreduction) If you already qualify you can view your entitlement on your Salford Customer Account at [www.salford.gov.uk/sca](http://www.salford.gov.uk/sca)

### **Empty properties**

A dwelling that becomes newly empty and unfurnished can get a 50% discount for a maximum of two months. The discount is against the property and will apply from the date it first falls empty and unfurnished. It cannot be applied again if the person liable to pay the council tax changes. If the dwelling remains empty, the full council tax charge will be payable after two months. Dwellings left unoccupied but furnished are called second homes and there is no discount for these.

### **Long term empty dwellings and the Empty Homes Premium**

Dwellings that stay empty and unfurnished for two years or more are charged a 100% premium on top of the council tax charge from 1 April 2019. From 1 April 2020 dwellings that have been empty for five years or more will be charged a 200% premium. The premium stays at 50% for any period between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2019.

## **A dwelling in need of, or undergoing, major repairs**

A 10% discount can be given for a dwelling that is either in need of, or undergoing, major repairs for a maximum twelve months. To qualify you will need to provide evidence of the extent of the works being undertaken, or needed, and only one discount for a maximum of twelve months can be applied for any period during which a dwelling is continuously empty. Modernisation works such as replacing kitchen units is not sufficient to qualify.

## **When you may not have to pay council tax**

There will be no charge for a dwelling whilst it is:

- Occupied only by students, school or college leavers, certain spouses of students, care leavers under 25, people under 18 or people with a severe mental impairment who would otherwise have been liable;
- Occupied only by someone who has diplomatic, commonwealth or consular privilege or immunity or by members of visiting forces;
- Left empty by the owner or tenant, who was the last occupier, and who has moved to receive or provide personal care in either a hospital or home elsewhere;
- Repossessed by a mortgage company;
- Empty because occupation is forbidden by law;
- Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion;
- Unoccupied and the responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee;
- Left empty by a student owner who lived in it immediately before leaving to study elsewhere (exemption ends when the owner ceases to be a student);
- An empty caravan pitch or houseboat mooring;
- Unoccupied because the last occupier, who was also the owner, had died and probate or letters of administration have not yet been granted (and for up to six months after if it remains empty);
- Official armed forces accommodation;
- An unoccupied annex to an occupied dwelling;
- An annex occupied by a dependent relative;
- Empty and owned by a charity (exempt for up to 6 months);
- Left empty because the owner is detained in prison, a hospital or other place of detention.

Qualifying conditions apply for all discounts, exemptions and reductions. For more information and to find out how to apply go to [www.salford.gov.uk/reducemybill](http://www.salford.gov.uk/reducemybill)



# Tell us about a change

If you or someone else moves into or out of a property, or you get a discount, exemption or reduction and your circumstances change, you must tell us within 21 days as it may affect the amount of council tax you have to pay. If you don't tell us within the 21 days you may be charged a penalty of £70. To tell us about a change go to [www.salford.gov.uk/mybill](http://www.salford.gov.uk/mybill)

## Your Salford Customer Account

You can use your Salford Customer Account (SCA) to view your council tax account, make a payment, set up a Direct Debit and view or change your payment plan. It's quicker, easier and better. Sign up at [www.salford.gov.uk/sca](http://www.salford.gov.uk/sca)

## Help and Support

If you are struggling with debt, help and support is available. Details are on the back of the letter sent with your council tax bill.



## RHS Garden Bridgewater

Salford City Council has made an arrangement with the RHS so that all Salford residents can enjoy free entry to RHS Garden Bridgewater on Tuesdays. The garden is due to open in August this year and more details will be available this summer at [www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater)



## Adult Care funding statement

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.

