



Council Tax & Business Rates Information

2012/13



Dear resident or business owner,

Blackpool Council has agreed its £144.2m budget for 2012/13 to provide more than 150 services for you, our residents.

This year we have had to make £10.6m savings but despite this we have managed to freeze the borough's council tax.

We have saved money through streamlining back-office services and reducing the number of senior managers, meaning the Council's front line services such as libraries and Children's Centres are protected from any cuts.

I will be honest, this is not the budget I would like to be setting for you this year, however it is the best we can deliver with the funds we have.

There are a number of difficult decisions we have had to make, not least ensuring that eligibility criteria is applied consistently in determining care packages for adults, meaning fewer will receive funded support. A review of day care services will take place.

The budget also allocated money towards the illuminations, securing the future of Mereside and Boundary libraries and Hoyle House.

Children's Centre budgets are protected along with all safeguarding services.

Our vision, mission, priorities and values

The budget has been set in line with our vision, mission, priorities and values which are set out below.

Our vision

We will build a Blackpool where aspiration and ambition are encouraged and supported. We will seek to narrow the gap between the richest members of our society and the poorest and deliver a sustainable and fairer community, of which our communities will be proud.

Our mission

We cannot hope to change our destiny merely by wishing for it, only by working for it. We will work with the public and private sectors, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, to achieve this.



Our priorities

1. Tackle child poverty, raise aspirations and improve educational achievement
2. Safeguard and protect the most vulnerable
3. Expand and promote our tourism, arts, heritage and cultural offer
4. Improve health and well-being especially for the most disadvantaged
5. Attract sustainable investment and create quality jobs
6. Encourage responsible entrepreneurship for the benefit of our communities
7. Improve housing standards and the environment we live in by using housing investment to create stable communities
8. Create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
9. Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce

Our values

1. We are accountable for delivering on the promises we make and take responsibility for our actions and the outcomes achieved.
2. We are committed to being fair to people and treat everyone we meet with dignity and respect.
3. We take pride in delivering quality services that are community focussed and are based on listening carefully to what people need.
4. We act with integrity and we are trustworthy in all our dealings with people and we are open about the decisions we make and the services we offer.
5. We are compassionate, caring, hard-working and committed to delivering the best services that we can with a positive and collaborative attitude.



Cllr Simon Blackburn
Leader of Blackpool Council

Bulky Matters

The Bulky Matters service, a partnership between Blackpool Council and the charity Furniture Matters, was launched in November 2009 with a view to transforming the town's bulky waste into a reusable resource to benefit the whole community.

To date the service has saved the equivalent of 35 double-decker buses in weight from going to landfill, with thousands of reusable household items collected from across Blackpool. Unwanted items are collected from inside residents' homes for a small charge, at a time convenient to the customer. Reusable items such as sofas and tables are then passed on to local people where possible via local organisations such as Trinity Hospice and Kensington Trust. Items that cannot be reused whole are stripped for parts and recycled, with only the residual waste going to landfill.

Bulky Matters will collect a wide range of household items including wooden furniture, sofas, beds, carpets, domestic appliances, toys, IT home equipment and bicycles, plus much more!

Collections are charged at £18.00 for up to three items and £6.00 per additional item thereafter.

Anyone wanting a Bulky Collection should call Customer First on **01253 477477** to arrange a convenient collection time. Costs and a full list of collectable items can be found at (www.blackpool.gov.uk/bulky matters)

“Don't leave it for me.”

Leaving dog poo behind can be very dangerous for children. **Pick it up.**

Blackpool Council



Dog poo can cause serious eye infections if you don't clean it up.

 Stay warm and well in Blackpool

Are you at risk from the cold?

Do you know someone who could be?

