



## Your Council Tax in 2008-09



See inside for information about your bill, exemptions, discounts and benefits

# Introduction



Dear Resident,

This booklet provides you with information about your Council Tax and the local services that this helps to finance.

For band D tax payers, the cost of Runnymede services in 2008-09 will be £2.44 a week. This continues to be the lowest Council Tax in Surrey. In fact, last year the average annual Council Tax for local services in England was £182 at Band D, so Runnymede's Council Tax of £120.78 (or £2.32 per week) made it the sixth lowest in the country.

In spite of this low tax, the Council provides a wide range of quality services to meet the demands of our residents. Our surveys tell us that affordable housing, community safety and a clean and pleasant environment are important to residents and we continue receiving high satisfaction ratings for our services. Over the coming year we plan to invest £1.5 million in new housing schemes for rent and to open a new park in the Hythe, Egham which we have developed with local residents. You can find more details of our plans for the year in the budget book on our website and on page seven of this booklet.

This year we are once again amongst a handful of Councils that have received top marks for our financial management. While I am obviously delighted that the Council has received this recognition, our focus continues to be on the needs of our residents and providing you with value for money. We plan some £3 million of savings and efficiencies which we are well on the way to delivering.

I am looking forward to our move into the new offices in Addlestone which we shall share with Surrey Police and a new County Library. These modern facilities will help us to meet the demands of running your services in the 21st Century.

Councillor John Furey

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Furey".

Leader of Runnymede Borough Council

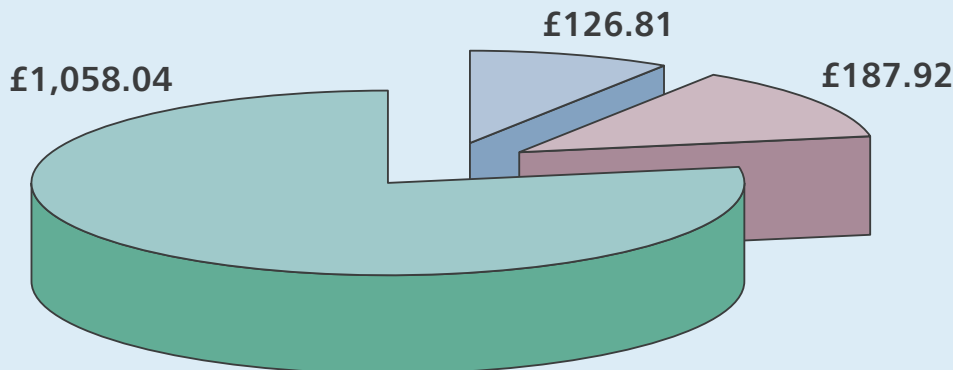
If you have any difficulty in reading this, we can offer an alternative format of this booklet. Please contact 01932 425504 or email [communications@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:communications@runnymede.gov.uk)

The content of this booklet is correct at the time of going to print.

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# Your Council Tax in 2008-09

Council Tax for Runnymede residents is £1,372.77 for a band D property. This pays for services provided by ■ Surrey County Council, ■ Surrey Police Authority and ■ Runnymede Borough Council.



The charge for each band is based on the open market value of your property at 1 April 1991. The Council Tax charge for each band in 2008-09 is:

Properties valued between	A £0 to £40,000 £	B £40,001 to £52,000 £	C £52,001 to £68,000 £	D £68,001 to £88,000 £	E £88,001 to £120,000 £	F £120,001 to £160,000 £	G £160,001 to £320,000 £	H Over £320,000 £
Runnymede Borough Council	84.54	98.63	112.72	126.81	154.99	183.17	211.35	253.62
Surrey County Council	705.36	822.92	940.48	1,058.04	1,293.16	1,528.28	1,763.40	2,116.08
Surrey Police Authority	125.28	146.16	167.04	187.92	229.68	271.44	313.20	375.84
	915.18	1,067.71	1,220.24	1,372.77	1,677.83	1,982.89	2,287.95	2,745.54

You can find out more about Runnymede Borough Council's part of your bill on the following pages. There are separate leaflets enclosed with your bill that detail the tax decisions of Surrey County Council and Surrey Police Authority.

