

Your guide to council tax
and services

Budget Report

2012-2013



The future is Knowsley



Knowsley Council

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Knowsley Council's Budget

Knowsley Council gets most of its funding from the Government and this helps to pay for the wide range of key services we provide for you, as well as maintaining and improving buildings and facilities across the Borough.

Like local authorities all over the country, the Council is once again facing significant cuts in Government funding, and this means we have to make major financial savings.

Following a reduction of more than 20% in our funding for 2011/12, a further reduction of over 7% has been imposed on the Council for 2012/13, leaving us with a budget shortfall of £6.8m.

The Council has agreed a budget for 2012/13 which will achieve these savings targets but will also protect those key services which are most important to you.

In 2012/13, for the second year running, Knowsley Council has frozen its Council Tax for Knowsley residents to help you through the current economic difficulties.

In setting this budget, the Council has had to take some very difficult decisions and has focused on:

- making savings in non-front line services;
- developing options for raising more income;
- reducing dependency on Council services; and,
- redesigning our front-line services.

Despite reducing resources, the Council's budget strategy has ensured that facilities such as libraries and children's centres will remain open, that people's eligibility for adult and children's social care support will be protected, and that key service levels will be maintained in relation to our streets, highways, town centres and parks.

In addition, the Council has re-allocated almost £9.5m of resources to invest in improvements in key service areas, including:

- Additional support for Knowsley residents to get into long-term jobs;
- Improving exam results across the Borough;
- Wider access to debt advice and affordable credit;
- New housing and affordable homes across the Borough;
- Housing improvements and bringing empty homes back into use;
- Funding to manage the regeneration of Kirkby Town Centre; and,
- Investment in parks and open spaces.

A range of key initiatives will also go ahead for the benefit of our residents and communities:-

- Regeneration programmes and plans for Kirkby, Prescott, Stockbridge Village and Halewood will be brought forward and implemented;
- All street lighting across the Borough is being replaced and upgraded;
- There will be continued investment in our primary school rebuilding and refurbishment programme; and,
- Improvements and maintenance of our roads and footpaths will also be undertaken during 2012/13.

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, we still have significant financial challenges to address in the coming years. Due to further reductions in Government funding, the Council is likely to have to save another £19m between now and 2015. We will continue to ensure that the impact on key front-line services is minimised as far as possible.

Your Council Tax

By freezing the Council Tax for 2012/13, Knowsley Council has set a Council Tax that is once again below the national average. 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 £976.04. In addition, some bills will include amounts relating to precepts from Town or Parish Councils. The charges for all of the bands are set out on pages 24 and 25 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 in our Contact Centre.

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) or the contacts set out in the rest of this booklet.

JAMES DUNCAN BA, CPFA
BOROUGH TREASURER

	2012/13 Gross Expenditure £m	2012/13 Gross Income £m	2012/13 Net Expenditure £m	2011/12 Net Expenditure *Note 1 £m
Services provided directly by the Council				
Regeneration, Economy and Skills	21.453	8.079	13.374	11.664
Children and Family Services	52.649	28.996	23.653	25.403
Finance and Information Technology	10.599	3.873	6.726	7.083
Corporate and Customer Services	9.965	2.063	7.902	8.080
Human Resources	1.829	0.667	1.162	1.444
Community Safety and Social Inclusion	0.952	0.444	0.508	1.266
Leader's Portfolio	4.904	0.045	4.859	4.169
Neighbourhood Delivery	23.802	16.703	7.099	7.656
Leisure, Community and Culture	11.375	3.748	7.627	7.801
Health and Social Care	76.557	32.144	44.413	49.378
Total	214.085	96.762	117.323	123.944
Other council budgets				
Net Capital Financing Costs (including private finance initiative schemes)			15.359	13.780
Budgets for inflation, contingencies and other Council-wide items			13.205	12.138
Use of Council reserves to fund new priority investments			(4.208)	-
Total			24.356	25.918
Total budget for services provided by Knowsley Council			141.679	149.862
Charges for services provided by other bodies *Note 2				
Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority			14.031	14.089
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority			7.128	7.870
Coroners Service			0.196	0.189
Flood Defence			0.070	0.067
Probation Service			0.006	0.006
Total			21.431	22.221
Knowsley Council's total revenue budget requirement			163.110	172.083
Government formula grant funding received by the Council			(110.459)	(119.581)
Amount of Knowsley Council's budget to be funded from Council Tax			52.651	52.502
Merseyside Police Authority precept			6.364	6.161
Fire and Rescue Authority precept			2.846	2.729
Total Precepts			9.210	8.890
Total amount to be funded from Council Tax			61.861	61.392

* Note 1 : 2011/12 figures have been restated to allow comparison with 2012/13 figures

* Note 2 : Figures reflect estimates used for budget setting purposes

Council Tax Bills

	Knowsley Council	Police Authority	Fire and Rescue Authority
Amount per "Band A" property	£	£	£
2011/12	830.72	97.49	43.18
2012/13	830.72	100.41	44.91
Increase (%)	0.0%	3.0%	4.0%

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.