We're here to help with advice on:

1. Heating
2. Insulation
3. Repairs
4. Staying Active
5. Eating Well
6. Fighting Fuel Poverty

Call the new Warm Homes Helpline on 01253 476 843



*A Warm Homes Healthy People initiative led by Blackpool Council

BlackpoolCouncil

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diamond**pass**[™] gives you a pleasurebeach**pass**[™] for every day of the 2012 season. Enjoy the ambience of the park, ride on the Pleasure Beach Express, explore the Maze, Bradley and Bella's Learning Garden, enjoy the South Beach Show and don't miss our Spectacular Dancing Water Show and the summer spectacular new La Quebrada High Diving Show. Normal price £40.00

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Quote code 1216 for the platinum**pass**[™] and code 1217 for the diamond**pass**[™]

Terms and conditions apply. Proof of Blackpool FY postcode required. Offer valid until 31.5.12

About Your Council Tax

There is one bill per dwelling and each dwelling is allocated one of eight bands according to its open market capital value at 1st April 1991.

Your band is shown on your bill. There are strict time limits regarding appeals against your banding. Normally an appeal must be made within six months of you becoming liable for the Council Tax on your property. The Listing Officer will give you further details. You can appeal against your banding by writing to: The Listing Officer, Mitre House, Church Street, Lancaster, LA1 1HG, Telephone: 03000 501 501 or visit: www.voa.gov.uk.

If you wish to appeal on other grounds about your bill you should write to Blackpool Council, P.O. Box 50, Town Hall, Blackpool FY1 1NF.

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of the tax due. You must pay as shown on your bill and a refund of overpaid tax will be made if your appeal is successful. Where adult members of the same household have an identical interest (i.e. freeholders, leaseholders etc.) in their dwelling, they can be jointly and individually liable to pay the whole Council Tax bill for the property.

Reductions

There are a number of ways that the amount of Council Tax you have to pay can be reduced.

Council Tax Benefit

This is available to those on a low income. Couples need only make one claim. Council Tax payers who share their property with other adults who are on a low income may also get help through Second Adult Rebate.

Your benefit will be checked when required, depending on the circumstances of the claim. We will visit, write, or phone you to make sure you are getting the right benefit.

If you do not respond to our enquiries we may cancel your benefit. You need to tell the Benefits Section immediately about any changes in circumstances, which might affect your Council Tax Benefit. You can contact a Customer Service Advisor on 01253 478847.

Disabled Relief

This is awarded where special adaptations have been made to your home to accommodate a disabled resident. If you qualify you can get a reduction equivalent to one band on your bill. An initial inspection of your home will need to be made prior to the award of this relief, and a new application is required each year.

Discounts and Exemptions

In certain circumstances discounts are available to the following groups of people –

- › Single Person Households.
- › Patients of Residential Care Homes.
- › People who are severely mentally impaired.
- › 18 year olds for whom child benefit is payable.
- › 18 and 19 year olds in full time education.
- › Students and Student Nurses.
- › Youth Training Trainees.
- › Apprentices.
- › Long stay hospital patients.
- › Persons detained in custody.
- › Care Workers.
- › People staying in night shelters or dormitory type hostels.
- › Members of religious communities.
- › Members of visiting forces.
- › People with diplomatic immunity.

Single Person Discount. If a discount of 25% has been applied to your bill it is because you have previously declared that you are the only adult resident at the address. If your circumstances have changed and this is no longer the case - maybe another adult has moved in to this address or a child has become 18 - you must inform the Council immediately so that your bill can be adjusted. Please note that the Council will be undertaking checks to verify whether the information you have supplied is correct and this may involve cross checking data with external bodies.

Some properties are exempt from Council Tax, which means you do not have to pay Council Tax for them.

These are the different classes of exemption –

- A. An unoccupied and unfurnished property, which needs or is undergoing major repairs or structural alteration. **The maximum exemption period for a property is 12 months.**
- B. An unoccupied property owned and previously used by a charity. **The maximum exemption period for a property is 6 months.**
- C. An unoccupied and unfurnished property. **The maximum exemption period for a property is 6 months.**
- D. An unoccupied property that was the home of someone detained in custody.
- E. An unoccupied property that was the home of someone who has moved permanently into a residential home or hospital to receive care.

