Working with you on changes to Council services

Over the past five years, we have been asking residents and our partner organisations about what matters most – which services we should be prioritising, how we can deliver services in different ways to make the best use of our resources, and how we make things better for Edinburgh and its citizens.

You continue to tell us to protect education, care for older people, services for vulnerable children and adults, and culture. You have also told us you support a general increase in Council Tax to help protect essential local services.

This year we asked you to tell us how the changes we were proposing would affect you and your community. You shared your views on our proposals on waste and recycling collection days, parking charges, Edinburgh Leisure funding, garden waste collections, advertising on Council assets and the night noise team. Many of you also told us you supported introducing a visitor tax to help pay for services in Edinburgh. We are working on a proposal for this which we will take to the Scottish Government.

Your feedback was used by councillors when they made decisions setting the Council’s 2018/19 budget in February.

Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/playyourpart to read more on the feedback or to get involved.

How your Council Tax is spent

We deliver a vast range of services to people who live and work in Edinburgh.

In 2017/18, we invested over £900 million in services for residents, businesses and visitors. We focused on the things you told us are important.

• £227 million on schools, including £164 million for teachers and £19 million for support assistants.

• Over £70 million on children’s social work and more than £170 million for care services for older people and those with physical and/or learning disabilities.

• £8 million towards providing high-quality leisure facilities in the city through Edinburgh Leisure.

• £42 million on recycling, waste and street cleaning.

• More than £25 million on the city’s roads and pavements.

• Over £6 million supporting a wide range of festivals and events within the city – bringing £313m to the city’s economy.

• We are spending almost £125 million on housing services. Along with our housing association partners, we’ve committed to build 20,000 new affordable and low-cost ownership homes in the next ten years.

Where our income comes from

Annual budget £989.1m

Council Tax £365.5m
Non-domestic rates £283.1m
Scottish Government grants £340.5m

Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/counciltaxcharges for more details of how money is raised and spent on local services.

Water and sewerage charges are not included in the Council Tax rates above. These services are provided by Scottish Water.
Help in paying your Council Tax
You may be able to get help in paying your Council Tax if you are on a low income and you have less than £16,000 in savings.

See the back of your bill or go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/claimbenefits for more information and to apply for Council Tax Reduction.

You also may be able to get a discount or an exemption, for example if you are the only person living in your property, or live with someone who is a student or severely mentally impaired.

For a full list of reductions and how to apply, see the back of your bill or go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/counciltax

Direct debit – you can spread your payments over 12 months rather than 10: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/counciltaxdirectdebit

Are you having trouble paying your rent?
If you are finding it hard to pay your rent due to ‘under occupancy’ or your housing benefit doesn’t cover all your rent, we might be able to help with a discretionary housing payment. It’s easy to apply – find out more on www.edinburgh.gov.uk/discretionaryhousingpayments

How to pay and further information

• For Council Tax and benefits
  www.edinburgh.gov.uk/counciltax
  www.edinburgh.gov.uk/benefits
  0131 608 1111

• For business rates
  www.edinburgh.gov.uk/businessrates
  0131 608 1133

• Water and sewerage charges
  www.scottishwater.co.uk
  0800 0778 778

Write to: The City of Edinburgh Council, Income and Benefits PO Box 12331, Edinburgh EH7 9DN

Visit us: City Centre – 249 High Street EH1 1YF
  North East – 101 Niddrie Mains Road EH16 4DS
  South East – 40 Captain’s Road EH17 8HQ
  South West – 10 Westside Plaza EH14 2ST
  North West – 8 West Pilton Gardens EH4 4DP
  – 81 Drum Brae Drive EH4 7FE

Phone: Freephone payment line: 0800 783 1719

Save time and do it online
• Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/paperless to switch to paperless Council Tax bills
• Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/movinghouse to tell us about a change of address
• Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/singleoccupancydiscount to apply for a single occupancy discount