# Reasons for the change in your Council Tax

The Runnymede Borough Council part of your Council Tax has increased by 5% this year. At band D tax this is an extra £6.03 a year, or about 12p a week. We use band D in our calculations because the legislation for Council Tax requires us to treat this as the basic amount of tax. About 32% of households in Runnymede are in band D. The table below shows the reasons for the changes in Runnymede's budgets and the impact on the band D Council Tax.

	Cost at band D £	Budget £000
<b>The Council Tax for 2008-09 is:</b>	<b>120.78</b>	<b>3,999</b>
Inflation	17.42	575
Service growth and cost increases	23.15	764
Reduction in use of reserves	11.48	379
Extra income	(17.48)	(577)
Savings and cost reductions	(24.09)	(795)
General government grant	(4.45)	(147)
<b>The Council Tax for 2008-09 is:</b>	<b>126.81</b>	<b>4,198</b>

## Our future plans

The budget for 2008-09 is based on using £971,000 of reserves to support services while keeping Council Tax increases to a minimum. If we had no reserves we would have to add a further £29 to the band D Council Tax.

We cannot keep using reserves - they run out with time. The government has set a 5% limit for increases in Council Tax. The amount of money this will raise is not sufficient to pay for the services we provide and we plan to make further savings.

Our plans are debated by councillors in committee and council meetings that are open to the public. Our financial plan (called the financial forecast) for the next five years is available on our web site at [www.runnymede.gov.uk](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk).

## How we use your personal data

Personal information gathered by Runnymede Borough Council for processing Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing and or Council Tax Benefits for local residents, is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will only be used in compliance with its principles.

The Council is required to collect and use certain types of information to meet legal obligations and to prevent and detect crime. That information may be shared with other officers of the Council and with Government Departments and agencies. Information is also gathered to allow the Council to conduct surveys and research, and to provide you with information about activities and events involving the Council or with offers which you might find of interest or can benefit.

The Council respects your privacy rights and is committed to ensuring that your personal information is protected. Personal information collected for Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing and or Council Tax Benefits uses will NOT be disclosed to third parties for marketing purposes. However, you should note that your property address and Council Tax band/Business Rateable value are publicly available information.

# Our priorities



-  **Access to affordable and decent housing**  
*providing affordable housing to those in greatest need*
-  **Access and transport**  
*identifying solutions to the borough's congestion*
-  **Community safety**  
*reducing the fear of crime by ensuring that residents feel safe and secure in their local community*
-  **Sustainable community**  
*protecting the environment, minimising waste and encouraging recycling*
-  **Economic prosperity**  
*creating an environment where businesses can prosper*
-  **Opportunities for young people**  
*addressing issues important to young people and providing activities and facilities for young people*
-  **Promoting leisure and culture**  
*promoting existing leisure and cultural activities and facilities and supporting new developments*
-  **Healthy and vibrant community**  
*encouraging independence for vulnerable people, and promoting healthy lifestyles*

For more information, you can see our Strategic Plan on our website at [www.runnymede.gov.uk](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk). Copies are also available for you to view at your local library or at the Civic Centre in Addlestone.

# Your services, your council



## Our finances

- Last year, the Audit Commission gave us their highest score for “Use of Resources”. The assessment focused on our financial management, how this links with our priorities and overall value for money for our services. We were one of only 13 district authorities in the country to get top marks for this assessment in 2007.

## Recycling

*Together, we're recycling 100 tonnes of waste each week. The Runnymede Borough Council's annual recycling target is 20% and our current percentage rate is above that, at around 24%.*

### ■ Garden waste

Last year our green waste recycling service was rolled out across the borough, and most residents can now join up for the service. Residents can pay for garden waste bags to be collected fortnightly.

### ■ Cardboard

We now have cardboard and mixed paper banks at recycling centres across the borough. We estimate that this will help us all to recycle around two percent more of our waste.

**Call our recycling hotline on 0800 052 0067 or email [recycling@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@runnymede.gov.uk)**



