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your street!*



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Friday and Saturday, 9am - 4.30pm**



Knowsley Council

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- Employment Law
- Family Law - divorce, finances and children matters
- Lasting Powers of Attorney, Court of Protection
- Road Traffic Accidents
- Wills & Probate

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info@levinslaw.co.uk

Merseyside Police Authority

The Police Authority has set a Council Tax Requirement for 2012/13 of £63.684m. The Council Tax requirement provides the balance of funding not covered by Government Grant. In council tax terms this is equivalent to £100.41 per property at Band A and £150.62 at Band D, a 3% increase on the previous year's level.

The Comprehensive Spending Review announced in 2010 presented the Authority with two very significant financial challenges, i.e. the estimated requirement for £61.4m of revenue savings over the review period (i.e. 2011/12 to 2014/15) and the "front loading" of the savings requiring £38.5m to be saved over the initial 2 year period. The 2012/13 Local Government Finance Settlement announcement has not fundamentally changed this position.

To date, the Authority and Force have identified over £45m of revenue savings, broadly equivalent to the requirement up to the end of 2013/14, and these are in the process of being fully implemented. However, the Authority and Force are acutely aware of the financial and operational challenges ahead in 2014/15 with a further savings requirement of some £16m to be identified. Consequently work is commencing now to develop a series of reviews utilising the Continuous Improvement methodology across all areas of business.

In achieving the £45m of revenue savings to date, the Authority and Force have conducted a fundamental review of its back office and critical support functions, as well as its frontline functions to ensure the Force

structure is fit for purpose and protects Police Officer numbers on the front line as much as possible. The achievement of these savings has had an inevitable impact on Police Officer and Police Staff numbers. Consequently, by the end of 2012/13 it is anticipated that the Force will have lost 624 Police Officers posts and 178 Police Staff posts. The loss of these posts will present a real challenge in maintaining frontline services and overall performance of the Force in the coming years. However, while the Authority continues to exist it will continue to work with the Chief Constable to ensure that the Force provides an effective and efficient police service, protect frontline services and minimise the impact on overall performance.

In November 2012, the Authority is to be replaced by an Elected Police and Crime Commissioner. You will be able to vote for the candidate you want to represent you on the 15th November 2012. If you would like to know more about the role of Police and Crime Commissioner, please visit the Home Office website for more details:

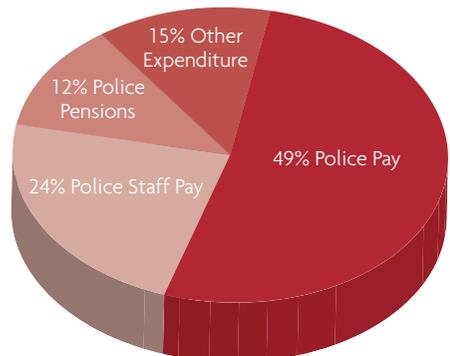
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/>

PAUL JOHNSON BA (Hons) CPFA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE / TREASURER

		Budget	
2011/12		2012/13	
£m		£m	
351.989	GROSS EXPENDITURE	337.005	
(3.327)	Gross Income	(3.304)	
(15.526)	Specific Government Grants	(14.695)	
333.136	NET OPERATING REQUIREMENT	319.006	
(0.491)	Use of Provisions, Reserves & General Balances	(2.022)	
332.645	NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	316.984	
(137.764)	Less: Police General Grant	(126.975)	40.0
(31.518)	Revenue Support Grant	(2.427)	0.8
(101.966)	Business Rate Income	(123.665)	39.0
0.107	Collection Fund	(0.233)	0.1
61.504	COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	63.684	20.1

How spending has changed

	£m
GROSS EXPENDITURE 2011/12	351.989
Inflation	2.010
Adjustment to Specific Grant	
Related Expenditure	(0.747)
Net Committed Growth	0.407
Collection Fund Surplus	(0.233)
Extra Bank Holiday (Jubilee)	0.200
Pay award for staff earning less than £21k	0.450
Savings Already Recognised	(14.671)
Savings Requirement	(2.400)
GROSS EXPENDITURE 2012/13	337.005

