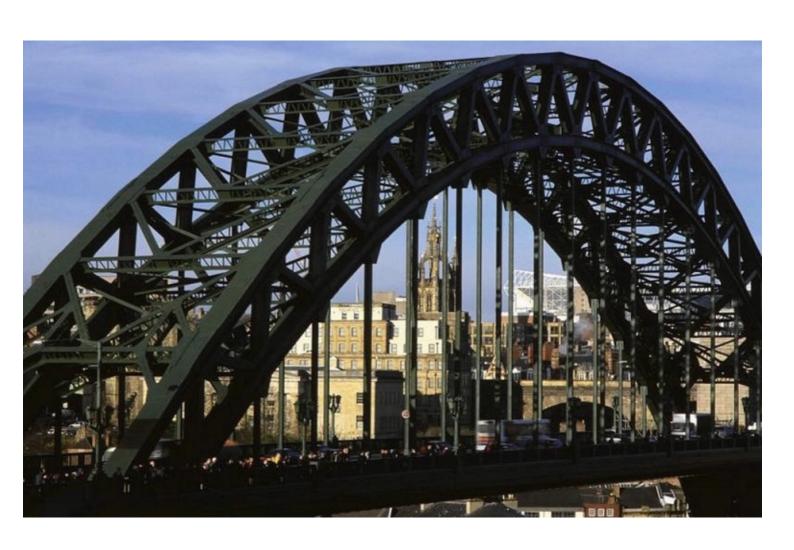


# Your guide to National Non-Domestic rates

2024-2025

Important information for National Non-Domestic ratepayers.



#### Message from the Leader of the Council

It's our job as your council to ensure that public money is invested in what is right for our residents.

The services we provide make a real difference to your day-to-day life, from roads and pavements, bin collections, social care and education. Each year, we must raise money to help pay for these services through Council Tax.

These are challenging times. Across the country, many people continue to struggle with the cost of living and the impacts felt in Newcastle are no different – we have seen a rise in demand for our social care and crisis services on top of our regular service delivery.

The Council must set a balanced budget each year, weighing up this increased demand against reduced government funding and our existing priorities and funding commitments.

Government has offered the option to councils to charge an additional 'precept' on Council Tax to meet expenditure on adult social care. We must carefully balance the funding of services for our older or more vulnerable residents by setting levels of tax for our residents in the fairest way possible.

Following a seven-week consultation with feedback from residents, businesses and communities, we have decided to increase council tax in Newcastle by 4.99% to help pay for rising costs of services. This includes a 2% rise in the Adult Social Care Precept – a part of council tax introduced by government to help fund services for our older or more vulnerable residents.

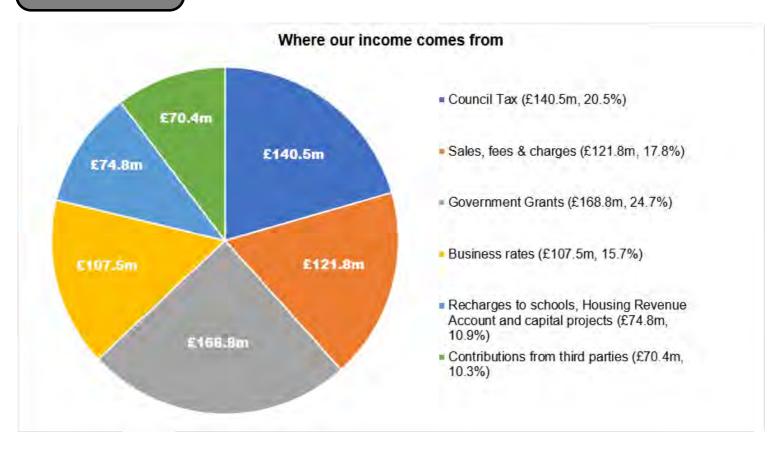
We know that the cost of living is making life harder for many, and we will continue to support you in every way we can. We are proud to invest further in our Council Tax Reduction Scheme to help those who need it most to meet other increasing costs such as food, mortgages and rent. You can find more details on the scheme in this guide.

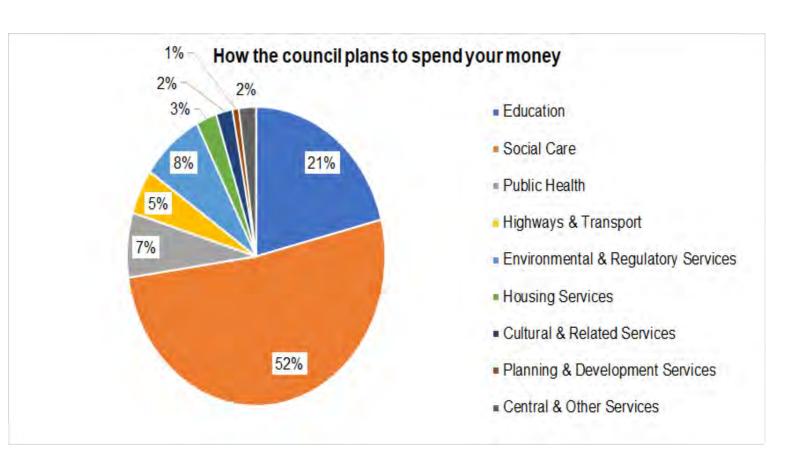
We continue to call on central government to provide long-term, fairer funding for councils to provide the services that you, our residents, deserve. We remain committed to eradicating poverty in our city, achieving our net zero ambitions, and making Newcastle an inclusive city that everyone can thrive in.

