Parish Councils

own budget requirements. If you live in a parish you will contribute according to your property valuation the fourth element shown on you

The estimated gross expenditure for those parishes/town councils issuing a precept in excess of £100,000 is:

- ncrease in the precept to a reasonable level whilst at the same me making provision not only to continue to provide existing
- cies Provision for pay and price increases are

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Most dwellings will be subject to Council Tax. There will be one bill per dwelling, whether it is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette, mobile home or houseboat, and whether it is owned or rented. Each dwelling has been allocated to one of eight bands according to its open market capital value at 1 April 1991. The actual amount billed will vary dependant upon which of the eight valuation bands has been allocated to your dwelling:

		Knowsley	Police	Fire & Civil Defence	Totals
	Net requirement £m	43.871	5.098	2.343	51.312
	% Change	4.0%	5.0%	3.6%	4.1%
Valuation Band	Range of Values				
	Up to and including £40,000	696.79	80.97	37.21	814.97
	£40,001 - £52,000	812.93	94.47	43.42	950.82
	£52,001 - £68,000	929.06	107.96	49.62	1086.64
	£68,001 - £88,000	1045.19	121.46	55.82	1222.47
	£88,001 - £120,000	1277.45	148.45	68.22	1494.12
	£120,001 - £160,000	1509.72	175.44	80.63	1765.79
	£160,001 - £320,000	1741.98	202.43	93.03	2037.44
н	More than £320,000	2090.38	2//2 92	111 66	2444.94

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
	12.86	34.51	58.15	40.43	3.43	38.17
	15.00	40.26	67.84	47.16	4.00	44.54
	17.15	46.01	77.53	53.90	4.57	50.90
	19.29	51.76	87.22	60.64	5.14	57.26
	23.58	63.26	106.60	74.12	6.28	69.98
	27.86	74.76	125.98	87.59	7.42	82.71
	32.15	86.27	145.37	101.07	8.57	95.43
	38.58	103.52	174.44	121.28	10.28	114.52

payers has been moved forward to 1st of each month in an attempt to improve cash flow to the authority and thereby assist in the limiting of annual increases year on year. If you are paying by Direct Debit, your instalment due date will be unchanged at 5th, 15th, 24th or end of the month

Exempt Dwellings

There are certain classes of dwellings that are exempt from Council Tax. They are:

- Unoccupied categories
- an unoccupied and unfurnished dwelling that has been so for less than six months.
- an unoccupied dwelling that requires or is undergoing structural alteration or major repair work to make it habitable; or such alterations or works have been completed for less than six months. Following legislative changes, in April 2000 this exemption is time limited to a maximum of 12 months. Those properties which have been exempt under this class for 12 months or more at 1 April 2000, will now be subject to a 50% charge. (Class A)
- a dwelling that has been unoccupied for up to six months and is owned by a charity.
- an unoccupied dwelling left empty by a person who has gone to prison (except those in prison for non payment of council tax or a fine). (Class D)
- an unoccupied dwelling left empty by a person who is now resident in a hospital or a nursing home. (Class E) an unoccupied dwelling where the last occupier has died and the personal
- representative is waiting for a grant of probate or letters of administration or less than six months have elapsed since such a grant was made. (Class F)
- a dwelling, the occupation of which is prohibited by law, (Class G)
- · an unoccupied dwelling waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion. (Class H)
- an unoccupied dwelling where a person has moved out to receive personal care. (Class I) an unoccupied dwelling where a person has moved to provide personal care to another person, (Class J)
- an unoccupied dwelling which was last occupied solely by students. (Class K)
- an unoccupied dwelling which has been repossessed by a mortgagee. (Class L)
- an unoccupied dwelling that forms part of another dwelling and which may not be let separately, (Class T)
- an unoccupied dwelling which is the responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee. (Class Q)
- an unoccupied caravan pitch or boat mooring. (Class R)