Analysis of budgeted gross expenditure in 2012/13

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 information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant legislation .
- ❑ We will only share your personal information 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 information with third parties for commercial purposes.
- ❑ We will use your personal information 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:

**Corporate Records Manager
Knowsley Borough Council**

**PO Box 24, Archway Road
Huyton L36 9YZ.**

Email:

data.protection.officer@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 information accurate and up to date. You can help us by telling us about any change of circumstances.
- ❑ We will not keep your personal information for longer than necessary.
- ❑ We will keep your personal information secure, within the council.
- ❑ We will respect your right to access your personal information 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

Alcohol Service Knowsley

Units of Alcohol - What's in a drink

Bottle of White Wine
12% abv (75cl)
9 UNITS

250ml glass
(TYPICAL HOME MEASURES)
12% abv
3 UNITS

175ml glass
(TYPICAL PUB MEASURES)
12% abv
2 UNITS

1 Pint Premium Beer/Lager
5% abv
2.8 UNITS

Alcopops
5% abv
1.4 UNITS

1 Pint Standard Beer/Lager
3.5 % abv
2 UNITS

Spirits (Single)
(TYPICAL PUB MEASURES)
1 UNIT

ABV = ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

	0	1	2	3	4
How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?	Never	Monthly or less	2-4 times a month	2-4 times a week	4 or more times a week
How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking?	1 or 2	3 or 4	5 or 6	7 or 8	10 or more
How often during the last year have you found that you were not able to stop drinking once you had started?	Never	Less than monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily or almost daily
How often during the last year have you failed to do what was normally expected of you because of your drinking?	Never	Less than monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily or almost daily
Has a friend/relative/doctor or other health worker been concerned about your drinking or suggested you cut down?	No		Yes, but not in the past year		Yes, during the last year
Add up your score					

MEN Daily: 3-4 units • WOMEN Daily: 2-3 units
People should aim to have a minimum of two alcohol free days each week.

Your total

If you score 5 or more you could be putting your health at risk!

Alcohol Service Knowsley aims to provide treatment and support to individuals that are consuming alcohol at risky levels. A range of interventions is available to support people who make positive changes to their drinking. For further information/advice please call Monday – Friday 9am until 5pm • Tel: 0151 330 4110

Improving Mental Health



AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR SPECIALIST NHS TRUST

Mersey Care NHS Trust is building a membership from the people who live and work in our community. If you are interested in mental health and wellbeing, and/or specialist services for people with mental health issues, we would welcome you as a member.

It's free to join (although you must be aged 14 or over). As a member you will have a say about our plans for the future to help further improve the services we provide, as well as access to NHS Discounts with thousands of retailers. You can choose your level of involvement and the extent of our contact with you.

For application details and further information about becoming a member please telephone

Julie Crompton on **0151 473 2885** or email **Membership@merseycare.nhs.uk**

We look forward to hearing from you.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority Precept Information 2012/13

The Fire Authority is facing an unprecedented financial challenge after it received the worst Government Formula Grant cut for any fire authority in the country for 2011/12 and 2012/13. In 2010/11 the Authority received a formula grant of £46.304m from the Government, for 2012/13 the equivalent grant has been reduced by £5.823m or 13%, to £40.481m.

The Government has stated that the reduction in Formula Grant funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13 represents only one third of grant cut for fire and rescue services anticipated in the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review. If the Government follows through with this announcement and the Authority receives the

national average grant cut then in the next two years the Service may face a further £8.5m budget cut.

The Authority's original medium term financial plan anticipated controlling future council tax increases at 4% or below. Because of the scale of the financial challenge likely in the future the Authority has agreed to stick to this plan and increase council tax in 2012/13 by 4%. Most council taxpayers in Merseyside will pay about 12p per day towards the Fire and Rescue Service.

The Authority has set a budget of £69.748 million for 2012/13, the main changes between this year's budget and last year's are:-

• Reductions in support service, management & other costs	(£1.2m)
• Unavoidable cuts in front line staffing including a changed duty system at Whiston Fire Station and the Marine Unit	(£0.9m)
• Increased capital financing costs to fund capital expenditure	£0.6m
• Adjustment to available reserves	£0.9m
• Forecast inflationary cost increases	£0.6m
	£0.0m

The Authority has issued a precept on the five Merseyside District Councils of £28.481million, which is equivalent to a Council Tax of £67.36 for a Band D property. Knowsley's contribution to expenditure financed by precept is £2.846 million, which represents 10% of the total precept.

The Authority has managed to set financial plans that allows 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.

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 800,000 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 5 in 2010/11.
- Between 2003/04 to 2010/11, the Authority has been successful in:-
 - Reducing accidental dwelling fires by 26%
 - Reducing injuries in accidental dwelling fires by 20%
 - Reducing anti-Social behaviour fires by 64%

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 or call your Community Fire Station)

Summary of Revenue Budget & Council Tax Requirement

2011/12		2012/13	Per head of population
£'000		£'000	£
73,557	Total Expenditure	72,595	
-2,319	Less Income	-2,356	
71,238	NET EXPENDITURE	70,239	
-1,457	Contribution (from)/to Reserves	-491	
69,781	Net Expenditure after Reserves	69,748	51.54
-9,895	Revenue Support Grant	-783	-0.58
-681	2011/12 Council Tax Freeze Grant	-	-
-32,011	Non-Domestic Rates	-40,379	- 29.84
48	Collection Fund Deficit	-105	-0.08
27,242	COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	28,481	21.04

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

Deputy Chief Executive

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

Fire Service Headquarters,

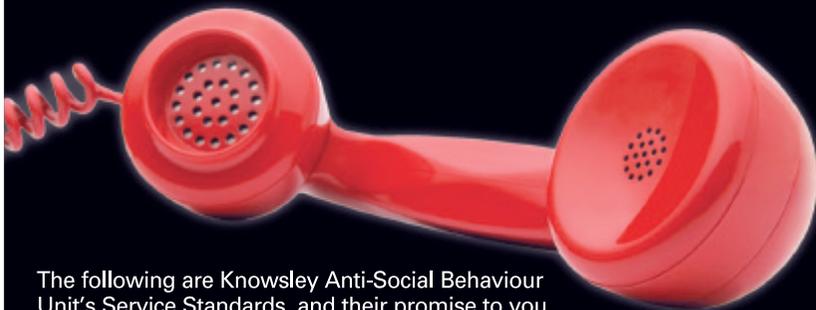
Bridle Road, Bootle

Liverpool, L30 4YD

kierantimmins@merseyfire.gov.uk

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, 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.

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



**SAFER
KNOWSLEY
PARTNERSHIP**
STRONGER : TOGETHER

0151 443 2000
www.knowsley.gov.uk/asb

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

Do you want to take control of your money?

If you're thinking about taking action to manage your finances or debt, follow our 5 golden rules.

Beware! Payday loans offer to tide you over until your next payday. However if you're not able to repay the loan in full, the debt can quickly snowball leaving you with a much bigger problem. If you're in doubt, follow Rule 1 and get some free advice before you do anything.

Rule 1

Don't keep borrowing to repay debts, this could make things worse. Instead get free debt advice from local and national agencies.

Citizens Advice Knowsley 0845 122 1300 or www.knowsleycab.org.uk

KUC (formerly Kirkby Unemployed Centre) 0151 548 0001 or www.kuc.org.uk

National Debtline 0808 808 4000 or www.nationaldebtline.co.uk

Rule 2

Find out how much you'll have to pay back overall – the minimum monthly repayment may be affordable, but could mean you'll repay your loan many times over before it's cleared.

Check the APR (Annual Percentage Rate), this tells you what rate of interest you'll be charged. Look at the examples below* to see how much money you might be throwing away in interest payments.

* based on a loan of £1,000 over 12 months

	Typical Interest Rate (APR)	Monthly Repayment	Total repaid over 12 months	Total interest	Costing you an extra
Credit Union	12.68%	£88.87	£1,066.50	£66.50	-
Credit Card	22.30%	£93.69	£1,124.28	£124.28	£57.78
Doorstep Lender	177%	£137.50	£1,650.00	£650.00	£583.50

Rule 3

Read the small print. Make sure you understand what you're signing up to and the penalties which could be applied.

Rule 4

Shop around – are you sure you've got the best deal for you? Have you contacted your local Credit Union? Some can lend you money even if you haven't been saving with them (Enterprise & Knowsley Mutual).

Rule 5

Plan ahead – start saving now for that special occasion. If you save with a Credit Union you'll also be able to get cheap loans as well as other benefits, such as free life insurance.

Enterprise Credit Union 0151 482 0177 or www.enterprisecreditunion.org

Knowsley Mutual Credit Union 0151 545 3380

Southdene Credit Union (based in Kirkby) 0151 548 5200

Halewood Community Credit Union 0151 443 2084

Or enter your postcode into the Mersey Money website to find Credit Unions close to your home or work. Visit www.mersey.money.org.uk to find out more.

Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) Information for Council Tax Payers And Business Ratepayers 2012/13

1. Given the severe spending pressures on the Merseyside District Councils, the Authority resolved in November 2011 to freeze its levy for 2012/13 at the same level as 2011/12.

2. The Authority has been asked to ensure that it can maintain its core services, and at the same time maintain a levy freeze by a savings and efficiency package of £1.6m.

J R Barclay, BSc, MBA, CPFA
Interim Director General & 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 2012/13

	Expenditure £000	Income/Recharges £000	Grants/ Balances £000	Levy £000
Bus Services	31,662	(9,986)	-	21,676
Rail Services	115,317	(17,989)	(96,208)	1,120
Travel Concessions	82,804	(24,894)	-	57,910
Customer Services: Hubs	10,163	(1,603)	-	8,560
Mersey Ferries	11,678	(12,066)	-	(388)
Mersey Tunnels	36,948	(36,948)	-	-
DRCM	8,777	(2,775)	-	6,002
Corporate Strategy & Marketing	6,526	(1,255)	-	5,271
Funds Management	35,401	(7,793)	(395)	27,213
Asset Management	12,795	(12,795)	-	-
Peripatetic Services	1,884	(1,884)	-	-
Customer Services: ICT	6,457	(6,457)	-	-
Corporate Development	2,484	(2,484)	-	-
Support Services	3,484	(3,484)	-	-
Total Spending	366,380	(142,413)	(96,603)	127,364

DRCM = Democratic Representation & Corporate Management

	2012/13 Levy £000	2011/12 Levy £000	Decrease / Increase £000
Knowsley	14,031	14,089	-58
Liverpool	41,896	41,709	+187
St Helens	16,695	16,701	-6
Sefton	25,682	25,773	-91
Wirral	29,060	29,092	-32
Total	127,364	127,364	—

Notes: 1. The public transport capital programme for 2012/13 is £20.0m of which £5.3m is allocated for new schemes.
2. The Mersey Tunnels capital programme for 2012/13 is £10.5m financed from Tunnels tolls.

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA)

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority is the public body responsible for dealing with household waste once it's been collected from your home.

We use the latest technology to make sure as much of it as possible is recycled so we can avoid sending it to landfill. We work hard to persuade people to use less in the first place and, through our 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres, to recycle as much as they can. We've

even changed our name slightly to reflect the shift in emphasis from disposal to recycling.

Together with our District Council partners we're making steady progress. In 2010/11, 36.5% of household waste was reused, recycled and composted. You can read more about our principal aims, objectives and targets for the coming year in our 2011 Annual Plan, available on www.merseysidewda.gov.uk.

Financial Summary

A comparison of Expenditure and Income for 2011/12 and 2012/13 is as follows:

	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000
Gross Expenditure	37,120	40,130
Landfill Tax (1)	25,666	26,685
Total Net Expenditure	62,786	66,815
Contribution to reserves	0	0
Contribution to Sinking Fund (2)	5,206	0
Total requirement	67,992	66,815

(1) Landfill Tax: the tax paid by MRWA to central government for disposing of residual waste to landfill. In 2011/12 it is £56 per tonne, and for 2012/13 it is £64 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.

This is financed by:

	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000
Use of reserves	0	(1,357)
Leaving a balance to be met by Levy Income	67,992	65,458
Levy per head of population	£50.37	£48.49

The Levy for Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council based upon the apportionment system is: £7,128,483

For more information contact MRWA:

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

Tel: 0151 255 1444

Email: enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk

Web: www.merseysidewda.gov.uk

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Coroners Service

The day to day cost of running the Coroners Service is estimated at £0.839m for 2012/13. This is apportioned between the Councils of Knowsley, Sefton and St Helens on the basis of population and is a service very much demand led, based on mortality levels and governed largely by the high cost of professional fees for Morticians, Pathology and Forensics.

Knowsley Coroners Service has budgeted for a charge to the council of £0.196m in 2012/13 compared to £0.189m in 2011/12. The figures are subject to final confirmation.

Flood Defence

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 6500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea

defences in the area of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. 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 and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

	2011/12 £000's	2012/13 £000's
Gross Expenditure	40,632	34,441
Levies Raised	3,638	3,638
Total Council Tax Base	2,294	2,300

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 'matching' 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 Equivalent 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 Local Levy raised has remained the same in 2012/13 as 2011/12 at £3,638,000.

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.



Every school holiday we run a playscheme 2 days per week. During long summer school holidays we run a much bigger playscheme and every young person is offered a residential holiday.

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.

We also now offer our Sunday Lunch Club, which is for our children who need 1-1 support at all times. This club is held every two weeks and is based in Westvale Kirkby.



Jus Kidz



**To find out more
please contact us:**

Office: 0151 546 3622

Mobile: 07917 275559

Email: info@jus-kidz.com

www.jus-kidz.com

Ofsted Registration Number EY422003
Registered Charity Number 1121835

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. Details of your Parish or Town Council's requirements are set out below:

	Gross Expenditure Budget			Precept		
	2011/12	2012/13	increase/ (decrease)	2011/12	2012/13	increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	%	£	£	%
Halewood	455,911	438,618	-3.79%	319,020	338,638	6.15%
Whiston	249,000	258,259	3.72%	249,117	246,532	-1.04%
Knowsley	340,729	351,480	3.16%	319,439	328,830	2.94%
Prescot	453,971	253,334	-44.20%	247,534	247,334	-0.08%
Cronton	14,623	14,742	0.81%	14,693	14,693	0.00%
Tarbock	4,710	5,238	11.21%	4,710	5,238	11.21%

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

Halewood Town Council:

Halewood Town Council has set a precept for 2012/13 which, along with significant savings to previous years budgets, provides a base which ensures that existing services can continue to be provided, and whilst addressing the issue of ensuring that the Town Council's precept meets its net expenditure without being dependant upon its diminishing reserves.

Whiston:

Due to a reduction of 39 properties the Council has taken the decision to request a decrease in the precept amount for 2012/13 by 1.04%. Being able to use reserves held by the Council, the Council will still be in a position to maintain and improve its facilities at the same time offering these facilities at very competitive rates to local residents.

Knowsley:

The Parish Council has three indoor facilities: Knowsley Village Hall, Knowsley Youth Club and the Sports Pavilion (Stockbridge Village). The Parish Council is also responsible for the maintenance of several woodland sites and public open spaces. Amateur league football is played at Mill Lane, the Recreation Ground and Pool Hey.

The Council provided considerable support for youth and play activities in the parish. Refurbishment work continued in the Sports Pavilion and this was completed in March 2012. The Pavilion is now regarded as a prestigious recreation establishment that also houses the Parish Council Chamber. More improvement work is now planned for both Knowsley Village Hall and Knowsley Youth Club during 2012/13. Small grants and concessionary prices were awarded to numerous community groups.

The Youth Club is currently managed on behalf of the Parish Council by the Knowsley Village Community Association and this example of local involvement is seen as a model of community engagement.

The Parish Council is recognised as a Quality Council. This award (which was reaccredited in 2011/12) places Knowsley Parish Council as one of the very best parish/town councils in the country.

Increased expenditure is as a result of the need to find additional resources for items that have increased considerably above the prevailing rate of inflation (e.g. gas, electricity, water). The Parish Council will also commit resources to the continuation of the refurbishment programme at its facilities. Provision has also been made for the additional annual rental costs of Knowsley Village Hall (almost £10,000 per annum) and anticipated extra costs involved with the grounds maintenance of the Parish Council's public open spaces.

Prescot:

The Town Council has offices in the centre of Prescot. The Town Council is responsible for two tracts of Public Open Space at Brown's Fields (King George V) and Eaton Street. The football pitches at Browns Fields are popular with local amateur clubs and Eaton Street is a centre of bowling activity during the summer months. The Town Council secured a Lottery grant of £10,000 in 2011/12 for improvements to the splendid meadowland at Eaton Street.

The Town Council continues to provide support for local community groups and has increased an element of its budget to reflect the growing financial needs of such organisations. Increased financial provision has also

been made for the changing rooms at Brown's Fields, park maintenance and Christmas lights. In addition, the Town Council will continue to fund the Prescot Carnival, a popular annual summer event in the local calendar.

The major task for the Town Council is the purchase of a new community facility in the heart of Prescot. Budget provision has been made for this acquisition and the Town Council looks forward to a bright future in a new facility.

Decreased expenditure overall is a consequence of no longer running Prescot Leisure Centre (which was closed in the summer of 2011) and a consequent reduction in employment costs. The major expenditure for 2012/13 relates to the purchase, refurbishment and running costs of a new community facility in Prescot.



