

Council Tax bills / Adult Social Care Precept

In 2016 the Government instructed that council tax charges could be raised by 2% for Adult Social Care. This is known as the Adult Social Care precept (ASC precept), which the Government stated could be shown on council tax bills as a combined figure along with the basic council tax charge. For 2017/18 the Government announced a 3% ASC precept could be charged. The extract below shows item 7.5 of the Government's explanatory memorandum to the Council Tax Demand Notices (England) Amendment Regulations 2017:

7.5 The Secretary of State indicated that he would seek to put in place a revised approach for the display of information in subsequent years. His policy for the years 2017-18 onwards is that in relation to any authority that has used the adult social care precept since 2016-17, the notice must contain the following information:

a) the amount of council tax set by the authority excluding any adult social care precept charged in the year to which the notice relates;

b) the total amount of adult social care precept charged since the scheme began in 2016-17;

c) the number of percentage points contributed to the authority's overall change in its basic amount of council tax in the year to which the notice relates by:

i. the change attributable to general expenditure; and

ii. the change attributable to the adult social care precept.

The 2017/18 regulations require local authorities to show the ASC precept separately to the basic council tax charge, and also the total cumulative ASC amount since the scheme began in 2016/17. This change presented a number of challenges for local authorities as the bills have limited scope for explanatory narrative. The change in how the ASC precept is shown on council tax bills has caused some confusion although the Council did include supporting literature with the council tax bills for 2017/18.

Example Breakdown of Band D Council Tax Charge

The detailed breakdown below shows the calculation of the increases in council tax for a band D property from 1st April 2015, including the calculations for the ASC precept:

Breakdown of Band D Council Tax Charge (Including Adult Social Care Precept) from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2018

Description of Charge	2015/16 Band D Charge	2016/17 % Increase	2016/17 £ Increase	2016/17 Band D Charge	2017/18 % Increase	2017/18 £ Increase	2017/18 Band D Charge
Basic Council Tax Charge	£1,165.54	1.00% of£1,165.54	£11.66	£1,177.20	0.70% of£1,200.51	£8.4	£1,185.60
Adult Social Care Precept	£0.00	2.00% of£1,165.54	£23.31	£23.31	3.00% of£1,200.51	£36.02	£59.33
Council Tax + Adult Social Care Precept	£1,165.54	3.00% of£1,165.54	£34.97	£1,200.51	3.70% of£1,200.52	£44.42	£1,244.93
Police	£212.77	1.99% of £212.77	£4.23	£217.00	1.99% of £217.00	£4.32	£221.32
Fire & Ambulance	£64.59	1.99% of £64.59	£1.29	£65.88	1.99% of £65.88	£1.31	£67.19
Total Council Tax (Excluding Parish Precepts)	£1,442.90			£1,483.39			£1,533.44

Those with domestic properties subject to a parish precept will need to add the amount for this (as shown on the bill) to the above total to reach their full council tax charge.

It is important to note that in contrast to the ASC precept, the Police, Fire & Rescue increase calculations are not linked to the basic council tax charge. It is however not possible to fully explain this within the limitations of the text available on the bills.