- F. An unoccupied property that is waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted. **The maximum exemption is for 6 months after probate or letters of administration have been granted.**
- G. A property that is unoccupied because the law forbids occupation.
- H. An unoccupied property that is reserved for a minister of religion.
- I. An unoccupied property that was the home of someone who has permanently moved into another residence (not a residential home or hospital) to receive personal care.
- J. An unoccupied property that was the home of someone who has permanently moved away to provide personal care to another person.
- K. An unoccupied property where the owner is a student, and the property was last occupied as their main home.
- L. An unoccupied property where a mortgage lender is in possession.
- M. Student Halls of Residence.
- N. A property occupied only by students.
- O. An armed forces barracks.
- P. Accommodation for visiting forces and dependants.
- Q. An unoccupied property where the person who would normally pay the Council Tax is bankrupt.
- R. A vacant caravan pitch or boat mooring.
- S. A property occupied only by people aged under 18 years.
- T. An unoccupied annexe that may not be let separately without a breach of planning control.
- U. An occupied property where all of the residents, including the person who would normally pay the Council Tax, are severely mentally impaired.
- V. A property occupied by a foreign diplomat.
- W. An annexe occupied by a dependant elderly or disabled relative.

Changes in Circumstances

Any change in your circumstances must be notified to the Revenues and Benefits Division within 21 days. Failure to do so may result in a penalty of £70.

If you suspect anyone of committing Benefit Fraud in respect of Housing or Council Tax Benefit, please call the Free and Confidential Hotline on **0800 328 6340**.

Blackpool Council's Spending 2012/13

Annual budget

The Council's annual budget sets out planned spending on services each year taking account of costs and income. Included in income is money from central government which is a combination of the Revenue Support Grant and a share of the national pool of business rates income.

The remainder of the cost is financed from Council Tax. The figures below show our budget for 2012/13 compared with 2011/12, and illustrate how Council Tax is calculated.

	2012/13 £000	2011/12 £000
Gross Expenditure	495,743	504,524
Contributions and Contingencies	4,690	9,093
Added to / (taken from) balances	789	(113)
Total cost of Council services	501,222	513,504
Less: income	(440,979)	(453,655)
Council Tax Requirement	60,243	59,849
Number of properties (Band D equivalent)	46,125	45,823
Blackpool Council Tax element (*)	£1,306.09	£1,306.09
Lancs Police Authority Tax element	149.93	146.27
Lancs Fire & Rescue Tax element	63.65	63.65
Total Council Tax for Band D	£1,519.67	£1,516.01

(*) exact figures for 2012/13: £60,243,200 / 46,125 = £1,306.09

Where your money goes

Your Council Tax, together with other income received by the Council, pays for the services we provide to you. The proportion of money spent on the main services can be seen below.

Service	£m	%
Education & Children's Services	161.4	32.5%
Housing	111.2	22.4%
Other Services	67.6	13.6%
Adult Social Services	66.9	13.5%
Recreation & Tourism	29.8	6.0%
Refuse Collection & Disposal	21.2	4.3%
Highways	21.1	4.3%
Environmental Health	5.8	1.2%
Coast Protection	4.4	0.9%
Libraries & Cultural Services	3.9	0.8%
Planning & Economic Development	2.4	0.5%
TOTALS	495.7	100.0%

How the costs have changed

The major changes in our spending plans are due to the following factors:

	£m
Blackpool Council General Fund estimate - net expenditure 2011/12	147.8
Service-specific pressures	4.5
Pay-related pressures	2.0
Cost of inflation	1.5
Other cost pressures	0.7
Other savings	(0.2)
Concessionary fares / Treasury Management	(0.5)
Organisational changes	(1.0)
Budget savings including contribution from reserves and contingencies	(10.6)
Blackpool Council General Fund estimate - net expenditure 2012/13	144.2