- a hall of residence provided predominantly for students. (Class M)
- a dwelling wholly occupied by students. (Class N)
- forces barracks, married quarters and accommodation for visiting forces. (Classes 0
- a dwelling occupied only by a person or persons under the age of 18. (Class S)
- a dwelling occupied by a severely mentally impaired person or persons. (Class U)
- a dwelling occupied only by diplomats or their non British spouse. (Class V)
- a dwelling that is a separate unit within a property and is occupied by a dependan relative of the tax payer of that property. (Class W)

If you consider that your property falls into one of the above categories and should be empt, please contact the Council Tax Office for an application form

Single Person and Unoccupied Property Discounts

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

Where only one adult lives in a dwelling, and it is their main or sole residence, the council tax bill is reduced by 25%, this is known as single person discount

If a dwelling is not a persons 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

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 mentally impaired
- people staying in certain hostels and night shelters
- $18\,\mathrm{and}\,19\,\mathrm{year}$ olds who are at or who have just left school after completing a qualifying course of education
- careworkers working for low pay, usually for charities
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under
- 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) spouses of students who are not of British citizenship and who are prevented by the
- terms of their stay in the United Kingdom from taking paid employment or from claiming benefit
- Diplomats and their non British spouse

If you think you may be entitled to a discount and none is shown on your bill, please make your application in writing to the Council Tax Office.

If your bill has been reduced by a discount, the code adjacent to the discount on your bill will indicate which of the following circumstances apply: 25% discount single occupancy - one adult occupier only or two or more occupiers but only

one person is not disregarded. 50% discount zero occupancy - property which has been empty more than six months or is

no one's sole or main residence or where all occupiers are disregarded.

50% discount second home - property is unoccupied but still furnished.

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

If you or someone who lives with you, is disabled, you may qualify for a reduction in the amount of council tax payable. These reductions take the form of charging council tax at a rate one valuation band lower than the banding shown in the valuation list for the property

The person liable to pay the council tax is eligible for this reduction if the dwelling meets certain conditions. These are:

- · a disabled person must be resident in the dwelling, and
- the dwelling contains a room **other than** a bathroom, kitchen or lavatory which is predominantly used by and is required for meeting the needs of the disabled person. or
- the dwelling contains an **additional** kitchen or bathroom which is required for meeting the needs of the disabled person. or
- there is sufficient floor space in the dwelling to permit the use of a wheelchair, and the disabled person needs the use of a wheelchair within the dwelling

From April 2000, if you live in a band 'A' property, you may now qualify for a reduction. The amount of the reduction in these cases will be 1/9th of the band 'D' charge for your area.

If you require more information or an application form for disabled reductions, please

You can get help with paying your council tax if you are in receipt of Income Support, Job rs Allowance or you have a low income. If you already receive council tax benefit, this will be shown on your bill.

Council tax benefit like housing benefit is based on the circumstances of yourself and any partner, taken into account are:

- Money you and your partner have coming in, including earnings, some benefits, tax credits and things like occupational pensions. The figure used for earnings and pensions is that after any tax and national insurance that you pay have been taken off.
- Your savings and your partner's savings. If you are under 60 the first £3000 you have is ignored, if you are over 60 the first £6000 is ignored.
- · 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

If you require more information or wish to apply for council tax benefit you must fill in an application form (available from the one stop shops).

Second Adult Rebate

Even if the council tax payer does not qualify for benefit based on their own income, benefit may be awarded on the basis of other people living in the dwelling. In order to qualify, the liable person has to be a single person (unless the claimant or partner is disregarded for discount purposes). The liable person must share the property on a non commercial basis with a person or persons who are getting Income Support. Job Seekers Allowance or have a income. The income of the liable person is not relevant in this situat

If you wish to apply for Second Adult Rebate, application forms are available in all one stop

Recovery Procedure

If you experience genuine difficulty in meeting your payments, you should contact the Council Tax Office as soon as possible rather than wait until recovery action has been taken. Every effort will be made to alleviate personal difficulties.

There is no longer a general right of appeal against the valuation band allocated to your

The grounds for appeal against the banding of your property are:

- if you believe that the banding is incorrect because there has been a material increase or reduction in the dwellings value.
- · if you start or stop using part of your dwelling for business purposes, or the balance between domestic and business elements change.
- · if the Listing Officer has altered a list without a proposal having been made by a · if you have become the new occupier of a property, you have six months to make an

appeal, but only if the same appeal has not been previously lodged. Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of tax owing in the meantime. If your appeal is successful you will be entitled to a refund of any overpaid tax. Appeals should

The District Valuer and Valuation Officer, 72 Church Street, Liverpool, L1 3AY. (Telephone: 0151 802 1000)

You may appeal against the authority's decision that a dwelling is a chargeable dwelling, that you are the liable person for council tax, that a dwelling is or is not exempt or decisions made in respect of the granting of a discount, disability reduction or council tax benefit.

In the first instance such appeals should be made in writing to the Director of Corporate Resources, Municipal Buildings, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby, Knowsley, Merseyside, L32 1TX.



(ease call **0800 0730 532**

IT'S COSTING YOU MONEY. cheating the council? Do you know anyone who is

get away with it! Don't let them

Bogus Insurance Claims Benefit Cheats

0800 0730 532 Fraud Hotline: Knowsley Council



For 2006/07, the Council Tax instalment date for cash and standing order pavers has been moved forward to the 1st of each month in an attempt to improve cash flow to the authority and thereby assist in the limiting of annual increases year on year. If you are paying by Direct Debit, your instalment due date will be unchanged at 5th, 15th, 24th or end of the month.

Foreword

- the interest and debt charges on the money that the Council borrows to pay for expenditure on its major assets. The

s well as giving details of the Council's ow your Council Tax bill is calculated.

Knowsley's Revenue Budget 2006-07



How the council spends its money

1 - Regeneration & Neighbourhoods

2 - Education & Lifelong Learning

3 - Finance & Information Society

4 - Corporate & Customer Services

7 - Environment & Operational Services

8 - Leisure, Community & Culture

9 - Health & Social Care

13 - Capital Financing Costs

10 - Levies

11 - Police

12 - Fire

5 - Community Safety & Social Inclusion

5-6	Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Education and Lifelong Learning* Finance and Information Society Tech Corporate and Customer Services Community Safety and Social Inclusic Leaders Portfolio Environment and Operational Service Leisure, Community and Culture Health and Social Care Total
	OTHER COUNCIL BUDGETS
	Capital Financing Costs

£11.023m

£8.596m

£12.156m

£45.828m

£16.691m

£5.098m

£2.343m

SERVICES PROVIDED DIRECTLY BY THE COUNCIL
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Education and Lifelong Learning*
Finance and Information Society Technologies
Corporate and Customer Services
Community Safety and Social Inclusion
Leaders Portfolio
Environment and Operational Services
Leisure, Community and Culture
Health and Social Care
Total
OTHER COUNCIL BUDGETS
Capital Financing Costs
Contingencies for Inflation and Specific Items

SERVICES PROVIDED DIRECTLY BY THE COUNCIL				
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods	20.598	(8.625)	11.973	11.984
Education and Lifelong Learning*	133.233	(123.959)	9.274	93.560
Finance and Information Society Technologies	10.500	(0.704)	9.796	9.617
Corporate and Customer Services	12.919	[1.896]	11.023	10.418
Community Safety and Social Inclusion	1.083	(0.244)	0.839	1.081
Leaders Portfolio	3.695	(2.052)	1.643	1.706
Environment and Operational Services	29.529	[20.933]	8.596	8.284
Leisure, Community and Culture	15.475	(3.319)	12.156	11.229
Health and Social Care	70.931	(25.103)	45.828	43.345
Total	297.963	(186.835)	111.128	193.224
OTHER COUNCIL BUDGETS				
Capital Financing Costs			10.268	10.145
Contingencies for Inflation and Specific Items			12.432	11.657
Efficiency Plan Cash Savings			(0.500)	(0.900)
Total			22.200	20.902
TOTAL BUDGET FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY KNO	WSLEY COU	NCIL	133.328	214.126
CHARGES FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY OTHER BO	DIES			
Passenger Transport Authority			11.163	10.778
Waste Disposal Authority			5.281	4.507
Coroners Service			0.180	0.175
Flood Defence			0.062	0.060
Probation Service			0.005	0.005
Total			16.691	15.525
KNOWSLEY COUNCIL'S TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET	DECLUDEME	NIT	150.019	229.651
	KEUUIKEMEI	IN I	130.017	227.001

KNOWSLEY COUNCIL'S TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET REQUIREMENT FUNDING RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL

Revenue Support Grant* Business Rates AMOUNT OF KNOWSLEY COUNCIL'S BUDGET TO BE FUNDED FROM COUNCIL TAX POLICE PRECEPT

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE FUNDED FROM COUNCIL TAX * The council's budget for Education and Lifelong Learning has reduced significantly in 2006/07 because schools are now funded by a direct grant from the Government. The reduction in the Revenue Support Grant also reflects this new approach to funding schools.

FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY PRECEPT

	L2.040III					
	£10.268m	COUNCIL TAX BILLS	Knowsley Council	Police	Fire & Rescue Service	TOTAL
jencies	£12.432m	Amount per band 'A' property 2005/06 2006/07	£669.99 £696.79	£77.12 £80.97	£35.92 £37.21	£783.03 £814.97
Total:	157.960	Increase	4.0%	5.0%	3.6%	4.1%

Charges and Levies These relate to amounts on your bill which Knowsley is required to pay to other organisations which provide services to Merseyside residents.

Merseyside Police Authority Precept

14 - Funds for Inflation & Contingencies £12,432m

The Police Authority has set a Net Budget Requirement for 2006/07 of £296.427m. The precept, which provides the balance of funding not covered by Government Grant, is set at £51.47m. In council taterems this is equivalent to £80.97 per property at Band A and £121.46 at Band D, an increase of 5% [£3.85 for the year at Band A, equivalent to 8p per week; £5.78 at Band D, equivalent to 11p per week

ver the current year's level. he Authority was awarded a net increase in general grants of 3.14% in the Local Authority Finance Settlement 2006/07, plus an amount which represents an amendment to the levels of grant received 2004/05 and 2005/06 of a further 0.45%. In itself, this falls significantly short of the increase in gra-required to balance the base budget and provide the committed service levels incorporated within the 2006/07 policing plan.

addition to this disappointing settlement, the Authority faced a real risk of having its budget cappe In the development of the state of the state

with the grant increase, meant the Authority still raced a delicit of some £3.881m in meeting its commitments in 2006/07. To balance the budget, with a 5% precept increase, the Authority has approved the release of £2.981m from its Reserves and the Chief Constable has agreed to make savings of £2.5m during 2006/07, thus ensuring that the committed service levels incorporated within the 2006/07 policing plan are achieved. The Authority has also agreed to within the 2006/07 policing plan are achieved. The Authority has also agreed that reductions in spending, supported by the utilisation of Reserves. In accordance with its policy of increasing Police Officer numbers at the front line and in order to develop the service and improve performance, the Authority has also agreed to support the Chief Constable's proposals to recruit an additional 180 police Officers over the next two years. The cost of these additional Police Officers will be funded through additional savings to be identified by the Chief Constable. It is important to emphasise that additional Police Officers will only be recruited once the requisite savings have been clearly identified. adultional Police officers with only be relatited office the requisite savings have been clearly identified, approved by the Authority and action plans put in place to ensure their achievement.

n adopting a three year medium term financial plan he Authority is now on the road to financial sustainability, with performance being maintained and then improved as the service develops over the next three years. Finally, the Authority will continue to lobby the vernment for additional resources, including those held back this year, and for local accountability, not precept capping.

STEVE HOUSTON BA(Hons), CPFA

Merseyside Police Authority, PO Box 101a, West House, Mercury Court, Liverpool. Telephone: 0151 236 4748

HOW SPENDING HAS CHANGED

(137.258) (50.065)

[187 323]

42.328

[106 148

43.871

5.098 2.343 **7.441**

51.312 49.469

:h ax %	NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2005/06	£m 306.627
‰ kl	Inflation & pay awards	8.726
rv)	Payment to special constables	0.200
·e	PCSO's funding	0.424
in	Capital financing costs	0.163
nt	Reduction in terrorism grant	0.161
1e	Change in collection fund	0.057
	Reduction in general grant [Pensions]	15.595
ed	Chief Constables efficiency savings	[2.500]
ed ts	Additional private duty income	[0.290]
15	Contributions from insurance provision	(0.500)
m	Amendment grant	[1.061]
IS.	Utilisation of pension reserve	[2.981]
d.	Transfer of pension costs	[28.194]
а	NET DUDGET DEGUIDEMENT 2004/07	204 /27

ANALYSIS (ETED GROSS EX IN 2006/0	(PENDITURE	12%	
lice Pay	55% 21%		55%
lice Pensions	12%		
ner Expenditure	12%	21%	
al	100%		

	REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07		
2005/06 £m		2006/07 £m	
350.445	GROSS EXPENDITURE	328.638	
(16.067) (18.883)	Gross income Specific government grants	[1.916] [23.917]	
315.495	NET OPERATING REQUIREMENT	302.805	
[8.868]	Use of provisions, reserves & general balances	[6.378]	
306.627	NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	296.427	
(139.876) (95.677) (22.164) (0.015)	Less: Police general grant Revenue support grant Business rate income Surplus on collection fund	[125.466] (19.339) [100.185] 0.042	42% 7% 34% 0%
48.895	PRECEPT REQUIREMENT	51.479	

The day to day cost of running the Coroners Service is estimated at £0.689m for 2006/07. This is apportioned between the Councils of Knowsley, Sefton and St Helens on the basis of population. Knowsley has budgeted for a charge to the council of £0.180m compared to £0.175m in 2005/06 subject to final confirmation from the Coroners Service.

Flood Defence

The Environment Agency carries out work to manage flood risk. This includes building, maintaining and operating flood defences. It also oversees work carried out by others that affects flood defences and the floodplain. The agency monitors rainfall and river levels 24 hours a day, providing warnings of potential flooding to the public, the emergency services and to local authorities. In the North West the Agency maintains over 6,300km of main rivers and more than 200km of sea and estuary defences. In 2006/07 the works will cost nearly £43m in the North West region, which includes Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria. The service is financed primarily by grant from the Government with a limited amount raised by a lew on local authorities.

2005/06 2006/07			
	Estimate £m	Estimate £m	
Revenue spend after receipt of income)		27.355	
Capital spend	14.689	15.262	
otal funding requirement	37.250	42.617	
Less Government funding)	(34.153)	(39.368)	
Levy requirement	3.097	3.249	

The levy requirement is apportioned between authorities in the North West on the basis of the numbe of band 'D' properties. The charge to Knowsley for 2006/07 is £0.062m compared to £0.060m in 2005/06.

Mersevside Passenger Transport Authority

The Authority's Lew on District Councils in 2006/07 has increased by a total of £3.9m compared with the previous year. Although the increase averages 4%, less than last year, it ranges from 3.6% to 4.5% for individual District Councils due to changes in the local population base used to apportion the Levy. The Lew rise reflects inflation, the impact of committed developments, and costs in respect of a variety of new projects undertaken in partnership with District Councils and other organisations as part of Merseyside's Local Transport Plan.

Merseytravel has accommodated the extra costs by a package of savings and the use of limited reserves. Scope has been found within the Budget for a number of operating improvements, funded by a more effective deployment of resources.

The Levy rise complies with a strategic objective of the Authority to keep it at the lowest possible level after taking account of the implications of the LTP. Similarly, the levy rise has been the subject of consultations with the District Councils. The increase will enable the Authority to continue its initiatives to improve public transport facilities throughout Merseyside, and to deliver its strategic vision to create 'a single integrated public transport network with access to all'.

Finally, at the time the budget was prepared the position with regards to the future of the Merseytran project was uncertain. The Capital Programme Budget was therefore prepared on the basis that the Tram would proceed, whilst in the event that the scheme did not, and the PTA had to finance certain costs, an allowance for interest charges on borrowing was built into the budget: a prudent approach which maintains the 4% I ew rise

MERSEYSIDE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

LR BARCLAY BSC MBA CPEA

Director of Resources

Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority and Executive (Merseytravel) 24 Hatton Garden, Liverpool, L3 2AN. Telephone: 0151 227 5181

RI	EVENUE BUD	GET 2006/07		
	Gross Expend £m	Service Income £m	Grants/ Balances £m	Net Levy £m
Bus services	29.177		0.457	18.784
Rail services	104.368		91.348	
Facilities & promotion	16.385	3.779		
Corporate policy & planning				6.279
Support services		4.130		
Funds management				
Mersey ferries	5.942			
Mersey tunnels		35.402		
Internal recharges				
	281.471	86.505	93.180	101.786
Levy changes	2005/06 Levy £m	Pay/Price Increases £m	Population Changes £m	2006/07 Levy £m
	10.778	0.426		11.163
Liverpool	31.698	1.283	0.143	33.124
St Helens		0.488		13.167
Sefton	20.201			21.000
	22.516	0.908	(0.092)	23.332
Total	97.872	3.914		101.786

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority Precept

The Authority has set a budget of £67.835m for 2006/07. This represents a decrease of £6.9m or 9.2% compared to the budget for 2005/06. This is mainly because

- the Government has changed the arrangements for funding fire-fighters pensions
- major efficiency savings and improvements

The full variation in expenditure is set out below:

In setting the budget the Authority was aiming to act in line with its medium term financial plan to keep its precept increases to below 4%. However in response to public consultation - which identified concerns about the level of council tax increases compared to pensions increases - and because our partners who provide our outsourced ICT services - telent - managed to identify some additional savings, the Authority has been able to move below its planning targets and therefore the Fire Authority's part of your council tax has increased by 3.6%.

The budget process for the Authority was challenging but the Authority has managed to set financial plans that invest in line with its Integrated Risk Management Plan and will help maintain its status as an authority judged as 'excellent' under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process. The Integrated Risk Management Plan sets out the future strategic direction for the Authority and is available on our website at www.merseyfire.gov.uk

The Authority budget makes significant provision for the Authority's world leading Community Fire Safety Work and Reducing Risk

- Carrying out Home Fire Risk Assessments
- Fitting Free Smoke Alarms
- Over 30 Fire Safety Advocates working with high risk groups and communities most vulnerable to the perils of fire
- Working with young people to reduce fire-setting

And investing in new areas of innovation and improving our Emergency Response

- Mersey Inshore Rescue Service
- Specialist Search and Rescue Team
- · Small Fires units

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

To get a Home Fire Risk Assessment ring Fire Service Direct -0800 731 5958 Free.

(Visit our website www.merseyfire.gov.uk or call your Community Fire station)

The Government Support we received was £44.198m an increase of only £0.653m or 1.5% after taking into account changes in methodology (approximately 65% of the Authority's income comes from Government grant). This compares to the increase in fire-fighter's pay costs of 3.4% in July 2005. [Uniformed staff pay makes up 68% of budgeted costs].

The Authority has issued a precept on the five Merseyside District Councils of £23.657m, which is equivalent to a Council Tax of £55.82 for a Band D property. This is an increase of 3.6% compared to the 2005/06 Band D Council Tax of £53.88. Knowsley's contribution to expenditure financed by precept is £2.343m, which represents 10% of the total precept.