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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 8 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 Listing officer, Council Tax North, Valuation Office Agency,
King William House, Market Place, Hull, HU1 1RT.

Telephone: 03000 501501 • Email: ctnorth@voa.gsi.gov.uk you can visit
www.voa.gov.uk to check your property banding

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

The actual amount you are billed will vary, dependant upon which of the 8 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
		£52.651m % 0	£6.364m % 3	£2.846m % 4	£61.861m % 0.48
		£	£	£	£
A	Up to and including £40,000	830.72	100.41	44.91	976.04
B	£40,001 - £52,000	969.17	117.15	52.39	1138.71
C	£52,001 - £68,000	1107.63	133.88	59.88	1301.39
D	£68,001 - £88,000	1246.08	150.62	67.36	1464.06
E	£88,001 - £120,000	1522.99	184.09	82.33	1789.41
F	£120,001 - £160,000	1799.89	217.56	97.30	2114.75
G	£160,001 - £320,000	2076.80	251.03	112.27	2440.10
H	Over £320,000	2492.16	301.24	134.72	2928.12

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	20.62	37.87	68.19	48.21	4.33	44.19
B	24.06	44.18	79.55	56.25	5.06	51.56
C	27.49	50.49	90.92	64.28	5.78	58.92
D	30.93	56.80	102.28	72.32	6.50	66.29
E	37.80	69.42	125.01	88.39	7.94	81.02
F	44.68	82.04	147.74	104.46	9.39	95.75
G	51.55	94.67	170.47	120.53	10.83	110.48
H	61.86	113.60	204.56	144.64	13.00	132.58

Discounts, status discount disregards, second homes and job related accommodation

When we work out the full Council Tax amount we assume two adults are living in the property.

Single person discount If only one adult lives in a property, we reduce the amount they have to pay by a quarter (25%). This discount is not based on your income. When considering the number of adults living in a property, we do not count certain people. These are known as **discount disregards** and include:

- full-time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth-training trainees;
- patients living in hospital;
- people who are being looked after in care homes;
- people who are severely mentally impaired;
- people staying in certain hostels or night shelters;
- 18 and 19 year olds who are at or have just left school;
- care workers working for low pay, usually for charities;
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not a husband or wife, partner or child under 18;
- members of visiting forces and certain international institutions;

- foreign diplomats and certain members of international organisations;
- members of religious communities (for example, monks and nuns);
- people in prison (except those in prison for not paying their Council Tax or a fine).

If a property is not anyone's main home, the bill will currently, in Knowsley, be reduced by 50%. This can apply to **empty properties** and **second homes** (furnished properties that are not used as main residences). Legislation allows Local Authorities to reduce this discount down to 10% for second homes or 0% for empty properties. This facility is not currently applied in Knowsley. Should this change in the future, certain second homes would continue to have their bill reduced by 50%, in the following situations:

- The council tax payer is required to live elsewhere in job-related accommodation because of the terms and conditions of their employment, for example a caretaker, minister of religion or a member of the armed services. This does not apply to a second home that you are renting because living there is convenient for work.

- The second home is a pitch occupied by a caravan or a mooring occupied by a boat.
- A planning restriction on the second home prevents occupancy for a continuous period of at least 28 days in a year.

Council Tax - discretionary relief

Under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as inserted by Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2003), the Council has the power to reduce liability for council tax in relation to individual cases or class(es) of cases that it may determine and where national discounts and exemptions cannot be applied. An example where relief might be considered could be damage resulting from a major fire.

Property exempt from council tax

Council Tax is not charged on properties which fall under the following classes:

- **Class A** - The property is vacant and substantially unfurnished and it needs or is undergoing major repair work. (Exempt for up to 12 months. Currently a 50% discount applies afterwards until the property is occupied).
- **Class B** - The property is vacant (furnished or unfurnished) was last occupied by and is owned by a charity. Exempt for up to six months.
- **Class C** - The property is vacant and substantially unfurnished. Exempt for up to six months. (currently a 50% discount applies afterwards until the property is occupied)
- **Class D** - The property is vacant (can be furnished) because the liable person is in prison.
- **Class E** - The property is vacant (can be furnished) because the liable person is a permanent patient in a hospital or a care home.
- **Class F** - The property is vacant (can be furnished) because the liable person has died and probate or letters of administration have not yet been granted. Exempt for up to six months after probate or letters of administration granted.
- **Class G** - The property is vacant (can be furnished) because nobody is allowed to live there by law.
- **Class H** - The property is held vacant (can be furnished) and a minister of religion will be moving in.
- **Class I** - The property is vacant (can be furnished) because the liable person is receiving care elsewhere (but not in a residential care home which would come under class E).
- **Class J** - The property is vacant (can be furnished) because the liable person is caring for someone elsewhere.
- **Class K** - The property is vacant (can be furnished) because the liable person is a student living elsewhere to study.
- **Class L** - The property is vacant (can be furnished) because it has been repossessed.
- **Class M** - The property is a hall of residence for students.
- **Class N** - The property is lived in only by students.
- **Class O** - The property is owned by the Ministry of Defence and lived in only by members of the armed services.
- **Class P** - The property is lived in only by visiting service personnel.
- **Class Q** - The property is left vacant by a bankruptcy trustee (can be furnished).
- **Class R** - The property is an empty caravan pitch or a boat mooring.