Council Tax Bands

Property valuation band	Value	Annual Council Tax £
A	£40,000 or below	1,013.11
B	£40,001 to £52,000	1,181.97
C	£52,001 to £68,000	1,350.82
D	£68,001 to £88,000	1,519.67
E	£88,001 to £120,000	1,857.37
F	£120,001 to £160,000	2,195.08
G	£160,001 to £320,000	2,532.78
H	Over £320,000	3,039.34

COMMERCIAL WASTE SERVICES

Contact us-

Telephone- 01253 477477

Email- commercialwaste@blackpool.gov.uk

Website- blackpool.gov.uk

In recent years the Council's Commercial Waste department has been working hard to provide a service that business owners in Blackpool would be happy to pay for. In April 2011 we revamped our service and drastically reduced our prices and now we can offer a high standard Council service for a cheaper rate than the majority of our private sector competitors.

What is a Duty of Care: Waste Transfer Note?

Under Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, it is your legal responsibility to know what your waste consists of and what the arrangements are for its collection and disposal.

All businesses must have a waste collection agreement with an authorised waste carrier who then disposes that waste at a registered disposal facility. Your waste carrier must supply you with a Duty of

Care: Waste Transfer Note. Under legislation failure to have a valid waste transfer note will leave you liable to a fixed penalty notice of £300 and possible prosecution.

The law says you, as a business, must "take all reasonable steps" to fulfil your duty of care and complete an annual Waste Transfer Note.

IF YOU BREAK THIS LAW YOU COULD BE FINED.

TRADE WASTE OFFICERS VISIT OVER 1,000 BUSINESSES EVERY YEAR REQUESTING SIGHT OF THEIR VALID WASTE TRANSFER NOTE.

Useful websites-

keepbritaintidy.org
environment-agency.gov.uk
blackpool.gov.uk

Bin Service

We offer a full range of commercial bins from 240 litre wheeled bins up to 1280 litre Euro bins. Throw all of your waste into one bin and we will recycle it all for you!



Sack Service

We offer a sack service for businesses without sufficient storage for a bin. This service is also ideal for businesses that don't generate much waste. In April 2011 we greatly improved the quality and size of the sack and also reduced the price. You can even buy your sacks online and we will deliver them for free!

About Your Business Rates

Non-Domestic Rates

Non-Domestic Rates, or business rates, collected by local authorities are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Except in the City of London, where special arrangements apply, the rates are pooled by central government and redistributed to local authorities as part of the annual formula grant settlement. The money, together with revenue from council tax payers, revenue support grant provided by the Government and certain other sums, is used to pay for the services provided by your local authority and other local authorities in your area. Further information about the business rates system, including transitional and other reliefs, may be obtained at <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk>.

Rateable Value

Apart from properties that are exempt from Business Rates, each non-domestic property has a rateable value which is set by the valuation officers of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an agency of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. They draw up and maintain a full list of all rateable values, available on their website at www.voa.gov.uk. The rateable value of your property is shown on the front of this bill. This broadly represents the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market on a particular date. For the revaluation that came into effect on 1st April 2010, this date was set as 1st April 2008.

The valuation officer may alter the value if circumstances change. The ratepayer (and certain others who have an interest in the property) can appeal against the value shown in the list if they believe it is wrong. Further information about the grounds on which appeals may be made and the process for doing so can be found on the VOA website or from your local valuation office.

National Non-Domestic Rating Multiplier

The local authority works out the business rates bill by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate multiplier. There are two multipliers; the standard non-domestic rating multiplier and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier. The former is higher to pay for small business rate relief. Except in the City of London where special arrangements apply, the Government sets the multipliers for each financial year for the whole of England according to formulae set by legislation. Between revaluations the multipliers change each year in line with inflation and to take account of the cost of small business rate relief. In the year of revaluation the multipliers are rebased to account for overall changes to total rateable value and to ensure that the revaluation does not raise extra money for Government. The current multipliers are shown on the front of this bill.

