



# Budget Report

2011-2012

Your guide  
to council tax  
and services



*Knowsl@y Council*

The future is **Knowsley**



## Knowsley Council's Budget

The Council gets most of its funding from the Government, and this helps to pay for the day to day cost of services as well as improvements in the buildings and facilities across the Borough. However in December 2010, the Government announced a funding settlement for 2011/12 which reduced the Council's funding by over 20% - and meant that the Council had to address a budget shortfall of £23.6m for the 2011/12 financial year.

This has meant some really hard decisions over what needs to be prioritised and how the Council can reduce spending while protecting the key services that Knowsley residents and businesses depend on. On the 2 March 2011 the council agreed its budget for the forthcoming year and identified the savings it needs to reach its £23.6 million target in 2011/12.

In addition, the Council has also been able to freeze its share of the council tax at last year's levels to help residents.

The majority of savings and efficiencies have been taken from back office processes and lower priority services in a bid to protect the services that are most important to Knowsley's residents.

The savings have been made from:

- Maximising efficiencies from across the council;
- A reduction of approximately 100 senior management positions to make savings of over £4.3 million;
- The deletion of 430 staff posts through voluntary severance, managed redeployment and early retirement;
- Reduced and streamlined back office and support services; and
- Redesigning front line services and reallocating resources from lower priority services

Despite diminishing resources, the budget strategy has ensured that facilities such as libraries and Children's Centres will remain open, eligibility criteria for adult and children's social care will be protected, and key street scene service levels will be maintained for streets, highways, town centres and parks.

A range of key initiatives will also go ahead. These projects include:

- Town centre regeneration plans for Kirkby, Stockbridge Village, Halewood and Prescot will continue as planned
- The replacement of street lighting across the borough will go ahead
- Investment into leisure facilities in Stockbridge Village, Prescot and Huyton will be delivered; and
- The investment in our primary school rebuilding and refurbishment programme will continue.

In this way the Council has made sure that public money is being spent on the key priorities facing the Borough and that the Authority gets the best possible value for your money.

Although we have made significant progress to address our budget issues, the challenge continues and we still have significant future financial challenges to address in the coming years. Due to further reductions in Government Grant funding the Council is likely to have to find another £30m between now and 2014.

## Your Council Tax

By freezing the Council Tax for 2011/12, Knowsley Council has set a Council tax that is once again below the national average and is the second lowest on Merseyside. The charge for most households in the Borough (those in Band A) will be £830.72. Your Council Tax bill also includes amounts to pay for the Police and Fire services. When these are added to Knowsley Council's share, the annual charge for a Band A household will be £971.39. The charges for all the bands are set out on page 24 of this booklet.

Depending on your circumstances, you may be entitled to Council Tax Benefit, and this will reduce the amount you have to pay. If you need any help on this, please speak to our advisors at the One Stop Shops or Contact Centres.

If you have any other questions about the Council's budget or how your Council Tax is calculated, you can use the Council's web site ([www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)) or the contacts set out in the rest of this booklet.

**JAMES DUNCAN BA, CPFA**  
**BOROUGH TREASURER**

	2011/12 Gross Expenditure £m	2011/12 Gross Income £m	2011/12 Net Expenditure £m	2010/11 Net Expenditure £m
<b>Services provided directly by the council</b>				
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods	19.803	8.139	11.664	13.735
Children's Services	165.785	140.382	25.403	32.716
Finance and Information Technology	11.569	4.486	7.083	7.643
Corporate and Customer Services	10.622	2.542	8.080	10.313
Human Resources	2.275	0.831	1.444	-
Community Safety and Social Inclusion	1.480	0.214	1.266	1.412
Leader's Portfolio	27.309	23.140	4.169	4.917
Neighbourhood Delivery	25.242	17.586	7.656	9.542
Leisure, Community and Culture	12.353	4.552	7.801	10.281
Health and Social Care	77.785	28.407	49.378	52.582
<b>Total</b>	<b>354.223</b>	<b>230.279</b>	<b>123.944</b>	<b>143.141</b>
<small>(i) net expenditure budgets include £19.580m of expenditure funded by government specific grants, compared to the specific grants of £32.097m that were received in 2010/11 (ii) 2010/11 figures have been restated to reflect changes in the Government's approach to Area Based Grant funding allocations.</small>				
<b>Other council budgets</b>				
Capital Financing and other council-wide costs			14.822	14.925
Contingencies and Reserves for Inflation and New Service Investments			11.096	10.439
Council Tax 'Freeze Grant'			(1,299)	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>24.619</b>	<b>25.364</b>
<b>Total budget for services provided by Knowsley Council</b>			<b>148.563</b>	<b>168.505</b>
<b>Charges for services provided by other bodies</b>				
Passenger Transport Authority			14.089	13.323
Waste Disposal Authority			7.870	8.026
Coroners Service			0.188	0.207
Flood Defence			0.067	0.072
Probation Service			0.006	0.006
<b>Total</b>			<b>22.220</b>	<b>21.634</b>
<b>Knowsley Council's total revenue budget requirement</b>			<b>170.783</b>	<b>190.139</b>
<b>Funding received by the council</b>				
Revenue Support Grant			(27.928)	(34.522)
Business Rates			(90.352)	(103.453)
<b>Total</b>			<b>(118.280)</b>	<b>(137.975)</b>
<b>Amount of Knowsley Council's budget to be funded from council tax</b>			<b>52.503</b>	<b>52.164</b>
<b>Police precept</b>			6.161	6.121
<b>Fire and Rescue Authority precept</b>			2.729	2.711
			8.890	8.832
<b>Total amount to be funded from council tax</b>			<b>61.393</b>	<b>60.996</b>

## Council Tax Bills

	Knowsley Council	Police	Fire and Rescue Authority
<b>Amount per "Band A" property</b>	£	£	£
2010/11	830.72	97.49	43.18
2011/12	830.72	97.49	43.18
Increase (%)	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

Follow our simple 3 point guide to sort out your finances, boost your income and get yourself ready for any special occasions

## 1 - Feeling a pinch in your pocket?

Most importantly, if you've got money worries, don't bury your head. The following agencies can offer you **FREE** advice

### Citizens Advice Bureau

Provide free advice on legal, debt, benefit, housing and employment problems and have offices across the borough in Halewood, Huyton, Kirkby and Prescot

Tel: 0845 122 1300 or go online to [www.knowsleycab.org.uk](http://www.knowsleycab.org.uk)

### Fazakerley Advice and Information Resource Centre (covers Fazakerley and Kirkby)

Provide advice on housing, debt and welfare law  
Tel: 0151 525 5051 from 9am – 12pm Mon - Fri

### Huyton Advice Centre

Provide advice on budgeting, debt and welfare benefits  
Tel: 0151 489 7313

Drop In: 9am – 3.30pm Mon – Thurs and from 9am – 12pm on Fridays

Appointments are available from 3.30pm – 5pm Mon – Thurs

### Kirkby Unemployed Centre

Provide advice on budgeting, debt, employment law and welfare benefits.