- **Class S** - The property is lived in only by people who are under 18.
- **Class T** - The property is a vacant part (can be furnished) of another property and may not be let separately due to planning restrictions.
- **Class U** - The property is lived in only by people who are severely mentally impaired.
- **Class V** - The property is lived in by at least one foreign diplomat or specified member of an international organisation.
- **Class W** - Part of the property is lived in separately (as a self-contained flat or house) by a dependent elderly or disabled relative of the family.

Claims for vacant (substantially unfurnished) property exemptions or discounts must be made at the time the property is empty (substantially unfurnished) so that we can verify the claim. If you make the claim after the property is reoccupied, you must give evidence to prove that the property was previously vacant (substantially unfurnished).

If your bill shows that you have an exemption or discount, you must tell us about any change in circumstance that affects your entitlement. If you do not do this, you may be required to pay a penalty.

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.

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 to use a wheelchair indoors, and the disabled person needs the use of a wheelchair within the dwelling.

Have Your Say on Health & Wellbeing

At Knowsley Health & Wellbeing we know we can only really improve health and wellbeing in the Borough if we work together with all the individuals, communities and organisations that make up our Borough. That is why community engagement is one of our priorities.

We invest extensive time and resources to ensure local people can access the right services, at the right time. Your feedback helps us improve the services we provide.

Local people have recently told us what matters most to them about the care they receive and high on their list is:

- Access to services should be easy.
- The choice of services explained.
- Information and communication should be timely and clearly explained.
- Being involved in making decisions about your care.
 - Having reassurance that services are safe and delivered by qualified professionals, and that you feel safe and reassured using health and wellbeing services.

Knowsley continuously strives to achieve local priorities, but we need to keep talking to local people to ensure we are getting our delivery right.

There are now more opportunities than ever for you to get involved and have a meaningful say in your health and wellbeing services. The level of involvement is up to you. We will work with you to provide any support you may need and maximise your time invested, to ensure it makes a difference locally.



Local resident Angela Cornwall said, in regard to her involvement scoring tender bids *"I know it can be daunting at first but don't be afraid . . . I would recommend anybody thinking about getting involved to give it a try"*.



THE MORE WE GET INVOLVED, THE MORE WE WILL SEE A POSITIVE CHANGE FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

If you would like to become involved, call the **Engagement and Involvement Team on 0151 244 3457**

to register your details and we will contact you with opportunities to have your say.

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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



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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 (Temporary location until 20 April 2012) - 30 Eccleston Street, Prescot L34 5QA
 (Reopening 23 April 2012) - Prescot 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
Education General Enquiry	0151 443 3232
Home to School Transport	0151 443 2500

Emergency contacts (24 Hours)

Highways (footways & street lighting)	0151 443 2800
Knowsley Housing Trust (KHT) (repairs)	0500 96 96 94
Homelessness & Social Services	07659 590081

Your Kerbside Recycling Guide!



Grey Bin



Yes Please



Food and cereal boxes



Cardboard flattened



Phone books



Food tins, drink cans, (place lids inside cans)



Glass bottles and jars



White paper, junk mail, newspapers and magazines



Plastic bottles



Kitchen Caddy/ Bin



Yes Please



Meat and fish



Dairy products



Fruit and veg



Bread and cakes



Tea bags, tea leaves and coffee grounds



Leftover plate waste



Blue Bin



Yes Please



Grass cuttings



Leaves



Hedge and tree clippings



Twigs and branches (up to 2"/5cm thick)



Flowers



Plants and weeds



Shredded paper



Knowsley Council

For further information call the Environmental Helpline on 443 2400 or visit www.knowsley.gov.uk

recycle for Knowsley