Revaluation 2010 and Transitional Arrangements

All rateable values are reassessed every five years at a general revaluation. The current rating list is based on the 2010 revaluation. Five-yearly revaluations make sure each ratepayer pays their fair contribution and no more, by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one ratepayer reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. Revaluation does not raise extra money for Government.

For those ratepayers who would otherwise have seen significant increases in their rates liability, the Government has put in place a £2 billion transitional relief scheme to limit and phase in changes in rate bills as a result of the 2010 revaluation. To help pay for the limits on increases in bills, there were also limits on reductions in bills. Under the transition scheme, limits continue to apply to yearly increases and decreases until the full amount is due (rateable value times the appropriate multiplier). The scheme applies only to the bill based on a property at the time of the revaluation. If there are any changes to the property after 1st April 2010, transitional arrangements will not normally apply to the part of a bill that relates to any increase in rateable value due to those changes. Changes to your bill as a result of other reasons (such as because of changes to the amount of small business rate relief) are not covered by the transitional arrangements.

The transitional arrangements are applied automatically and are shown on the front of this bill.

More information on revaluation 2010 can be found at www.voa.gov.uk.

Unoccupied Property Rating

Business rates will not be payable in the first three months that a property is empty. This is extended to six months in the case of certain industrial properties. After this period rates are payable in full unless the unoccupied property rate has been reduced by the Government by order. In most cases the unoccupied property rate is zero for properties owned by charities and community amateur sports clubs. In addition, there are a number of exemptions from the unoccupied property rate. Full details on exemptions can be obtained from the local authority. If the unoccupied property rate for the financial year has been reduced by order, it will be shown on the front of this bill.

Partly Occupied Property Relief

A ratepayer is liable for the full non-domestic rate whether a property is wholly occupied or only partly occupied. Where a property is partly occupied for a short time, the local authority has discretion in certain cases to award relief in respect of the unoccupied part. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Small Business Rate Relief

Ratepayers who are not entitled to another mandatory relief or are liable for unoccupied property rates and occupy a property with a rateable value which does not exceed £17,999 outside London or £25,499 in London will have their bill calculated using the lower small business non-domestic rating multiplier, rather than the national non-domestic rating multiplier.

In addition, if the sole or main property is shown on the rating list with a rateable value which does not exceed £12,000, the ratepayer will receive a percentage reduction in their rates bill for this property of up to a maximum of 50% for a property with a rateable value of not more than £6,000.

This percentage reduction (relief) is only available to ratepayers who occupy either--

(a) one property, or

(b) one main property and other additional properties providing those additional properties each have a rateable value which does not exceed £2,599.

The rateable value of the property mentioned in (a), or the aggregate rateable value of all the properties mentioned in (b), must not exceed £17,999 outside London or £25,499 in London on each day for which relief is being sought. If the rateable value, or aggregate rateable value, increases above those levels, relief will cease from the day of the increase.

An application for Small Business Rate Relief is not required. Where a ratepayer meets the eligibility criteria and has not received the relief they should contact their local authority. Provided the ratepayer continues to satisfy the conditions for relief which apply at the relevant time as regards the property and the ratepayer, they will automatically continue to receive relief in each new valuation period.

Certain changes in circumstances will need to be notified to the local authority by a ratepayer who is in receipt of relief (other changes will be picked up by the local authority). The changes which should be notified are--

(a) the ratepayer taking up occupation of an additional property, and

(b) an increase in the rateable value of a property occupied by the ratepayer in an area other than the area of the local authority which granted the relief.

Charity and Community Amateur Sports Club Relief

Charities and registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs are entitled to 80% relief where the property is occupied by the charity or the club, and is wholly or mainly used for the charitable purposes of the charity (or of that and other charities), or for the purposes of the club (or of that and other clubs).