Tel: 0151 548 0001 or go online to [www.kuc.org.uk](http://www.kuc.org.uk)

### MABS (Money Advice and Budgeting Service)

Provide debt counselling and budgeting advice for residents of Huyton, Stockbridge Village, Prescot, Whiston, Knowsley Village L14 and L12 who are members of Enterprise Credit Union

Tel: 0151 292 5022

### Prescot and Whiston Community Advice Centre

Provide welfare benefit advice and can help you find other services which could help you

Tel: 0151 443 4639

## 2 - Are you getting all the benefits you're entitled to?

Knowsley Council's Benefit Visiting and Take Up team can provide help and advice on completing Housing and Council Tax Benefit forms and can signpost you on to other welfare benefits you may be entitled to.

Give them a call on **0151 443 4042**, from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday and from 10am – 12.30pm on Saturdays.

## 3 - Be prepared for those special occasions

Whether it's for a birthday, special event or for next Christmas, now is the perfect time to start saving. Small but regular amounts can really add up to make that occasion really special, without the financial hangover.

Local Credit Unions can offer savings accounts and other services. To find out more contact:

### Enterprise Credit Union (based in Huyton)

Tel: 0151 482 0177

### Halewood Community Credit Union

Tel: 0151 486 6104

### Knowsley Mutual Credit Union (based in Kirkby)

Tel: 0151 545 3380

### Southdene Credit Union

Tel: 0151 548 5200

# CROSS ROADS CARE

## Knowsley

### Our Services

We offer a wide range of services from providing person centred care support packages delivered in your familiar home setting, supporting you within the community, continuing health care, sensitive palliative and end of life care support right through to providing personalised specialist care support.

### How can we help you?

Realising that help is needed to provide care support can often be an emotional and stressful experience both for the person needing the care and for their carers and family. That is why our experienced care team at Crossroads understands what is needed and our expertise and understanding allow us to make your experience of arranging care as stress free as possible.

Our 19 years of delivering excellent standards of care services means that we know what type of services and support our service users need. We work hard to understand what each of our service users need and in partnership with the service users and their carers we design a care support package that fully meets the individual needs of all parties.

### Contact us

Please contact our Coordinating Manager on:

Tel no: 0151 289 2761

Email: [crossroads.knowsley@virgin.net](mailto:crossroads.knowsley@virgin.net)

Or visit us at our website:

[www.crossroadscareknowsley.co.uk](http://www.crossroadscareknowsley.co.uk)

We provide personalised care support services for people of all ages who want to maintain their independence and stay in their home and familiar community environment.



**CROSS  
ROADS  
CARE**  
**ARE THE  
PEOPLE  
CARERS  
TURN TO**

### Merseyside Police Authority

The Police Authority has set a Net Budget Requirement for 2011/12 of £332.645m. The precept, which provides the balance of funding not covered by Government Grant, is set at £61.504m. In council tax terms this is equivalent to £97.49 per property at Band A and £146.23 at Band D, a nil increase on the current year's level.

This position has been achieved through the approval of £20.097m of budget reductions, along with the receipt of a Council Tax Freeze grant, which provides the equivalent of a 2.5% increase in the precept.

During the formulation of the 2010/11 budget, the Authority set a budget of consolidation given the uncertainties of the next Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcement. This has at least allowed the Authority to face 2011/12 and beyond in a financially resilient position, that at any other time, would have provided a sound foundation for future investment in priority services.

In the Local Government Finance Settlement, which covers the next 4 years, (i.e. the CSR period), the Authority has been awarded a net reduction in general grants of 5.141%, i.e. £14.701m, for 2011/12. The level of the settlement awarded to this Authority equates to the same percentage reduction for all Police Authorities in England and Wales. The Government has also provided details of the police grant for 2012/13 and this will see the Authority's grant reduce by a further 6.703%, i.e. £18.182m. Unfortunately, the third and fourth years of the settlement will only be confirmed

following the Local Government Resource Review currently being undertaken by the Government. Therefore, a number of assumptions have been made regarding the likely grant funding in these years.

Consequently, the above settlement has presented the Authority with two very significant financial challenges, i.e. the enormity of the required savings over 4 years (£61.4m) and the "front loading" of the savings requiring £38.5m to be saved over the initial 2 year period.

The 2011/12 budget sets out a strategy for implementing the quickest and deepest cuts in living memory, whilst, by "back loading" the impact on front line services seeks to mitigate, as much as possible the timing of the impact on operational policing. Undoubtedly, this challenge will become greater as cuts run deeper. However, it is inevitable that this impact will grow over the 4 year period.

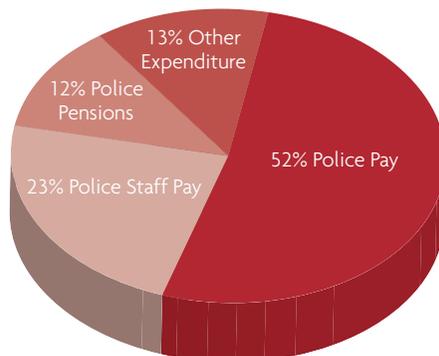
**PAUL JOHNSON BA (Hons) CPFA**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE / TREASURER**

**Net Budget Requirement**

2010/11		2011/12	
£m		£m	
<b>368.653</b>	<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>351.889</b>	
(2.091)	Gross Income	(3.227)	
(30.377)	Specific Government Grants	(15.526)	
<b>336.185</b>	<b>NET OPERATING REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>333.136</b>	
(0.887)	Use of Provisions, Reserves & General Balances	(0.491)	
<b>335.298</b>	<b>NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>332.645</b>	
(137.377)	Less: Police General Grant	(137.764)	41.4%
(17.362)	Revenue Support Grant	(31.518)	9.5%
(119.564)	Business Rate Income	(101.966)	30.7%
0.518	Collection Fund	0.107	(0.0%)
<b>61.513</b>	<b>PRECEPT REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>61.504</b>	<b>18.4%</b>

