Ipswich Borough Council

COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION 2023/24

Message from Cllr David Ellesmere, Leader of Ipswich Borough Council:

Just as the Cost-of-Living-crisis is affecting every household in Ipswich, Ipswich Borough Council is also facing significant pressures on its budgets due to soaring costs. The funding the Council receives from the Government will only cover a fraction of these increased pressures.

We know how stretched household budgets are currently due to Cost-of-Living pressures, so we have worked hard to keep any council tax increase as low as possible. For the sixth year running Ipswich Borough Council's increase in council tax remains the lowest out of the three elements that make up your bill. For the average Band B property this equates to an increase of 17p a week for Ipswich Borough Council. Suffolk County Council's increase is 86p a week and Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner's increase is 22p.

We have also introduced changes to our Council Tax Reduction Scheme from April, to help more households on low incomes. These changes will cut the council tax bills of 10,406 Ipswich households, with 7,685 households having no council tax at all to pay this year.

We will save you money in other ways too.

Brown bin collections will remain free of charge for every household in Ipswich – we are the only council in Suffolk not charging for this service. We will continue to offer a free Summer I-Card for young people in Ipswich eligible for free school meals, with a heavily discounted I-Card scheme for all other households. Christchurch Mansion and our fantastic parks and play areas will remain free to use. Our free summer events programme, including Ipswich Music Day, will continue.

We will continue to invest in Ipswich, and especially the town centre, making St Stephen's Church a new music venue, improving Arras Square and funding a permanent police presence. We will regenerate the Pauls Silo area of the Waterfront, continue the refurbishment of Ipswich Museum and improve more play areas.

We will progress work on 300 new council houses and continue making the council carbon neutral by starting work on a new carbon neutral depot, continuing to replace the council's fleet with electric vehicles and by installing solar panels on council houses.

Despite the tough times we are facing, Ipswich Borough Council's finances remain on a sustainable footing. We still need to deliver savings and some projects may take longer to deliver than we would like, but we will continue to prioritise essential services for residents, local businesses and the Ipswich economy.
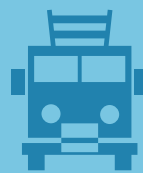

IPSWICH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

YOUR MONEY. INVESTED WELL.

Suffolk County Council

We spend **75p** of every **£1** we receive supporting those that need it most.

This includes older people, children and those who are the most vulnerable in Suffolk. These are important public services that we provide 365 days of the year.

The remaining **25p** in every **£1** pays for other vital services, including Suffolk Fire and Rescue, road maintenance, footpaths, public transport, waste services, libraries, culture, leisure, trading standards, community safety, biodiversity and tackling climate change.

Your council tax means we can make a positive difference in your community and continue to provide services that you can rely on.

Your contribution makes a real difference.

Councillor Matthew Hicks
Leader of Suffolk County Council

www.suffolk.gov.uk/counciltax

OUR AMBITIONS FOR SUFFOLK

Looking after our health and wellbeing	Strengthening our local economy	Protecting and enhancing our environment	Providing value for money for our residents

Message from Tim Passmore, Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk

Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

Suffolk Constabulary does a good job for the communities it serves. It is a low-cost force which offers good value for money.

This year the Constabulary was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and was rated as 'Good', which for a small force like Suffolk is a great result. I truly believe Suffolk punches above its weight compared to the bigger metropolitan forces.

We started this year with a new Chief Constable. Rachel Kearton joined Suffolk Constabulary in 2015 as Assistant Chief Constable and was promoted to Deputy

Chief in 2019. She has a wealth of experience and knows the enormous challenges ahead for us including finance, increasing demand and the changes in the pattern of crime. Improving public trust and confidence will be fundamental to her role and I look forward to working with Rachel to provide the very best police service possible.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, setting the budget is one of my most important responsibilities. I must ensure that the Constabulary has the resources needed to provide an efficient and effective service, whilst ensuring that I use Suffolk taxpayers' money for the maximum benefit.

Sadly, as has been the case for several years now, our funding from Government is just not enough. Suffolk is one of the lowest-funded forces in the country and faces significant challenges so I felt I had no choice but to opt for the 6% increase permitted by the Policing Minister. Our funding from Government increased by

only 1.75% and we are facing significantly higher cost pressures as a result of inflation, so hopefully you will appreciate there was a significant gap.

The additional council tax funding will increase the policing budget by £3.9m and give the Constabulary the resources it needs to help keep pace with the increased demands placed upon it. Fuller detail of how this funding will help us to meet with the changing policing needs is detailed on my website.

In addition to the seven extra officers and 18 staff to be funded by this precept, Suffolk Constabulary has increased by 228 police officers since 2020. This will mean we will have over 1400 officers in Suffolk by the end of March 2023, many more than there has ever been since I was first elected. This is good news for Suffolk because it will clearly help improve policing visibility countywide.

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Find out more at: **www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk**