Your guide to Council Tax 2014-15

Financial information

Discounts & exemptions

How to pay

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL    GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Welcome
Our aim is to provide good quality services in Gloucester City that represent excellent value for money - and with budgets as squeezed as ever, the local authorities are committed to work together to achieve this. This booklet gives a snapshot of how we plan to achieve this. You will also find information on how to pay, discounts & exemptions and what help is on offer.

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This year, the average† home will pay £28.43 each week, split as follows:

£20.97 COUNTY COUNCIL
   Education, social care, fire service, roads, libraries

£3.99 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
   Crime reduction, safer communities, criminal justice, peace & good order

£3.47 CITY COUNCIL
   Rubbish collection, housing, benefits, planning, sport & leisure

† Band D

This document comprises part of your council tax demand notice.
2 Your Guide

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The past decade has seen significant progress in regeneration across the city. 2013 was another year of real achievement in this regard.

The new Quayside leisure complex opened at Gloucester Quays including a ten-screen, digital, state-of-the-art cinema, as well as several restaurants and bars and the outlet centre is almost full.

Morrisons unveiled its latest store at the Railway Triangle, now named Triangle Park, off Metz Way. Following £8m investment the store opened in November 2013 creating around 350 jobs.

Work has begun on development of 350 residential units at Greyfriars. The archaeological excavations on the former media studies site on Brunswick Road have discovered around 150 Roman burials.

The council has purchased and demolished the Golden Egg Building in Kings Square which is a key step in the progression of the Kings Quarter project.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Appointed as a host city for Rugby World Cup 2015
- Continued to grow Gloucester’s tourism appeal with events such as the Tall Ships festival, Summer in Gloucester and the Heritage Open Days to name but a few
- Worked with communities to tackle local fly tipping and littering
- Delivered numerous flood alleviation schemes with partners to help protect local homes
- Set aside £2m to improve the city centre
- Supported new and existing businesses in the city with grants and advice
- Worked with residents in Podsmead on a £1m Big Lottery funded scheme to improve their health and well being

**Council tax frozen for the fourth year running!**

Over the past five years the council has made savings of £7.5m through reductions in expenditure, service efficiencies, partnership working and increased income generation. In the next five years we need to save a further £5m. In order to do this we will need to continue developing these ways of working.

The past decade has seen significant progress in regeneration across the city. 2013 was another year of real achievement in this regard.
Helping communities help themselves

This year, Gloucestershire County Council is continuing to prioritise its spending on the most vulnerable people – those who need our help the most.

Adult care services remain the biggest portion of our budget and we will be investing in new services for young people and families.

There will be a council tax freeze for the fourth year in a row and we’re continuing our focus on keeping services local by developing grass root schemes that really make a difference.

HOW WE PLAN TO SPEND YOUR MONEY THIS YEAR:

- **Adult Care** £147.6m
  Providing support for older people including social care, learning disabilities, independent living and adult education

- **Children & Families** £94.8m
  Protecting children from harm, providing education support, children’s centres and looking after children in care

- **Communities & Infrastructure** £86.2m
  Looking after your roads, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, public transport, libraries and trading standards

- **Public Health** £21.7m
  Helping you stay fit and healthy, anti-smoking and support with ageing well

- **Support Services** £19.2m

**GRASS ROOTS SPENDING**

- A £2.65m sport and physical activity grants scheme will be shared equally between our 53 local councillors over the next two years. The cash will provide sport or leisure facilities encouraging people to be more active.
- Permanent funding of £1.06m to continue the successful Highways Local scheme. The initiative allocates £20,000 per county councillor to be spent on roadworks in their local community.
- Adding to the £50,000 per district funding the council already allocates for youth facilities, we will introduce a children and young people’s activity grant of £265,000 in total, allocating £5,000 per local councillor to be spent in their communities.
Making a difference

**SWITCH TO SAVE**

We’ve helped more than 1,000 people save money on their energy bills through the Collective Energy Switch programme, which allows people to buy cheaper gas and electricity by working together. On average, those who have saved money in Gloucestershire are £137 a year better off. Find out more at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ fairenergy

**FIRST HOMES AND BUSINESSES GET FASTER BROADBAND!**

The Fastershire project, bringing faster broadband to rural homes and businesses in Gloucestershire by the end of 2015, is making real progress. So far 14 new fibre cabinets are now live giving access to fibre broadband to 3,964 homes and businesses.

