

Council Tax approved to increase by 4.9%

Full Council has approved the 2019/20 budget today (15 February 2019), which includes the setting of Herefordshire Council tax rates which will come into effect from April 2019.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2019/20 to 2021/22 was also approved today which outlines the measures Herefordshire Council has taken since 2010 to deliver savings, and provides a financial forecast up to 2021/22. Central government's Revenue Support Grant has reduced from £60.1m in 2010/11 to £0.6m in 2019/20, forcing Herefordshire Council to deliver £90m of savings since 2010. Despite these financial challenges, the council continues to deliver a balanced budget and has increased general and earmarked reserves.

Around 70% of Herefordshire Council's main income stream comes from Council Tax. To achieve a budget contribution of just over £104m for 2019/20, a 4.9% Council Tax increase has been approved. The increase will be made from a core Council Tax increase of 2.9% and a 2% increase to the precept ring-fenced for the delivery of adult social care.

An average band D property will now pay Council Tax at £126.23 per month (over 12 months). This tax rate excludes the individual precepts set by each parish council, West Mercia Police and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service which will be decided in March 2019.

Some residents may be eligible for a Council Tax Reduction, or even pay nothing in certain circumstances (such as young adults who have left care) – see note and link at end of report. Those who are still experiencing financial difficulty may be entitled to a hardship payment.

Guide to Council tax information – Here is a guide to council tax.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/counciltax>

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200148/your_council/827/herefordshire_now

Guide to the Council Financial Strategy

Herefordshire Council's budget maintains financial stability, delivers efficiencies and supports investment in priority services, while demonstrating value for money and maintaining service quality with reducing resources. The council has a medium term financial strategy to 2020/21 where £19 million of savings have been identified in response to continued central government funding reductions.

View the Medium Term Financial Strategy

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1/medium_term_financial_strategy_201819_-_202021.pdf

Herefordshire Now - Council magazine

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200148/your_council/827/herefordshire_now

Corporate Plan

Herefordshire Council aims to deliver against bold and ambitious plans and, by working with our local and national partners. The council will continue to improve the quality of life for the county's residents. The current corporate plan for 2019/20 is below.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1500/corporate_plan_2016-20.pdf

Corporate Plan – 19/20

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50064624/Appendix%201%20for%20Corporate%20delivery%20plan%20201920.pdf>

Lugwardine man fined for attempting to fell a protected tree

Herefordshire Council has won a prosecution case against a man found guilty of undertaking unauthorised works to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

On 4 February 2019, in a case taken to Hereford Magistrates Court by Herefordshire Council's Conservation team, Roy Albert John Harrison (78) of Three Penny Bit Cottage, Lugwardine, pleaded not guilty to consenting to unauthorised works to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order. The court found Mr Harrison guilty and ordered him to pay costs of £5,000, a fine of £180 and a victim surcharge of £30.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/741/lugwardine_man_fined_for_attempting_to_fell_a_protected_tree

Attempted tipping of commercial waste at Recycling Centre

Herefordshire Council has won an enforcement case against a man found guilty of unlawfully disposing of waste at a Household Recycling Centre.

The case was taken to Hereford Magistrates' Court by Herefordshire Council's Community Protection Team on Wednesday 16 January 2019. Samuel Jones Bowstead, 27, of The Leys Cradley, pleaded guilty to failing in his duty of care to transfer waste to an authorised person and to failing to secure the transfer with a written description of the waste. Mr Bowstead received a fine of £270, a victim surcharge of £30 and was ordered to pay costs of £1500.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/727/man_fined_for_illegal_commercial_waste_disposal

The consultation on walking, cycling, bus and public space improvements in Hereford is running until 11 March 2019

Improving the way we travel in and around Hereford is important to reduce journey times, cut pollution, create a safer environment for all road users and make the city a better place to live, work, study and visit.

A consultation is currently underway asking people for their views on a series of proposed walking and cycling route improvements, including new cycle lanes, changes to junctions

and crossings and new footways. It also aims to learn more about what would encourage people to walk, cycle or take a bus more often for short distance journeys.

During a public consultation in February and March 2018 on the Hereford Transport Package, which includes the Hereford bypass, 87% of people who responded said they approved of the walking, cycling, bus and public space improvements proposed. Since then, work has been taking place to develop these further.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/HTP>

Work on exciting new Ross-on-Wye development set to begin in late spring

Following extensive pre-works last year, work will begin on the first phase of employment land at the new Ross Enterprise Park in late spring.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/753/beginning_in_sight_for_ross_enterprise_park



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Parishes

Sollers Hope PC - NDP

Sollers Hope Group PC have successfully achieved their NDP with a very large majority. Congratulations to Bernard and to the hard working parish council for their hard work achieving this say over their parish and its development.

Council tax reduction or exemption

You can get money off your Council Tax bill, or even pay nothing, in certain circumstances. A discount or exemption depends on your current situation and circumstances, but does not take account of income or savings. If you are on a low income, you may also be able to get help to pay your bill through Council Tax Reduction. We will need to assess your financial and other circumstances to see what help you qualify for. https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200146/council_tax/39/council_tax_reduction

Please report any problems on highways or footpaths using the links below or phone 01432261800.

Please note that Herefordshire Council strongly encourages Balfour Beatty to promote all service requests and queries should be logged via the HC website at <https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> or <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

Please use the website or call the customer services call handling team. This will help ensure that everything is logged in to the operating system known as CONFIRM where it can be responded to in a timely way.

For any PROW (Public Rights of Way) maps or problems, you can report these via the following link on the Herefordshire Council's website: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/248/public_rights_of_way_map
You can search for PROW information on the map using: - Footpath references, Postcodes, Addresses and Grid References e.g. 354000 254000

If you wish to make a claim as a result of damage to your vehicle
https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway_claimsplease_use

Ward Report

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

February 2019

Report fly tipping it will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame by either calling the Contact Centre above or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the links below as your enquiry
https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

General Data Protection Regulations Statement

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who hold and process personnel information, and it comes into force on the 25th May 2018; superseding the Data Protection Act 1998. As a County Councillor I hold a list of emails of local people that I have built up over the years which I retain and use on my council computer and email. I can give you all the reassurance that I do not and will not share those email addresses with any third party. **In seeking legal compliance as a data controller I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with my holding their email contact that you please advise me so that I am able to remove you from the list.** Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates, emails as required and occasional key information.