The local authority has discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Non-Profit Making Organisation Relief

The local authority has discretion to give relief to non-profit making organisations. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Local Discounts and Hardship Relief

The local authority has discretion to give relief in specific circumstances. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Cancellation of Backdated Rates Liabilities

The Government has through the Localism Act 2011 taken a power to allow for the cancellation of certain backdated rates bills that accrued on the 2005 rating list only. Information on the type of backdated rates liability that can be cancelled is available with Business Rates Information letter titled Cancellation of Backdated Rates www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/businessrates/busratesinformationletters/

Rating Advisers

Ratepayers do not have to be represented in discussions about their rateable value or their rates bill. Appeals against rateable values can be made free of charge. However, ratepayers who do wish to be represented should be aware that members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS--website www.rics.org) and the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV--website www.irrv.org.uk) are qualified and are regulated by rules of professional conduct designed to protect the public from misconduct. Before you employ a rating adviser, you should check that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise, as well as appropriate indemnity insurance. Take great care and, if necessary, seek further advice before entering into any contract.

Information Supplied with Demand Notices

Information relating to the relevant and previous financial years in regard to the gross expenditure of the local authority is available at www.blackpool.gov.uk. A hard copy is available on request by writing to the council or telephone 01253 478857.

Multipliers

Your Business Rates is worked out by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate multiplier. For 2012/13 the standard multiplier is 0.458 and the small business rating multiplier is 0.450.

Rateable Values

Information about the circumstances which may lead to a change in rateable value, and how to apply, can be obtained from: The Valuation Office Agency, Mitre House, Church Street, Lancaster, LA1 1HG. Telephone: 03000 501 501.

Payment Problems

Blackpool Council is aware of the difficult times many businesses are experiencing.

If your business is experiencing difficulty in paying the monthly instalments shown on your bill then please contact us on 01253 478857, and we will offer any assistance possible. We have, however, a statutory obligation to collect business rates from those liable.

Trading with Blackpool Council

The Council has a keen interest in the local economy and wishes to encourage local suppliers to bid for its requirements for goods and services. Local companies who are interested in providing services to the council are invited to e-mail 'procurement@blackpool.gov.uk' to introduce themselves or simply register on the North-West Portal, 'thechest', www.thechest.nwce.gov.uk

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

making Lancashire safer



Reducing risk

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority delivers a fire and rescue service to the whole of Lancashire, raising awareness about fire safety through visiting homes and schools and enforcing fire safety laws; being available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to emergencies. You can find out more about what we do on our website www.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk or by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

@LancashireFRS

As the top performing Fire and Rescue Service in the UK, we have cut the number of fires and casualties by over 46% in the last 6 years and have reduced overall fire risk by 15% since 2007.

During 2011/12 we are likely to have:

Reduced the number of house fires by 5%

Reduced the number of casualties in house fires by 20%

Attended over 850 fewer deliberate fires

Provided nearly 44,000 Home Fire Safety Check Visits

By continuing to invest in fire safety activity, we aim to reduce these figures further.

What does the Fire and Rescue Service cost?

Based on the population of Lancashire, we cost just 12 pence per person, per day.

	2011/12 £m (Adjusted)	2012/13 £m
Gross Revenue expenditure	63.94	65.94
Less Income	(3.10)	(4.10)
Contribution to Capital	1.00	1.08
Contribution from Reserves	(0.03)	(0.01)
Net Budget Requirement	61.81	62.91
Less Central Government Grants inc Council Tax Freeze Grant	(32.00)	(32.98)
Deficit/(Surplus) on Council Tax Collection Fund	0.02	(0.05)
Council tax requirement	29.83	29.88
Council tax base	£468,749	£469,354
Band D Council Tax equivalent	£63.65	£63.65

Where does the money come from?