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 Executive Director of Finance, ICT & Procurement. Fire Service Headquarters Bridle Road, Bootle, Liverpool, L30 4YD. Enquiries to: Kieran Timmins Telephone: 0151 296 4202 0151 296 4224

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07				
2005/06 Estimate £m		2006/07 Estimate £m	Per head of population £	
82.585 (5.162)	Total expenditure Less income	72.303 [1.625]		
77.423	NET EXPENDITURE	70.678		
74.785	BUDGET REQUIREMENT	67.835	49.98	
(36.258)	Revenue support grant		(5.27)	
(15.761)			[27.30]	
0.007	Collection fund surpluses	0.020	0.02	

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

The Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority arranges for the disposal of household and commercial waste collected by your council and also provides Household Waste Recycling Centres for local residents to dispose of or recycle their own waste.

The Authority produces a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) each year which sets out the principal objectives of the Authority and details current performance, future targets and how services will be reviewed. A copy of the BVPP 2006/07 will be available from the Authority from 30 June 2006. Whilst recycling on Mersevside continues to increase, the rate of improvement has not been enough to meet current targets. The Authority is continuing to work with all the Merseyside Councils to identify both

The following performance indicators and targets are of particular importance:

	Target 2004/05	Actual 2004/05	Target 2005/06	Estimate 2005/06	Target 2006/07
Total tonnage of household waste arisings - percentage recycled					13.28%
Total tonnage of household waste arisings - percentage composted					8.72%
Cost of waste disposal per tonne for municipal waste	£42.19		£44.74	£47.53	£51.84
Total tonnage of waste deposited at WRC's – percentage recycled (excluding rubble)	25.40%				

the Wirral. Though there has been an increase in the rate of Landfill Tax by £3 per tonne to a level of £21 in 2006/07, reducing waste arising at Household Waste Recycling Centres and increased recyclin is producing an overall reduction in Landfill Tax paid by the Authority. The Authority's Revenue Budge for 2006/07 is shown below along with the comparative figures for 2005/06.

MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AU	THORITY REVE	NUE BUDGE	T 2006/07
	2005/06 Estimate	2006/07 Estimate	
	£m		
Operational and other costs			
Landfill tax			
Total expenditure	46.5	48.9	
	(1.3)		
Net expenditure	45.2	47.5	
Authority balances used			
	45.2	47.5	

all districts. The total charge for your Council is £5.281m, comprising £4.994m levy and £0.287m for tonnage basis changes

The authority's contact details are:

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

Tel: 0151 255 1444 Fax: 0151 227 1848 Email: enquiries@mersevsidewda.gov.uk

Assistance with Council Tax or Benefit Enquiries

The one stop shops listed below will be pleased to assist personal or telephone callers with council tax enquiries or advice on how you may seek help under the benefit scheme

Halewood	Halewood One Stop Shop Raven Court, Leathers La Telephone: Minicom:		Monday-Friday Saturday	9am - 5pm Closed
Huyton	Huyton One Stop Shop Municipal Buildings, Arch Telephone: Minicom:	way Road 0151 443 3543 0151 443 4444	Monday-Friday Saturday	
Kirkby	Kirkby One Stop Shop Municipal Buildings, Cher Telephone: Minicom:	rryfield Drive 0151 443 4248 0151 443 4444	Monday-Friday Saturday	9am - 5pm Closed
Prescot	Prescot One Stop Shop Prescot Shopping Centre, Telephone: Minicom:	Aspinall Street 0151 443 4676 0151 443 4444	Monday-Friday Saturday	9am - 5pm 9.30am - 1pm

For enquiries regarding your council tax account please contact us on 0151 443 4476. For enquiries regarding other council services please ring 0151 489 6000.

You can also get this information in other formats. Please phone Customer Services on 0151 443 4031, or email customerservices@knowsley.gov.uk

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