

The Reporter

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

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SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

This has been produced as part of a consultation exercise which Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council is running from 1 October to 11 November.

The purpose of this exercise is to find out what local people think about some really important things linked to their Council Tax bills.

You probably already know from the television and newspapers that the Government has been reducing the amount of money it gives councils for local services.

The huge cut in support from Government means there is less to go round so your borough councillors need to prioritise where money is spent. Reduced cash for councils inevitably means we can't go on doing everything that has been done before.

But before the borough council makes any decisions, we want to hear what you have to say first.

This consultation exercise will enable you to do that and to make your voices heard BEFORE any decisions on where to spend money are made.

And once your borough councillors have heard what you have to say in this consultation exercise, they will then sit down and make some tough decisions on where to prioritise what your cash is spent on locally.



Cllr. Gareth Snell
Leader of the borough council



Cllr. Mike Stubbs
Cabinet member for finance and budget management

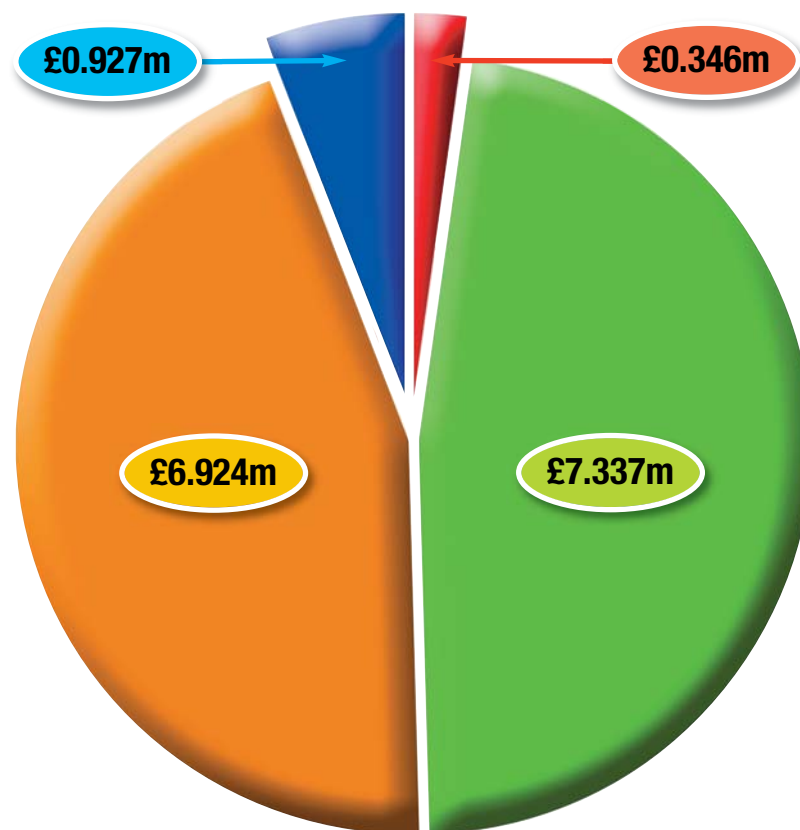
Council Tax - the facts...

An average household in Newcastle-under-Lyme pays **£1,450.99** in Council Tax each year.

The borough council collects all of this money from residents - but we only keep 12 per cent (**£176.93**) to pay for the services we run. The rest goes to:-

- Staffordshire County Council **£1,028.81**
- Staffordshire Police **£177.61**
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service **£67.64**
- Plus parish and town council precepts if you live in areas where they are in place.

Where the money comes from...



- Council Tax paid by you
- Contributions from council reserves
- Non-specific grants such as the one-off Council Tax freeze grants
- Central Government funding

How you can get involved

FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

MONDAY 1 OCTOBER	11AM TO 2PM	KING STREET, KIDSGROVE
FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER	11AM TO 2PM	TESCO, KIDSGROVE
SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER	10AM TO MIDDAY	MUSEUM, BRAMPTON
FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER	10AM TO 3PM	FARMERS' MARKET, NEWCASTLE
FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER	10AM TO 3PM	OUTSIDE GUILDHALL, NEWCASTLE
SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER	10AM TO MIDDAY	JUBILEE2, NEWCASTLE TOWN CENTRE
FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER	TBC	KEELE UNIVERSITY CANTEEN AND STUDENTS' UNION

PUBLIC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER	6.30PM TO 7.30PM	KIDSGROVE TOWN HALL
MONDAY 8 OCTOBER	6.30PM TO 7.30PM	WYE ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE, CLAYTON
THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER	6.30PM TO 7.30PM	RAMSEY RD COMM. CENTRE, CROSS HEATH
WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER	5.30PM TO 6.30PM	WHITFIELD COMM. CENTRE, THISTLEBERRY
FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER	6.30PM TO 7.30PM	CHESTERTON COMM. CENTRE, LONDON RD
WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER	6.30PM TO 7.30PM	MADELEY CENTRE
TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER	6.30PM TO 7.30PM	AUDLEY METHODIST CHAPEL

OR have your say on our website www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/budget
OR collect a budget consultation form from the Guildhall, Kidsgrove Customer Service Centre, the Madeley Centre, Jubilee2, Kidsgrove Leisure Centre and the Civic Offices.
Fill it in and send it back to us FREE.