	2012/2013 £m	2011/2012 £m	2012/13 Cost per head of population £
Funded by Central Government	33.0	32.0	22.58
Council tax	29.9	29.9	20.45
Budget requirement	62.9	61.8	43.03

Council Tax has been frozen which means that for a Band D property the amount payable for the Fire and Rescue part of the bill stays at £63.65

How the budget compares with last year

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2012/13 is £62.9m compared with a budget of £61.8m for last year. The reasons for the 1.8% increase in the overall budget are as follows:

Change in Spending Between Years	£m
Budget requirement 2010/11	61.8
Add other variations, such as inflation, potential pay awards, capital financing charges, equipment replacement, plus one off restructuring costs	3.0
Less savings, such as changes to crewing arrangements, departmental restructuring and reductions in other areas	(1.9)
Budget requirement 2012/13	62.9

What do you get for your money?



40 fire stations



60 fire engines



21 specialist vehicles



1,500 staff



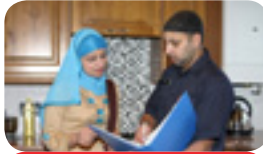
Prosecutions under fire safety law with staff dedicated to collecting intelligence



Attendance at 7,057 fires



Visits to nurseries all school year 2 and year 6 classes



Fire safety inspections



Youth engagement activities



999 calls answered



Attendance at nearly 12,000 other emergencies including animal rescue, flooding, collapsed structures and water rescue



Attendance at 485 road traffic collisions



44,000 Home Fire Safety Checks

12p
per person
per day

What are our plans?

We have a new Risk Management Plan which sets out what we will do to achieve a Safer Lancashire over the next two years which you can find on our website. We will continue to reduce risk to the community by developing and delivering prevention, protection and response activities that are affordable and sustainable.



Key activities will include:

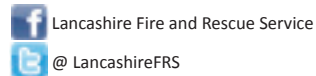
- Complete the implementation of the Day Crewing Plus duty system on four stations
- Undertake the Emergency Cover Review scheduled for 2012
- Deliver our fire station replacement programme
- Implement the North West Fire Control project

In line with all public bodies, we have received less funding from Government this year, although for fire services, the biggest reductions will not take effect until 2013/14 and we do not yet know what the amount will be. Our Medium Term Financial Strategy, available on our website, forecasts budget reductions and highlights possible savings and use of reserves that may need to be made to produce a balanced budget.

FREE Call Free phone
0800 169 1125
home fire safety check www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk

Further information

For further information about your Fire and Rescue Service visit our website www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk



The Chief Fire Officer
Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Garstang Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3LH

01772 862545
enquiries@lancsfirerescue.org.uk.



Lancashire
POLICE AUTHORITY
Your County, Your Police, Your Say



Lancashire Constabulary and Police Authority enter 2012 in a strong financial position having identified £39m of the £43m savings required to plug the funding gap brought about by cuts in government funding.

Performance continued to improve throughout 2010/2011 and the county is now safer than ever. Our challenge over the next few months lies in safeguarding that progress while continuing to address funding issues. As always the public can be reassured our top priority is to deliver the best possible service to them.

Policing in Lancashire 2012

Police in Lancashire are gearing up for a busy year which will place added pressure on resources and will require careful planning. In 2012 policing will be challenged with the Queen's Jubilee and the London Olympics – national events which will utilise considerable resources from Lancashire at a time when the force is already financially stretched. Against this background, strategies to achieve further cash savings this year must be maintained.

Listening to You

Every step of our plans for future policing services is influenced by the views of local residents through our consultation. It has been made clear to us that effective Neighbourhood Policing and tackling anti-social behaviour are key concerns for our communities.

Recent surveys indicate that top priorities for the public for 2011/12 were protecting vulnerable people, followed by tackling serious organised crime, acquisitive crime, anti social behaviour and improving road safety.

Looking back – how did we do?

Impressive performance throughout 2010/11 means that there were 4,849 fewer victims of crime in the county and reports of crime fell 4.5% from 107,345 to 102,496. Also crime detection rates rose from 35.4% to 37%. Burglary rates remain at a 30 year low and vehicle crime dropped 7.6% (to 8,114 incidents). In addition, enhanced neighbourhood policing saw incidents of anti-social reduce by more than 10%.