**How spending has changed**

	£m
<b>NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2010/11</b>	<b>335.298</b>
Inflation & Pay Awards	5.273
Adjustment to Grant Related Expenditure	0.915
Net Committed Growth	2.267
Recurring Savings	(2.600)
Collection Fund Deficit	0.107
Bank Holiday	0.100
Reduction in Contribution to Reserves	(2.222)
Decrease in Contributions from Reserves & General Balances	0.396
Contribution from General Balances to Finance Collection Fund Deficit	(0.107)
Council Tax Freeze Grant	(1.536)
Reduction in Specific grants	14.851
Savings Requirement	(20.097)
<b>NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2011/12</b>	<b>332.645</b>

**Analysis of budgeted expenditure in 2011/12**

# Data Protection

Knowsley Council is committed to supporting residents to access the services and support that they are entitled to receive. To do this, we need to collect and use information about the people we provide services to and others we have contact with. We may share information you provide to us, such as council tax and benefits

## **This will be in order to:**

- ❑ **make sure the information is accurate;**
- ❑ **make sure that you receive all the benefits that you're entitled to;**
- ❑ **avoid asking you for the same information more than once;**

## **The council's promise to you**

- ❑ We will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant legislation .
- ❑ We will only share your personal data if it is necessary to fulfil our statutory powers and duties, or to check accuracy, or to prevent and detect crime.
- ❑ We will not share your personal data with third parties for commercial purposes.
- ❑ We will use your personal data to advise you about benefits and grants that you may be entitled to receive and/or services that you may find useful.
- ❑ We will not collect too much or irrelevant information and we will not share information unnecessarily.

*For details of the information that we hold about you please contact:*

**Knowsley Borough Council**  
**Risk and Resilience Division**  
**PO Box 24, Archway Road**  
**Huyton, Knowsley**  
**Merseyside L36 9YZ.**  
**Email: [foi@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:foi@knowsley.gov.uk)**

data, within the council and with Government bodies and other local authorities. We will only do this where it is necessary and the law allows it. Under no circumstances will we share your personal information with third parties for commercial purposes.

- ❑ **prevent or detect crime;**
- ❑ **protect public funds; and,**
- ❑ **meet our key aims and legal obligations.**

- ❑ We will do our best to keep your data accurate and up to date. You can help us by telling us about any change of circumstances.
- ❑ We will not keep your personal data for longer than necessary.
- ❑ We will keep your personal data secure, both within the council and if we need to share it with another organisation.
- ❑ We will respect your right to access your personal data and other rights under the Data Protection Act.



**Knowsley Council**

*For more information about Data Protection contact:*

**The Information Commissioner's Office,**  
**Wycliffe House, Water Lane,**  
**Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF**  
**Tel: 01625 545 745**  
**web: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)**

# Shop local, shop Knowsley

Visit Knowsley's town centres for a more relaxing shopping experience

# Prescot Huyton Kirkby



Everything you want from fashion and food to gifts galore. Avoid the hassle of big city centres. Easy to get to by bus or train.

You can also visit



*Right up  
your street!*



**Kirkby Market open every Tuesday,  
Friday and Saturday, 9am - 4.30pm**



Knowsley Council

### Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority Precept Information 2011-2012

The Fire Authority is facing an unprecedented financial challenge over at least the next two years as Central Government reduces the level of grant support. In 2010/11 the Authority received £46.304m funding from Central Government, for 2011/12 this has been reduced by £4.398m or 9.5% to £41.906m. Further reductions of 3.5% have been announced for 2012/13.

The Authority's original medium term financial plan anticipated future council tax increases of 4% or below. Despite the severe cut in Central Government grant

funding the Authority recognises the financial pressures on the communities of Merseyside and has therefore frozen its council tax at the 2010/11 rates. Most council taxpayers in Merseyside pay about 12p per day for the Fire and Rescue Service.

The Authority has set a budget of £69.100 million for 2011/12. This represents a reduction in planned expenditure of £6.422m or 8.5%. This has been achieved by:-

Assuming a 3 Year Pay freeze for all staff	(£2.0m)
Cutting Support Service & Management Costs	(£1.7m)
Being more efficient in Front Line Staffing including changed duty systems at Whiston Fire Station and the Marine Unit	(£1.8m)
Using Reserves to avoid compulsory redundancy	(£0.9m)
<b>Net Budget Reduction</b>	<b>(£6.4m)</b>

The Authority has issued a precept on the five Merseyside District Councils of £27.242 million, which is equivalent to a Council Tax of £64.77 for a Band D property. Knowsley's contribution to expenditure financed by precept is £2.729 million, which represents 10% of the total precept.

The Authority has managed to set financial plans that allow investment in line with its Integrated Risk Management Plan and will help maintain its high performing status. The Integrated Risk Management Plan sets out the future strategic direction for the Authority and is available on our website at [www.merseysidefire.gov.uk](http://www.merseysidefire.gov.uk).

The Authority budget makes significant provision for investing in the Authority's world leading Community Fire Safety work and Reducing Risk which continues to make Merseyside very much safer. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority:

- Was the first fire authority in the world to visit 100,000 households in a single year (and approximately 700,000 visits in total have been carried out)
- Has fitted approximately 750,000 free smoke alarms
- Received Beacon Status for Early Intervention (Children at Risk), Working with Older People, and for Reducing Health Inequalities
- Reduced fire deaths from an average of 20 in 1999 to 8 in 2009/10.
- Is targeting risks using specialist skills in dealing with age, disability, deafness, drugs, alcohol, arson and anti-social behaviour, as well as multilingual specialists.
- Between 2003/2004 to 2009/2010, the Authority has been successful in:-
  - Reducing accidental dwelling fires by 19%
  - Reducing injuries in accidental dwelling fires by 32%
  - Reducing anti-Social behaviour fires by 61%

This work has successfully reduced the incidence of death and injury from fire in Merseyside.

To get a Free Home Fire Risk Assessment ring Fire Service Direct  
on free phone 0800 731 5958.