Faster broadband for Herefordshire and Gloucestershire

If you live or work in these areas you can check to see if fibre broadband is available for you by using the line checker on www.fastershire.com

**IMPROVING YOUR HEALTH**

Since last April, we’ve been responsible for Public Health services, which are aimed at improving and protecting everyone’s health and wellbeing. We work with partners to provide services from stopping smoking, improving mental health, obesity and alcohol, to helping people to make healthy decisions about their lifestyle. For more information about Public Health and our county’s Health and Wellbeing Board and Strategy, visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/publichealth

**GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A HOME**

We placed 50 children for adoption between April and December 2013, meeting our yearly target. More than 80 people applied to adopt between April and December, with approval taking about six months. Over 300 people told us they are thinking about becoming foster carers during the same period. We also approved 25 foster carers, who between them have 47 places to offer to vulnerable children in the county.

We always need more foster carers and adopters. Find out more about adoption and foster at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering or 01242 532 654 and www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/adoption or 01452 427 753.

**DISABILITY CONFIDENT**

Gloucestershire County Council has teamed up with employers and charities to help build a vibrant jobs market for people with disabilities, making a big difference to people’s lives and bringing great benefits to local business. Last year the council launched the 30/30 challenge asking employers to offer a day’s work awareness to a young person with a learning disability. It had 50 employers signing up in the first two weeks alone, extending the challenge to 50/50.
How much you pay

**WHICH BAND?**
Your property has been assessed for council tax in one of eight valuation bands (A-H) according to its estimated sale value at 1 April 1991. The table below shows the council tax payable for each band for this year.

If you are a band D payer, £180.42 will go to Gloucester City Council, £207.73 will be going to the Police and Crime Commissioner and £1,090.50 will go towards services supplied by the county council.

**THE RIGHT BAND**
There are very few circumstances in which appeals against banding can be made and are restricted to:

- an increase in the property value resulting from building work
- a decrease in the property value due to the demolition of any part of the property, any changes in the physical state of the local area or an adaption for use by someone with a disability
- a change in the balance between domestic and business use of your property

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of council tax. If your appeal is successful we will refund any overpayment.

**NEXT STEP**
A council tax payer can ask the Valuation Office Agency to review their council tax band or can make a proposal to formally challenge their band. Council tax payers need to provide reasons why they believe their banding is incorrect. Further information can be found at [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk)

Appeals can be made at [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk) or telephone 0300 050 1501 or email ctwest@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Appeals can also be made in writing to: Council Tax West, Valuation Office Agency, Overline House, Blechynden Terrace, Southampton SO15 1GW.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Property values (As at 01/04/91)</th>
<th>Gloucester (£)</th>
<th>Police and Crime Commissioner (£)</th>
<th>County (£)</th>
<th>Total (£)</th>
<th>Qudgeley (£)</th>
<th>TOTAL (£)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>up to £40,000</td>
<td>120.28</td>
<td>138.49</td>
<td>727.00</td>
<td>985.77</td>
<td>23.93</td>
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<td>140.33</td>
<td>161.57</td>
<td>848.17</td>
<td>1,150.07</td>
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<td>31.91</td>
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<td>207.73</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<td>220.51</td>
<td>253.89</td>
<td>1,332.83</td>
<td>1,807.23</td>
<td>43.88</td>
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<td>300.05</td>
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<td>2,135.83</td>
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<td>2,464.42</td>
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<td>H</td>
<td>Exceeding £320,000</td>
<td>360.84</td>
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<td>2,957.30</td>
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<td><strong>Increase / decrease</strong></td>
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<td><strong>0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.99%</strong></td>
<td><strong>0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.27%</strong></td>
<td><strong>0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.27%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**COUNCIL TAX HELPLINE**
revenues@gloucester.gov.uk
01452 396 495

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6 Your Guide
**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A DISCOUNT**

**Discounts**

**DISABLED PERSONS REDUCTIONS**
Your bill may be reduced if your home has certain features which are essential, or of major importance, to an adult or child with a disability, who lives in the property. These features are:

- a room (other than a bathroom, kitchen or toilet) which is used mainly by the disabled person (eg a room used for dialysis equipment)
- an additional bathroom or kitchen required for the use of the disabled person
- sufficient floor space for a wheelchair

If you qualify we will treat your property as if it is in the valuation band below. eg, if your property is in band C you will pay the council tax for band B. You can still get a reduction if your property is in band A.

**SECOND HOMES**
Properties that are furnished but not occupied as anyone's main home are classed as second homes. No discount is awarded.

**PROPERTIES UNDERGOING MAJOR REPAIR**
Unoccupied and unfurnished properties undergoing structural alteration or major repair are subject to a 25% discount for a maximum period of 12 months.

**UNOCCUPIED AND UNFURNISHED PROPERTIES**
Properties which are unoccupied and unfurnished will be granted a 100% discount for the first month and a 25% discount for the following five months. The full charge will then be payable.

**DISCOUNTS FOR ANNEXES**
From April 2014 a 50% discount may apply where an annexe is occupied by a relative of the council tax payer for the main property, or where it is used as part of the main property.

An exemption already exists for annexes occupied by elderly or disabled relatives – see page 8.

**LONG TERM EMPTY PROPERTIES**
These are properties which have been unoccupied and unfurnished for 6 months or more. No discount is awarded.

**DISCOUNTS**
If you live alone your bill will be reduced by 25%. If you, or someone living with you fits into one of the categories below and there are no other adults living in the property, you could also get a reduction.

- full time students, student nurses, apprentices, youth training trainees
- 18-19 year old (at or just left school)
- hospital/hospice patient (permanent)
- residential care/nursing home resident
- persons over 18 in receipt of child benefit
- severely mentally impaired
- hostel/night shelter resident
- member of religious communities
- full time carer (excluding those caring for husband, wife, partner or child)
- persons in detention
- members of International Headquarters and Defence Organisations
- visiting forces
- partners of students who are not British
- diplomats

In extreme circumstances the council has discretionary powers to reduce the council tax payable in respect of individual cases.

**Contact 01452 396 495 for more details.**
Exemptions

IS YOUR PROPERTY EXEMPT?
Some properties - both occupied and unoccupied - are exempt from council tax. Please contact us if your property falls into one of these categories.

Property unoccupied because:
B it is owned by and was last occupied for the purpose of a charity (exempt for up to six months)
D the owner/tenant is in prison
E the owner/tenant is receiving personal care permanently in a hospital or home
F it was formerly occupied by a now deceased person (exempt for up to six months after probate or letters of administration)
G it is forbidden by law to occupy
H it is awaiting occupation by a minister of religion
I the owner/tenant is living elsewhere to receive personal care
J the owner/tenant is living elsewhere to provide personal care to another person
K the owner/tenant has moved to become a student
L it has been repossessed by a mortgage lender
Q it is the responsibility of a bankrupt’s trustee
R it comprises a pitch or mooring unoccupied by a caravan or boat
T it comprises a self contained unit which cannot be let separately from the main property without breaching planning conditions

Property occupied by:
M students in hall of residence
N other qualifying students
O members of the armed forces in MOD accommodation
P members and dependants of visiting forces
S person(s) under the age of 18
U the severely mentally impaired
V people with diplomatic privilege or immunity
W elderly or disabled relative living in self contained unit of the main property

APPEALS AGAINST YOUR COUNCIL TAX LIABILITY
If you disagree with some aspect of a council tax bill because you do not think you are liable for the council tax for that dwelling, or you think an exemption or a discount should be applied, you can appeal.

You should appeal to the council in the first instance. If you don’t get a response or continue to dispute the decision after the council has responded, you have the right to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal. Contact the council tax helpline on 01452 396 495 for more details.

See page 6 for details about how to appeal against the council tax band.
Pay the easy way

You pay council tax in 10 monthly instalments. The easiest way to pay is by Direct Debit. Contact the council tax advice line on 01452 396 495 to supply your bank details.

PAY BY CREDIT* OR DEBIT CARD
Use our 24 hour automated telephone payment system by calling 0845 155 6000 or pay online at www.gloucester.gov.uk/payments.

UNABLE TO PAY?
Your council tax should be paid as requested on your bill otherwise recovery action may be taken which could incur you with additional costs. If you are finding it difficult to pay your council tax please contact us quickly on 01452 396 495 so we can help you.

We will be able to spread your monthly instalments over 12 months instead of 10 months if you contact us by 14th March 2014.

*There may be a 1.8% transaction charge for using a credit card.

Receive your bill by email
E-billing is the easy way to receive your council tax bill. Instead of sending you a paper bill by post we will send it to you by email. Please visit our website www.gloucester.gov.uk/counciltax to register.

Help with paying your council tax if you are on a low income

Council tax support helps people on a low income or no income to pay their council tax. The scheme is approved locally for working age customers and nationally for pension age customers.

Council tax support is means tested. The amount of support you can get depends on how much council tax you are due to pay, the number of people in your household, your household income and any savings. The more money you have coming into your home, the less support we can give you.

If you would like further information, an application form or a quick calculation, then either phone 01452 396 483, email benefits@gloucester.gov.uk or call in at the council offices in Gloucester and speak to an officer.

If you need help with paying your rent, then a similar means tested scheme exists called Housing Benefit and you can contact the council using the same options above.
WHAT IS DEMENTIA?

Dementia is a term used to describe consistent and progressive difficulties in being able to remember; usually recent memories, carrying out tasks successfully such as how to make a cup of tea, difficulties with finding the right words in communicating and difficulties in thought processes such as making a decision.

Alzheimer’s Disease, Vascular Dementia, Lewy Body Dementia and Frontotemporal Dementia are the most common types of dementia.

A research study completed by the Alzheimer’s Society revealed 44% of people with dementia feel they lost their friends after being diagnosed - while 67% say they don’t always feel part of their community.

See the person first and not the dementia

Become dementia friendly - six ways you can help:

1. Be patient giving people time
2. A friendly smile goes a long way to put people at ease
3. Download a free copy of the Tips & Advice booklet on dementia at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/dementiatraining
4. Don’t make assumptions about what someone may want or need; be guided by the individual
5. Become an Alzheimer’s Society Dementia Friend www.dementiafriends.org.uk
6. Visit the You’re Welcome website www.yourewelcome.to to see what is happening in your community and how you can become involved

Around 8,000 people live with dementia in Gloucestershire - a figure predicted to rise by over 40% in the next 15 years
SUPPORTING DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

If you need help and advice about dementia, there is a wealth of support in the county.

Alzheimer’s Society
Provides support groups, and advice for people with dementia and their carers.
www.alzheimers.org.uk
01452 525 222

Gloucestershire County Council
Dementia Training Pathway Team - find out more about dementia awareness sessions/training sessions and what’s happening in your community.
01452 426 575
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/dementiatraining

Managing Memory ²gether
A service for people worried about memory, people with dementia and carers of people with dementia. Services include memory assessment, diagnosis and post diagnosis services. The service also provides information, advice and group information sessions.
0800 684 8800
www.2gether.nhs.uk/managing-memory-2gether

The Positive Caring Programme
A series of informal support and information sessions for all unpaid carers. It is free and delivered in a range of community venues.
01452 500 885
e: positivecaring@gloucestershire.gov.uk

IN THE COUNTY

COTSWOLD - Tetbury is the county’s first dementia friendly town

CHELTENHAM - opened the first dementia pop-up shop

FOREST OF DEAN - dementia board game developed and working with school children on dementia awareness

GLOUCESTER - dental services developing dementia friendly environments

STROUD - residents considering how they can support others to live well with dementia

TEWKESBURY - working with school children on dementia awareness
A message from Gloucestershire’s Police and Crime Commissioner

When the Government created the role of Police and Crime Commissioner, the brief was simply to “reduce crime”. To achieve this, I devised a Police and Crime Plan which involved not just the police and criminal justice services but community and voluntary sectors as well.

The benefits can be seen in the 45 local organisations I have been able to support around the county who make an important contribution to the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour in their communities. Organisations like Keep Safe which make it safer for vulnerable members of our society to go into shops or business premises when they feel threatened or insecure, knowing they’ll get the right support.

A further spin-off of this sort of approach is that police officers are getting more effective training in dementia and autism awareness whilst the county council is enhancing dementia awareness in schools.

In my second year in office, I want to improve the Constabulary’s capability for tackling crimes that are carried out on the internet like fraud, and for a greater focus on anti-social behaviour on social network sites. Having consulted extensively on this issue, I know these are areas of concern for many people but it is a specialist field and the constabulary needs better equipment, specialist staff and training.

That is why I have decided on a 2 per cent increase in council tax over the year, which amounts to an extra £4.05 p.a. for a Band D householder – the equivalent of about 8p a week. This is part of a three year plan and there will be no further increases in that time. In return, the Chief Constable has agreed the number of police officers and PCSOs will remain at the current level.

“As I explained last year, I believe making the right investments now will provide better value for money in the future. Improved Information Communication Technology (ICT) will lead to more efficient mobile working and keep officers out on patrol for longer”

— Martin Surl, Police and Crime Commissioner
MY PRIORITIES ARE:

• **Accessibility and accountability**
  Getting the right resources to the right situation or problem first time, on time, every time. Dealing with the matter appropriately and effectively

• **Older but not overlooked**
  Making sure older people feel and remain an active part of their communities whether they live in their own homes or are in residential care

• **Young people becoming adults**
  Providing sensitive, relevant and effective policing to ensure our young people become law-abiding, productive members of society

• **Safe days and nights for all**
  Ensuring Gloucestershire’s night-time economy is better managed, with alcohol related crime and disorder reduced

• **Safe & social driving**
  Enabling people to move around our communities safely and with as much ease and convenience as possible

• **Tackling cyber crime**
  I want the Constabulary to be better equipped to protect us all from internet based criminality and anti-social behaviour online

“The Police and Crime Commissioner has recognised that community safety is not just the responsibility of the Police and that many of the solutions lie within communities themselves”

“With his support, a wide range of voluntary and community organisations are now using their knowledge of their community to make sure that those who are vulnerable, due to age or disability can feel safe and part of that community”

– Sally Pickering, Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action Chief Executive

“Gloucestershire has long been at the forefront of innovative & effective road safety initiatives but the PCC’s focus on this issue has enabled greater emphasis to be placed on those most at risk on our roads - the young and older drivers”

– Jon Hall, Former Chief Fire Officer and Chairman of the County Road Safety Partnership

“A new governance arrangement has been crafted with full agreement of the Chief Constable and Commissioner which enables effective decision making at all levels in the organisation”

– Rod Hansen, Deputy Chief Constable
In the local community

A number of the 45 projects and organisations funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner affect Gloucester directly - or indirectly as part of countywide schemes.

They include:

- Gloucester City Safe Co-ordinator links the police, city council, licensees, businesses and other organisations in a partnership approach to making the city a safer place, day and night
- Gloucester Community Safety Partnership - appointing a community builder in Kingsway to address issues such as anti-social behaviour, loneliness and isolation
- Safer Gloucester, whose priorities include reducing:
  - Crime
  - Harm caused by alcohol and drug abuse
  - Anti-social behaviour caused by hatred, intolerance or prejudice

Others supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner include:

- Gymnation
- Glos City CSP – taxi marshalls
- Increase the Peace
- Gloucester FM Radio
- REACH OUT – Quedgeley
- Together in Matson
- GEAR
- Fairshares
- Alcohol Independence ARS
- Domestic Violence ISVA
- Beresford – Stroud Refuge
- Furniture Recycling – young drivers
- Nelson Trust
- Gay Glos Youth
- Prince's Trust
- Crimestoppers
- Licensing Training
- Domestic Violence Sanctuary

Martin Surl, Police and Crime Commissioner, with children at ‘Increase the Peace’ in Gloucester
Spending plans

<table>
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<th>Budget Requirement</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Constabulary</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Police officers</td>
<td>63,478</td>
<td>62,962</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCSOs</td>
<td>3,981</td>
<td>3,952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police staff</td>
<td>19,777</td>
<td>19,932</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other running costs</td>
<td>21,493</td>
<td>21,712</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital financing</td>
<td>2,158</td>
<td>3,712</td>
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<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>110,887</td>
<td>112,270</td>
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<td>Interest and other income</td>
<td>-1,720</td>
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<td>Specific grants</td>
<td>-5,492</td>
<td>-5,123</td>
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<td><strong>Net expenditure</strong></td>
<td>103,675</td>
<td>104,978</td>
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<td>Office of PCC</td>
<td>675</td>
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<td>2,321</td>
<td>805</td>
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<td><strong>Total budget</strong></td>
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<td>106,489</td>
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<td><strong>Net budget requirement</strong></td>
<td>107,151</td>
<td>106,489</td>
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</table>

Funded by:
- Government grant         | 65,108  | 62,747  |
- Collection fund surplus  | 310     | 475     |

Which leaves council tax payers to fund | 41,733  | 43,267  |

How our budget compares with last year

<table>
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<th>Budget Comparison</th>
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<td>Original budget 2013-14</td>
<td>107,151</td>
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<td>Inflation</td>
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<td>Specific grant changes</td>
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<td>Additional costs</td>
<td>539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioning fund</td>
<td>-1,516</td>
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<td>Loss of funding from county council</td>
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<td>Reduced transfer to reserves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planned savings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget requirement 2014-15</strong></td>
<td>106,489</td>
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Investment in the future

The Commissioner plans to spend £9.6m in 2014-15 on capital schemes to improve operational effectiveness and service delivery. This will be paid for from government grants, proceeds from the sale of properties and revenue contributions. The running expenses of new projects are provided for in the revenue budget.

How many staff we employ

The Commissioner has budgeted to employ the full-time equivalent of 1,889 staff in 2014-15, the same as in 2013-14.

The level of council tax

The band D council tax you will pay this year for services provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner is £207.73, which is £4.05 more than last year, an increase of 2.0 per cent. The amount we will spend on services will reduce by 0.6 per cent.

Planned savings of £2.8m are included in the budget and the Constabulary is on target to achieve a total of £20m savings over the four years to 2014-15. There is an ongoing programme of change which is designed to minimise any impact on front line services.

The majority of funding for the budget, nearly 60 per cent, comes from general government grant and this funding has reduced by 4.3 per cent for next year.
Our general fund working balance has increased from £2.1m to £2.7m.

Investment in the future
Our capital investment will fund regeneration, housing and sports/leisure facilities across the city.

Core values
One of our core values is to strive for value for money and only spend what we can afford. In 2014-15 we will make budget savings of £1.3m, focusing on efficiencies and back-office savings wherever possible, to minimise impact on front-line services.

How our budget compares with last year

The level of council tax
The council tax you will pay this year for services provided by Gloucester City Council is not increasing. This is the fourth consecutive year that the city council has frozen council tax.

Further details available online at www.gloucester.go.uk
SPENDING PLANS

Qedgeley Parish Council

As the Parish Council sets a precept of more than £140,000 it must let you know how it intends to spend the money. The total budget for the year 2014-15 amounts to £380,272.

This year the Parish Council is in a position to be able to bring forward unspent funds which has enabled the council to maintain a 0% increase in the amount paid by local residents. Always mindful of the current financial climate, every effort has been made to control its spending. The funds available will be ploughed into your local Sports Centre and Community Centres to ensure that those facilities are provided in excellent condition, whilst further funds will be used to improve your local community as a whole.

Further information Jacqueline Webster, Parish Clerk, 9C The Old School House, School Lane, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 4PJ. Tel 01452 721 552 email: quedgeleypc@btconnect.com. Opening hours: Mon- Fri 9.30am to 2pm. www.qedgeley-pc.gov.uk

Expenditure 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service provided</th>
<th>2013-14 £000</th>
<th>2014-15 £000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation amenities &amp; the environment</td>
<td>58,030</td>
<td>68,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning, development &amp; strategic development</td>
<td>7,420</td>
<td>7,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two community centres</td>
<td>93,156</td>
<td>99,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterwells Sports Centre</td>
<td>39,080</td>
<td>60,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish office &amp; administration of the council</td>
<td>80,200</td>
<td>79,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repayment of long term loans</td>
<td>64,220</td>
<td>58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants to local organisations</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>6,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency sum</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget required</strong></td>
<td><strong>352,706</strong></td>
<td><strong>380,272</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2013-14 £000</th>
<th>2014-15 £000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiring of facilities etc</td>
<td>98,100</td>
<td>106,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution by Glouc. City Council</td>
<td>11,100</td>
<td>11,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution by Glouc. County Council</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from reserves</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balances brought forward</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant allocation from Glouc. City Council</td>
<td>27,400</td>
<td>27,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>157,100</strong></td>
<td><strong>180,580</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving council tax payers to fund</td>
<td><strong>195,606</strong></td>
<td><strong>199,692</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Get Stuck in

If you have volunteers who would like to take part in a community clean-up day the City Council can help by loaning you tools, supplying you with bags and arranging for them to be collected when filled.

To find out more email heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk with the subject community ‘clean up’ or call 01452 396396.
In areas like youth services, bus services and highways we are taking a radically different approach to the way that our services are provided, by working together with local communities, by joining with our partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Where we have had to reduce levels of service, we have supported communities to step forward and take a greater role while keeping our focus on protecting services for the most vulnerable people and focusing on the things that matter most to local people.

The level of council tax

The council’s Band D council tax is £1,090.50, which is the same as 2013-14. This is the fourth year that the council has frozen council tax, utilising Government Grant.

The 2014-15 budget of £428,107m represents a reduction of £2.8m or 0.65% from last year’s reworked figures. Despite the reduction the budget contains:

- £4.8m investment to meet costs of services to older people and vulnerable adults
- £3.6m to fund increasing demand for Children and Families Services
- £4.6m to cover for increased costs due to inflation
- £1.5m to cover increased landfill costs
- £1m to fund the Highways Local initiative
- £1.4m to fund further debt redemption
- Funding for £48m of new capital investment

In terms of efficiencies, the council is expecting to make savings of £22.1m in 2014-15, demonstrating the continued commitment to get the most out of funds available and minimise service reductions.

How our budget compares with last year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Comparison</th>
<th>£000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original Budget 2013-14</td>
<td>430,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation</td>
<td>4,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost and spending increases</td>
<td>14,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less cost reductions</td>
<td>-22,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget 2014-15</td>
<td>428,107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our vision and values
Our vision is to use the resources available to us to improve the quality of life for Gloucestershire people. Our plans build on three clear values that underpin our direction and decision making. These values will make sure that the council remains flexible and responsive to local people's needs and expectations:
• Living within our means
• Providing the basics
• Helping communities help themselves

Schools
The Dedicated Schools Grant is a specific grant funding schools, early years' settings and Children’s Centres. In 2014-15 this grant was announced as £391.1m. This represents a cash freeze on the pupil unit rate of funding, but is an increase from 2013-14 due to increased pupil numbers and additional responsibilities resulting from schools funding reforms.

Investment in the future
The total capital spend planned for 2014-15 is £78m, £48m new capital spend plus £30m existing capital schemes. The majority of spend is planned for schools and facilities for children (£24m) and highways and infrastructure (£52m). All of the new capital investment is being funded from developer contributions, grants and internal resources. There will be no additional borrowing to fund this investment.

A full breakdown is available in the council’s budget information at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk. You can also see copies in libraries or in council offices. You can get further information about the council’s budget by writing to Joanna Walker, Strategic Finance Director, Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TG.

Environment Agency
A proportion of council tax is payable to the Environment Agency for flood defence. For further information please visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 2486km of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Severn Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river systems and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severn Trent regional flood and coastal committee</th>
<th>2013-14 £000</th>
<th>2014-15 £000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross expenditure</td>
<td>10,546</td>
<td>9,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levies raised</td>
<td>1,064</td>
<td>1,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council tax base</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide “match” funding the Agency may seek funding from the County Council in the form of a local levy. The local levy is shared on the basis of Band D equivalents between all contributing bodies within the committee area.

Changes in the gross budgeted expenditure between the years reflect the impact of the Government Spending Review and national prioritisation of projects. The total local levy raised has remained the same in 2014-15 as 2013-14 at £1.064m.
You can take up to 20% out of your black bin by using your weekly food waste collection.

www.gloucester.gov.uk