Looking Forward to the Police & Crime Commissioner

Lancashire Police Authority will bow out with pride later this year, when Police Authorities move aside to make way for directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Over the last 17 years, the Authority's drive for continual improvement has helped to create a top performing police force for Lancashire residents.

The Authority is determined that the forthcoming changes will not affect this high level of performance and will continue its work to protect police performance levels. In addition, it will oversee the ongoing programme of Organisational Reviews which are designed to deliver the savings that need to be made in the future.

The Authority is confident that its preparations now will help the move to the new regime go smoothly; while the impressive legacy it leaves behind will ensure that the PCC inherits an efficient and effective Constabulary.

You can find out more about Commissioners, their roles and responsibilities and election details by visiting:



www.facebook.com/LancsPCC



[@LancsPCC](https://twitter.com/LancsPCC)



Remember, Remember 15 November...

The election for the new Police and Crime Commissioner will take place on Thursday 15 November 2012. The successful candidate will take up office on Thursday 22 November 2012 and will remain in post until May 2016.

This will be the first time local people will have the opportunity to elect a PCC for Lancashire who will shape the local policing agenda and people are urged to use their vote.

The Commissioner's role will include ensuring local communities have a voice, setting local policing priorities and holding the Chief Constable to account for performance. They will publish a Police and Crime Plan outlining the priorities and police budget, and produce an annual report at the end of each year.



Lancashire Police Authority Budget Analysis 2012/13

2011/2012	£ million	£ million	Increase
Budget Requirement		275.595	
Add specific grants rolled into main grant settlement:		1.714	
Adjusted 2011/2012 Base Budget		277.309	
Add Provision for inflation to 31 March 2013		2.596	0.93%
Add:			
Committed Variations:			
Capital Financing Costs	-0.167		
Increase in investment income	-0.160		
Increase in Employers Pension Contributions	0.300		
Additional recruitment costs (one-year only)	2.800		
Other minor variations	0.183		
		2.956	1.07%
Less:			
Cashable Efficiency Savings		-19.493	-7.03%
Add: Contribution to Reserves		1.969	0.71%
2012/13 Budget Requirement		265.337	-4.32%

Lancashire Police Authority Expenditure & Income 2012/13

	2011/12 (adjusted) £ million	2012/13 £ million	2012/13 per head £
Gross Revenue Expenditure	300.454	286.444	195.94
Less: Income	(23.145)	(23.076)	-15.79
	277.309	263.368	180.15
Add: Contribution to Reserves	-	1.969	1.35
Net Budget Requirement	277.309	265.337	181.50
Less:			
Police Grant	114.338	105.681	72.29
Revenue Support Grant/ Non-Domestic Rates	94.462	89.238	61.04
Council Tax Collection Surpluses/(Deficits)	(0.055)	0.049	0.03
Council Tax Requirement	68.564	70.369	48.14
Band D Equivalent	£146.27	£149.93	



Money Matters

The overall budget requirement for policing Lancashire in 2012/3 was set at £265.337 million.

The specific amount local residents pay towards policing depends upon the band in which their property falls and in 2012/13 this amount will increase by 2.5%. This equates to an extra 1p per day for Band D (the average) property or £3.66 a year and for the majority of Lancashire residents, at around 5p per week, the increase will be less than £3.00 a year.

This decision is in line with local views. In the Authority's recent budget surveys, 83% of residents said they were willing to pay more for policing to help keep crime levels at historic lows and make Lancashire safer.

Contact Lancashire Police Authority

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Contribute: www.getintheloop.co.uk

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Contacting Us

Call in at the Customer First Centre, Corporation Street, Blackpool.

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www.blackpool.gov.uk

revenues@blackpool.gov.uk

Write to: Blackpool Council,
Revenues and Benefits Division,
PO Box 50, Town Hall, Blackpool,
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