(Visit our website [www.merseyfire.gov.uk](http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk) or call your Community Fire Station)

### Summary of Revenue Budget

2010/11		2011/12	Per head of population
£'000		£'000	£
75,500	Total Expenditure	73,557	
( 2,040)	Less Income	(3,000)	
<b>73,460</b>	<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>70,557</b>	
(134)	Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,457)	
<b>73,326</b>	<b>BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>69,100</b>	<b>51.16</b>
(5,871)	Revenue Support Grant	(9,895)	(7.33)
(40,434)	Non-Domestic Rates	(32,011)	(23.70)
226	Collection Fund Deficit	48	0.04
<b>27,247</b>	<b>PRECEPT REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>27,242</b>	<b>20.17</b>

### Contact Us

The Authority values the opinions of the people it serves. If you wish to comment about the services of the Fire Authority contact Fire Service Headquarters 0151 296 4000.

### Kieran Timmins CPFA

Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer

Fire Service Headquarters,

Bridle Road, Bootle

Liverpool, L30 4YD

# money worries don't suffer in silence



## If you find you are struggling to pay your household bills and are getting further into debt here are a few tips that may help you.

- **don't** ignore the problem. It won't go away and will probably get worse. The sooner you deal with it the quicker your debts can be sorted out
- **don't** borrow money to pay debts without trying other options first and even then, you need to think very carefully about it.
- **pay your priority debts first.** These are listed below.
- **contact** everyone you owe, and for non-priority debts try to arrange to pay back a smaller amount that you can afford. You will need to work out your budget to do this. A form to help you is included on the next page.
- **if you can't cope** ask for help. There is a list of agencies you can contact on the next page.

### Priority debts

These are the debts you should pay first. Listed below are the types of debt and what could happen if you don't pay them. Most organisations will make an arrangement with you but you must contact them as soon as possible.

Debt	What may happen if you don't pay
Rent	You may be evicted from your home
Mortgage	You may have your home re-possessed
Council Tax	Bailiffs can come to your home and take items to sell to pay off your debt. Money can be deducted from your wages, income support or jobseekers allowance. You can be sent to prison.
Gas/Electricity	Your supply can be cut off
TV Licence	You will get a magistrates' court fine
Magistrates' court fines	Bailiffs can come to your home and take items to sell to pay off your debt. Money can be deducted from your wages, income support or jobseekers allowance.
Hire purchase	The items you have bought can be re-possessed.
Income Tax, National Insurance and VAT arrears	Bailiffs can come to your home and take items to sell to pay off your debt. Money can be deducted from your wages, income support or jobseekers allowance.
Maintenance	Bailiffs can come to your home and take items to sell to pay off your debt. Money can be deducted from your wages, income support or jobseekers allowance.

## Working out a budget

Income	Weekly /Monthly	Spending		Weekly/Monthly
Wages		Rent/Mortgage		
Wages - Partner		Council tax		
Jobseekers Allowance		Gas		
Income Support		Electricity		
Working Tax Credit		Water Rates		
Child Tax Credit		Telephone		
Child Benefit		Food/Toiletries		
Employment Support Allowance		Credit Cards		
Disability Living Allowance - Care		Loans		
Disability Living Allowance - Mobility		TV Licence/Sky/ Internet access.		
Pension Credit		Catalogue		
Works Pension		Travel costs		
Carers Allowance		Hire Purchase		
Attendance Allowance		Alcohol/Cigarettes		
Maintenance		Entertainment		
Other		Other		
<b>Total A</b>		<b>Total B</b>		

Total A £..... Minus Total B £..... = C Amount left to spend £.....

• If there is nothing or a low amount left at C try looking at areas you could reduce your spending or contact one of the agencies listed below for advice.

## help is at hand

If things do go wrong DO NOT bury your head. The agencies listed below can give you FREE, independent advice on how to deal with your problems.

**Citizens Advice Bureau** - tel: 0845 122 1300 or go online to [www.knowsleycab.org.uk](http://www.knowsleycab.org.uk)

**Fazakerley Advice Bureau** - tel: 0151 525 5051

**Huyton Advice Centre** - tel: 0151 489 7313

**Kirkby Unemployed Centre** - tel: 0151 548 0001 or go online to [www.kuc.org.uk](http://www.kuc.org.uk)

**Prescot and Whiston Community Advice Centre** - tel: 0151 443 4639

### Welfare Benefit Changes from April 2011

From April 2011 the government has introduced some changes to the Housing and Council Tax Benefit schemes. If you are receiving benefits, you need to be aware of some important welfare benefit changes that may affect your income. The main changes you will see are:

- The amount you must pay towards your rent and council tax, if you have a non-dependant living with you, will increase.
- The amount of Local Housing Allowance you are paid may be reduced. The maximum £15 weekly excess that some customers can get will be removed and the maximum rate of Housing Benefit will be limited to the rate for a four bedroom property

for more information and advice visit [www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)

### Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) Information for Council Tax Payers And Business Ratepayers 2011/12

1. Given the severe spending pressures on the Merseyside District Councils, the Authority resolved in November 2010 to freeze its levy for 2011/12 at the same level as 2010/11. However, this was subject to the Department for Transport maintaining direct grant funding to the Authority for the English National Concessionary Travel scheme.

2. The Government has decided that the grant funding should be replaced by a Revenue Support Grant mechanism paid to each District Council. The only way in which that money can be paid to the ITA is via a technical levy. For this reason, and this reason alone, a

levy increase of nearly 7% has been set so that the money paid by grant broadly equates to the level of revenue support the five districts have received.

3. Future capital investment on the public transport network will be seriously constrained over the next four years as a result of the Government's Capital Settlement. In 2010/11, direct grants from the DfT totalled £12.7m, for 2011/12 the equivalent sum is £5.7m.

J R Barclay, BSc, MBA, CPFA

Director of Resources, Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority and Passenger Transport Executive (Merseytravel) 24 Hatton Garden, Liverpool L3 2AN

Tel: 0151 227 5181

### Merseytravel Revenue Budget 2011/12

	Expend £000	Income/Recharges £000	Grants/ Balances £000	Levy £000
Bus Services	29,236	(9,804)	-	19,432
Rail Services	104,877	(11,991)	(89,122)	3,764
Travel Concessions	82,180	(23,598)	-	58,582
Customer Services: Hubs	15,983	(7,444)	-	8,539
Mersey Ferries	11,977	(12,287)	-	(310)
Mersey Tunnels	37,782	(37,782)	-	-
DRCM	9,027	(2,155)	-	6,872
Transport Planning	6,210	(1,284)	-	4,926
Funds Management	34,953	(8,186)	(1,208)	25,559
Asset Management	7,779	(7,779)	-	-
Peripatetic Services	2,026	(2,026)	-	-
Customer Services: ICT	5,906	(5,906)	-	-
Corporate Development	2,438	(2,438)	-	-
Support Services	3,447	(3,447)	-	-
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>353,821</b>	<b>(136,127)</b>	<b>(90,330)</b>	<b>127,364</b>

DRCM = Democratic Representation & Corporate Management

	2010/11 Levy £000	2011/12 Levy £000	Increase £000
Knowsley	13,323	14,089	766
Liverpool	38,423	41,709	3,286
St Helens	15,682	16,701	1,019
Sefton	24,304	25,773	1,469
Wirral	27,344	29,092	1,748
<b>Total</b>	<b>119,076</b>	<b>127,364</b>	<b>8,288</b>

Notes: 1. The public transport capital programme for 2011/12 is £16.6m of which £1.9m is allocated for new schemes.  
2. The Mersey Tunnels capital programme for 2011/12 is £9.6m financed from Tunnels tolls.

### Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA)

MWDA is the local authority which arranges for the disposal and recycling of household waste after it has been collected by your council. MWDA also provides 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres throughout Merseyside for local residents to recycle unwanted items.

MWDA has a Corporate Plan which sets out its principal aims and objectives and sets targets for the coming years. An Annual Plan is published each year and details performance against this plan. The Annual Plan 2010 is available from MWDA and shows Merseyside's combined recycling and composting performance hit 34%.

### Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority Financial Summary

A comparison of Expenditure and Income for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 is as follows:

	2010/11 £000	2011/12 £000
Gross Expenditure	39,698	37,120
Landfill Tax (1)	22,963	25,666
<b>Total Net Expenditure</b>	<b>62,661</b>	<b>62,786</b>
Contribution to reserves	711	0
Contribution to Sinking Fund (2)	7,500	5,206
<b>Total requirement</b>	<b>70,872</b>	<b>67,992</b>

(1) Landfill Tax: the tax paid by MWDA to central government for disposing of residual waste to landfill. In 2010-11 it is £48 per tonne, and for 2011-12 it is £56 per tonne.

(2) Sinking Fund: a reserve established with the agreement of District Councils to offset future increases in costs and prevent large levy rises.

Why the requirement has remained the same:

	£000
<b>Total requirement 2010-2011</b>	<b>70,872</b>
Reduced sinking fund contribution	-2,303
Capital programme savings (3)	-2,490
Reduced contribution to General Fund (4)	-711
Administration savings (net)	-199
Tonnage reductions	-264
Landfill tax and allowances	2,896
Waste prevention scheme	191
<b>Total Requirement 2011-2012</b>	<b>67,992</b>

(3) Capital Programme: the Authority's investment in new and improved facilities.

(4) General Fund: the prudent amount set aside by the Authority to provide for unforeseen events.

The Levy for Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council based upon the apportionment system is: £7,870,555

For more information contact MWDA:

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, 6th Floor, North House, 17 North John Street, Liverpool L2 5QY.

Tel: 0151 255 1444

Email: [enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk) • Web: [www.merseysidewda.gov.uk](http://www.merseysidewda.gov.uk)



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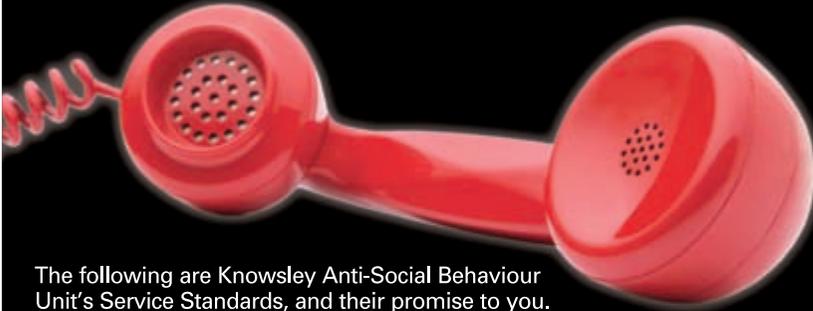
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# It's the end of the line for anti-social behaviour

Knowsley has its own anti-social behaviour unit, dedicated to tackling ASB. The unit is made up of staff from many agencies such as; Knowsley Council, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Probation, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Housing officers and Victim Support amongst others.



The following are Knowsley Anti-Social Behaviour Unit's Service Standards, and their promise to you.

#### They will:

- Enable and encourage residents, visitors and workers in the Borough to report incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB);
- Ensure reports of ASB are accurately recorded and monitored;
- Aim to respond to reports of ASB within 3 - 5 working days depending upon the nature of the incident;
- Ensure timely action is taken to investigate and tackle incidents of ASB and to prevent incidents escalating;
- Identify and implement intervention and prevention measures;
- Take effective legal action against perpetrators where appropriate;
- Provide appropriate advice and support to victims and witnesses of ASB;
- Inform residents of the services that the Council and its partner agencies provide;
- Work in partnership with the police and other agencies to tackle ASB issues;
- Ensure relevant staff receive appropriate training;
- If an individual is not happy with the service that they have received then they can make a formal complaint to Knowsley MBC. For more information on how to make a complaint please call **0151 443 4031** (text phone users call **0151 443 4248**) or email [customerservices@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@knowsley.gov.uk).

Anyone can be affected by anti-social behaviour, don't feel isolated, a dedicated team is here to help.



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**[www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)**

All reports are treated in confidence. In an emergency call 999.  
Telephone lines open 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday & 10.00am - 12.30pm Saturday (opening times subject to change without prior notice). Online reporting available 24/7

### Coroners Service

The day to day cost of running the Coroners Service is estimated at £0.773m for 2011/12. This is apportioned between the Councils of Knowsley, Sefton and St Helens on the basis of population. Knowsley Coroners

Service has budgeted for a charge to the council of £0.188m compared to £0.207m in 2010/11. The figures are subject to final confirmation.

### Flood Defence

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood defence for 6,500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences, in the area of the North West Regional Flood Defence Committee. Flood defence money is spent on the construction of new

flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system.

The financial details are:

#### North West Regional Flood Defence Budget 2011/12

	2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m
Gross Expenditure	58.366	40,632
Levies raised from the council	3.638	3,638
Total Council Tax Base	2.277	2,294

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, where there are schemes which do not attract central funding the agency may seek funding from County and Metropolitan Councils, Unitary Authorities and London Boroughs 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 reflects the impact of the Government Spending Review and national prioritisation of capital projects.

The total levy raised has remained the same in 2011/12 as 2010/11 at £3,638,000.

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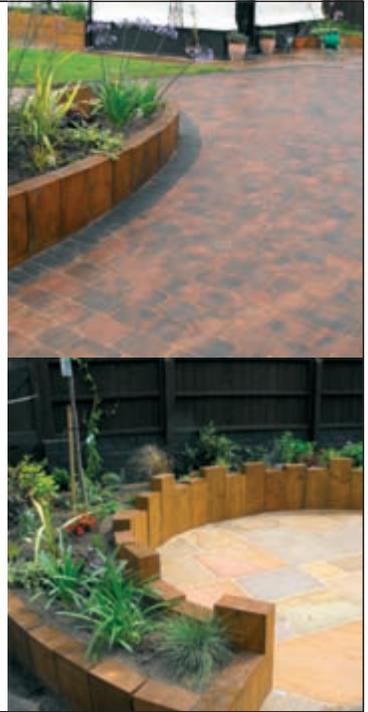
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If you live in one of Knowsley's six parishes your bill will include a "precept" for the budget requirements of your Parish or Town Council.

	Gross Expenditure Budget			Precept		
	2010/11	2011/12	increase/ (decrease)	2010/11	2011/12	increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	%	£	£	%
Halewood	468,432	455,911	-2.67%	317,141	319,020	0.06%
Whiston	248,000	249,000	0.40%	248,000	249,117	0.45%
Knowsley	336,839	340,729	1.15%	319,439	319,439	0%
Prescot	487,150	453,971	-6.81%	239,600	247,534	3.31%
Cronton	14,759	14,623	-0.92%	14,693	14,693	0%
Tarbock	3,500	4,710	34.57%	3,500	4,710	34.57%

The following narratives are provided for those councils with precepts above £0.140m.

#### Halewood Town Council:

Has set a standstill precept for the financial year 2011-12. The Town Council has continued to review its costs in attempts to establish value for money for the residents of Halewood, whilst maintaining its contribution to many annual activities within the Township, including the running costs of its two community centres.

#### Whiston:

Whiston Town Council has Quality Status and currently operates three Community Centres within the Whiston area. We also lease a number of Public Open Spaces Including football pitches, playgrounds, and a fishing pond as well as providing a Multi Use Games Area all within the Township of Whiston.

We have recently refurbished Whiston Town Hall and continue to maintain all sites to a very high standard whilst keeping the precept at a very reasonable level.

We as a Town Council continue to operate and provide services to the benefit of the Community of Whiston.

**Knowsley:**

The Parish Council continued to operate three facilities: Knowsley Village Hall, Knowsley Youth Club and the Sports Pavilion (Stockbridge Village). In addition, the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of several woodland sites and public open spaces.

The Council provided considerable support for youth and play activities in the parish. The Sports Pavilion was refurbished and a Multi Use Games Area was constructed at the Recreation Ground in Knowsley Village. More improvement work is planned for both the Sports Pavilion and Knowsley Village Hall during 2011/12. Small grants and concessionary prices were awarded to over twenty community groups.

The Parish Council took a keen interest in planning applications and continued to represent local views back to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

The Council is nationally recognised as a Quality Council. This award places Knowsley Parish Council as one of the very best parish/town councils in the country.

**Prescot:**

Due to uncertainty surrounding Prescot Town Council facilities, it has been necessary for the Town Council to set a budget based on last year. Accordingly, the Town Council have set a precept of £247,534 which equates to £72.32 for each band D property and this represents a nil increase per property on the 2010/11 figure.

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### Will I be the right sort of person to support a family?

Home-Start volunteers are all ages and from all walks of life. All that we ask of you is that you have experience of bringing up children and can spare at least 3 hours a week.



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or you are a parent who would like to receive Home-Start support please contact our team on

**0151 480 3910**

Home-Start Knowsley, 55 Rupert Road, Huyton, L36 9TB  
website: [www.homestartknowsley.org.uk](http://www.homestartknowsley.org.uk)

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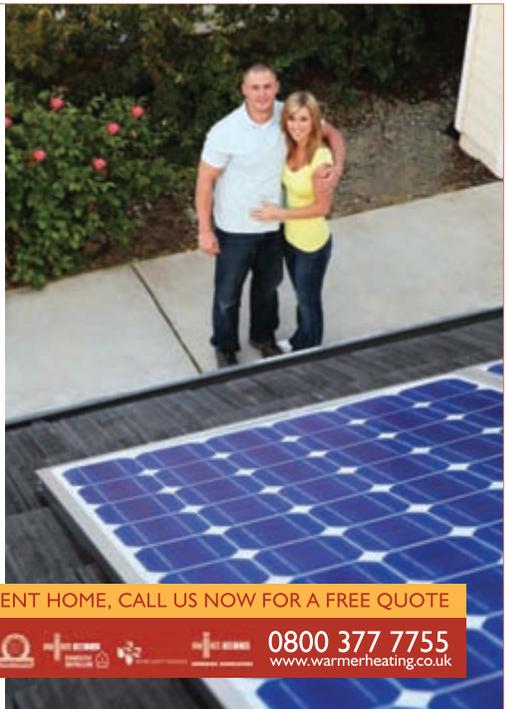
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The following notes form part of your council tax demand and should be read carefully

### Council tax valuation bands

Council tax is charged on most homes. It does not matter whether the home is rented or owned, or whether it is lived in or not. Each home is placed in one of eight valuation bands (shown on the front of your bill) based on the amount it would have sold for on 1 April 1991. You may be able to appeal against the valuation band if:

- You have moved into the property within the last six months, or
- There has been a change in the building, or physical state of the local area, which could affect the value of your home.

For more information you should contact the Valuation officer at:  
The District Valuer and Valuation Officer, 72 Church Street, Liverpool, L1 3AY.  
(Telephone 03000 504000)  
or visit [www.mycounciltax.gov.uk](http://www.mycounciltax.gov.uk).

**You must continue to pay your council tax in full pending any appeal decision.**

The actual amount you are billed will vary dependent upon which of the eight valuation bands your home has been placed in:

Valuation Band	Net requirement £m % Increase in Council Tax Bill Range of Values	Knowsley	Police	Fire & Rescue	Totals
		£52.503m 0.00%	£6.161m 0.00%	£2.729m 0.00%	£61.393m 0.00%
		£	£	£	£
A	UP TO £40,000	£830.72	£97.49	£43.18	£971.39
B	£40,001 - £52,000	£969.17	£113.73	£50.38	£1,133.28
C	£52,001 - £68,000	£1,107.63	£129.98	£57.57	£1,295.18
D	£68,001 - £88,000	£1,246.08	£146.23	£64.77	£1,457.08
E	£88,001 - £120,000	£1,522.99	£178.73	£79.16	£1,780.88
F	£120,001 - £160,000	£1,799.89	£211.22	£93.56	£2,104.67
G	£160,001 - £320,000	£2,076.80	£243.72	£107.95	£2,428.47
H	Over £320,000	£2,492.16	£292.46	£129.54	£2,914.16

In addition residents who live in parishes will have to contribute towards the cost of their parish council. These additional costs are as follows:

Valuation Band	Cronton £	Halewood £	Knowsley £	Prescot £	Tarbock £	Whiston £
A	20.53	35.55	67.22	48.21	3.89	44.19
B	23.96	41.48	78.42	56.25	4.53	51.56
C	27.38	47.40	89.63	64.28	5.18	58.92
D	30.80	53.33	100.83	72.32	5.83	66.29
E	37.64	65.18	123.24	88.39	7.13	81.02
F	44.49	77.03	145.64	104.46	8.42	95.75
G	51.33	88.88	168.05	120.53	9.72	110.48
H	61.60	106.66	201.66	144.64	11.66	132.58

### Property exempt from council tax

#### Council tax is not charged on homes in which:

- Only students live
- Only people under the age of eighteen live
- Only people who are severely mentally impaired person or persons
- Dependent relatives live, as an annexe to the main property (eg granny flat)

Unfurnished empty homes needing major repairs or structural alteration to render them habitable can be exempt for up to twelve months.

An unfurnished empty home will be exempt for up to six months from the date it became empty and unfurnished.

#### Council tax is not charged on empty homes where:

- A charity last occupied and owns (exempt for up to six months from the date it fell vacant.)
- The person who lived there has gone to prison or is now resident in a hospital or a nursing home
- The trustee of the deceased is waiting for a grant of probate or letters of administration or less than six months have elapsed since such a grant was made
- Occupation of the property is prohibited by law

- The property is being held vacant for occupation by a minister of religion
- The person who lived there has gone to live with someone else to receive care or has moved to provide personal care for someone else on a permanent basis
- A student owns and was the last person to live in it
- Repossession by a mortgagee has been taken
- A bankrupt's trustee is responsible

### Discounts and disregards

Your council tax bill comprises two elements, 50% property element and 50% personal element. A full council tax bill assumes that there are at least two qualifying adults resident in the household.

If you live alone, your council tax can be reduced by 25%. This is known as single person discount. This discount is not based on your income.

If a property is no one's sole or main residence, then the owner is entitled to a 50% discount. This can apply to empty and unoccupied dwellings and second homes.

### Status Discounts (Disregards)

Certain people will not be counted when looking at the number of adults resident in a dwelling. This means that it is possible to qualify for a discount where there are two or more residents.

**These disregarded adults can be classified as follows:**

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth training trainees
- Patients resident in hospital
- People who are being looked after in care homes
- People who are severely mentally impaired
- People staying in certain hostels and night shelters
- 18 and 19 year olds who are at or who have just left school after completing a qualifying course of education
- Careworkers working for low pay, (usually working for a charity)
- People caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under 18
- Members of visiting forces and certain international institutions
- Members of religious communities (monks and nuns)
- People in prison (except those in prison for non payment of council tax or a fine)

If your bill has been reduced by a discount, this will be shown on your bill. You must let us know if your circumstances change or you may incur a penalty.

If your bill indicates that a discount has been allowed, you must tell the council of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement. If you fail to do so you may be required to pay a penalty

### People with Disabilities

If someone who lives in your home is disabled, and the property has certain facilities to specifically meet their needs, you may be entitled to pay less council tax. These are:

- A disabled person must be resident in the dwelling, **and**
- A room other than a bathroom, kitchen or lavatory which is predominantly required for meeting the needs of the disabled person, **or**
- An **additional** kitchen or bathroom which is required for meeting the needs of the disabled person, **or**
- Sufficient floor space to use a wheelchair indoors, and the disabled person needs the use of a wheelchair within the dwelling.

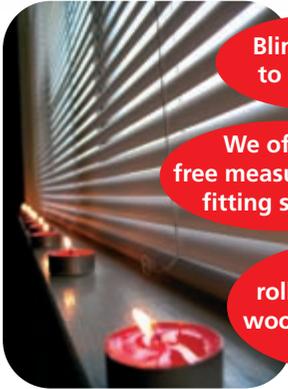
If you require more information or an application form for disabled reductions, please contact the council tax office.

### Recovery procedure

If you experience genuine difficulty in meeting your payment, please do not put off contacting the council tax office rather than wait until recovery action has been taken. Every effort will be made to assist you in clearing the debt.

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### Representation

KCVS enables the views of local groups to be represented in shaping and delivering future services.

### Development work

KCVS works with groups to develop new and innovative services to meet their needs.

### Strategic partnerships

KCVS works in partnership with local government and other statutory agencies to help shape the delivery of services.

For more information about our full range of services visit our website at [www.knowsleycvs.org.uk](http://www.knowsleycvs.org.uk) or our Reception and Resource Area at Nutgrove Villa, 1 Griffiths Road, Huyton L36 6NA.  
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**[www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)**

You can now view  
your council tax  
account online.

We will then email you with a 5 digit pin number. You then need to click on the web link provided in the email, and enter your pin.

You will then be registered to view your bill online.

You only need to register once. Next time you log in you will only need to provide your email address and password.

To register for free, please visit

**[www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)**

and click on the 'Residents Sign In' button.

- Your full name and address
  - A valid email address
- A password and a security question and answer.

### **Do you claim sole occupier discount? Should you be?**

The 25% sole occupier discount can be claimed by individuals who are the only adult over 18 living at an address. There is evidence to suggest however that there are a significant number of claimants who do not live alone and who are therefore fraudulently claiming the reduction.

False claims such as this result in higher overall council tax costs for everybody else. The Audit Commission estimated that over £200m of Sole Occupier Person Discounts may be being fraudulently claimed nationally.

Here at Knowsley, we are keen to ensure the cost of this fraudulent activity is not passed on to our law abiding citizens.

Commencing in May 2012 we will be undertaking an exercise to identify those households where the sole occupier discount is claimed but where other information sources show there to be a strong possibility that the claim may be fraudulent. Those homes suspected of having more than one occupant will be contacted, and will ultimately have their discount cancelled.

That's why we have enlisted the services of GB Group, working in partnership to help remove invalid sole occupier discount claims so that we can ensure we deliver vital public sector services to the citizens who really need them.



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## Knowsley

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Website - [animals-in-need.co.uk](http://animals-in-need.co.uk)

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†Regular size only. Voucher redeemable subject to availability for stated offer at participating UK restaurants. Serving times apply. No cash or other alternative available. Limit of 1 voucher per person present per day. Voucher will be retained. Not for resale or use in conjunction with any other promotion or offer. Must be 16 years or older to redeem. © 2011 McDonald's.



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**Advice Sites:**

**Halewood**  
(Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm)

**Huyton**  
(Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm)

**Kirkby**  
(Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm)

**Prescot**  
(Tue-Thu 9am - 3pm)

**Stockbridge Village**  
(Tue 10am - 12:30pm)

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**0151 426 8888**

**ScreenKing**  
Printing & Embroidery Ltd.  
Unit 3 Sinclair Way,  
Prescot Business Park  
Prescot (near Tesco's), L34 1QL

### Council Tax Benefit

You can get help with paying your council tax if you have a low income or are in receipt of Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance or Pension Credit. We normally look at:

- Money you and your partner have coming in, including earnings, some benefits, tax credits and things like occupational pensions.
- Any savings you or your partner have over £6,000 (For a pensioner we ignore the first £10,000 of your savings.)
- Your circumstances, such as your age.
- The ages and size of your family, whether you or any of your family are disabled, and whether anyone who lives with you could help with the rent.

### In-work Benefits

You could even qualify for help if you are working for an employer and receiving a low wage or if you have started up in business as self employed and your income is low.

If you have a family, the rules on income have changed. We ignore Child Benefit and any maintenance payments for a child and we only take into account the earnings you have left after taking off some of the money you pay for childcare.

So even if you have applied before and did not qualify you might be entitled to help now.

### Second Adult Rebate

If you pay Council Tax and do not qualify for council tax benefit because your own income is too high, you might get benefit for other adults living in your home. Second adult rebate can be paid where the person responsible for the bill is single (or classed as single because their partner is disregarded) and is sharing their home on a non commercial basis with someone who is getting income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Pension Credit or has a low income.

If you already receive council tax benefit, this will be shown on your bill. You do not have to apply again but you do need to let us know if your circumstances change or have changed.

If you have not claimed before or think you might qualify now that the rules have changed you need to fill in an application form available from the one stop shops, most registered social landlords or by ringing our contact centre or downloading from the council's website at

**[www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/benefit\\_application.pdf](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/benefit_application.pdf)**

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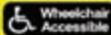
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The annual membership fee for Standard Trade Membership is £20 (plus VAT), which includes a complimentary card for your spouse or partner.

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prescot@alliedhealthcare.com [www.alliedirectpayments.co.uk](http://www.alliedirectpayments.co.uk)

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# Jus Kidz

An Activity Club For Kids With Disabilities And Their Families

Jus Kidz runs an inclusive activity club for children and young people with a disability and their siblings from the Knowsley area. We provide a haven for Kidz and parents alike, where play is the central theme enjoyed by those who care and respect others.

The Saturday Club offers arts and crafts, specialist toys and equipment, themed days and outings with one-to-one support where needed. The club based in Tower Hill, runs each Saturday from 12 noon - 4pm.

We also run the Friday Nite Project, a youth club for young people with disability aged 11+ and their siblings and friends. This is based at Westvale and runs from 6.30pm - 9.30pm.



We run a mini playscheme every school holiday. Our Summer Scheme offers two days per week during the school summer holidays. In previous years we have been on trips out to places like SPACE, Chester Zoo, Blackpool etc. In addition, Jus Kidz now also offers residential holidays throughout the year.

We have a team of young, vibrant qualified staff to ensure our children and young people are looked after and have fun in a safe environment. This also provides a forum for those who thought themselves unique and isolated.



To find out more please contact us:  
**Office: 0151 546 3622**  
**Mobile: 07917 275559**  
**Email: [jus\\_kidz@hotmail.com](mailto:jus_kidz@hotmail.com)**  
**[www.juskidz.moonfruit.com](http://www.juskidz.moonfruit.com)**

## Assistance with Council Tax, Rebate enquiries or to make a payment

The Council's Contact Centre and One Stop Shops listed below, will be pleased to assist with any enquiries you may have. You can also make a payment at any of the One Stop Shops or a card payment by calling 0151 443 4476

Contact Centre Council Tax 0151 443 4476, Rebate 0151 443 4042, Minicom 0151 443 3401

The Contact Centre Operating times are:

Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm & Saturday, 10am - 12:30 pm

## One Stop Shops

Halewood The Halewood Centre, Roseheath Drive, Halewood, L26 9UH

Huyton Municipal Buildings, Archway Road, Huyton, L36 9YU

Kirkby Municipal Buildings, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby, L32 1TX

Prescot Prescott Shopping Centre, Aspinall Street, Prescot, L34 5GA

The One Stop Shops are open at the following times:

Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

## Other key service numbers

Environmental Services (bin collections, street cleaning, pest control, street lighting & bulky item collections) 0151 443 2400

Planning Enquiries 0151 443 2381

Building Control & Dangerous Buildings 0151 443 2380

Elections 0151 443 2222

Hate & Domestic Violence 0800 953 4433

Future schooling in Knowsley 0151 443 2700

Anti-Social Behaviour 0151 443 2000

Licensing 0151 443 2300

Registrars 0151 443 2900

Comments, compliments and complaints 0151 443 4031

General Enquiries 0151 489 6000

## Emergency contacts (24 Hours)

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