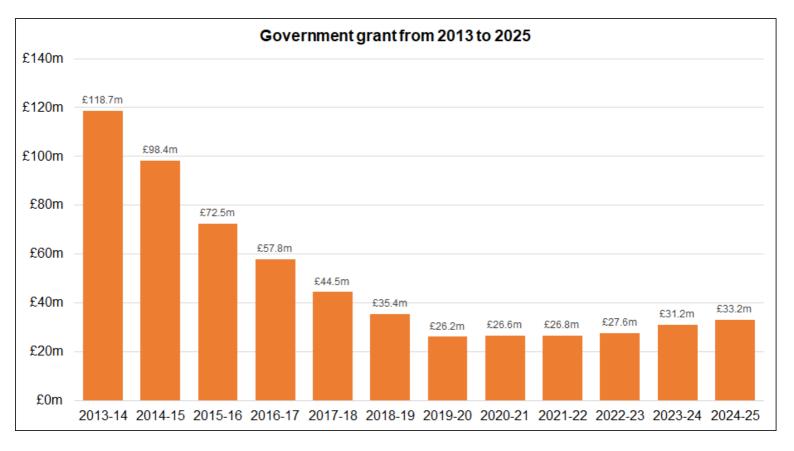


Councillor Nick Kemp Leader of the Council

### The Council Pound







# How is the council tax built up

	Net expenditure £000	Equivalent Band D Council Tax £	Expenditure Per Head £
Total Spending by the City	281,194	4,033.59	919.72
Less: Revenue Support Grant	(33,243)	(476,85)	(108.73)
Contribution from Business Rates (including top up)	(107,473)	(1,541.65)	(351.52)
Council Requirement	140,478	2,015.09	459.47
Plus Joint Board Precepts: Police & Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	12,677	181.84	41.46
Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	6,630	95.11	21.69
Amount to be raised from Council Tax	<u>159,785</u>	<u>2,292.04</u>	<u>522.62</u>

What will the council spend in 2024-2025 on the provision of its ser	vices?
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Change between

	2023-202	24		2024-2025		Change between years		
Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditu	On re Services	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure	
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	
194,948	(90,716)	104,232	Adult Social Care and Integrated Services including Adult Social Care, Commissioning, Inclusion & Prevention	216,162	(102,342)	113,821	9,589	
2,560	(1,056)	1,504	Assistant Chief Executive including Communication Services, Communities, Policy & Performance	3,295	(1,301)	1,993	489	
236,331	(181,081)	55,250	Children, Education and Skills including Children's Social Care, Education Services, Early Help & Family Support, Strategy & Commissioning	252,870	(187,242)	65,628	10,378	
11,930	(6,995)	4,935	Finance including Audit Risk & Insurance, Exchequer Services, Finance, Procurement, Revenues & Benefits	12,279	(6,540)	5,739	804	
166,959	(134,724)	32,235	Operations & Regulatory Services including Business Management, Democratic Services, Facility Services, ICT,Legal Services, Local Services, Operations, Parking, Public Safety Regulations, Repairs & Construction Services	173,514	(139,184)	34,330	2,095	
64,881	(54,233)	10,648	Place including Commercial Development & Property, Development Management, Economic Development, Fairer Housing, Major Projects, Museums, Arts & Culture, Transport	66,129	(53,474)	12,656	2,008	
23,458	(22,605)	853	Workforce & Inclusion including Health & Safety, Operational HR, Organisational Development, Training Schemes, Public Health	23,941	(22,535)	1,406	553	
			TOTAL SERVICE EXPENDITUR	E				
701,067	(491,410)	209,658		748,191	(512,619)	235,572	25,915	
			PLUS: PROVISIONS					
		38,218	Corporate Provisions			30,511		
		(3,926)	Contribution to/from Reserves PLUS: LEVIES			(4,076)		
		237	Northumbria Regional Flood	and Coastal Con	nmittee Levy	249		
		17,964	North East Combined Authority	Levy		18,937		
		262,151	TOTAL SPENDING BY T	HE CITY		281,194		

## Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority was established under Section 26 of the Local Government Act 1985, and comprises members from each of the five districts of Tyne and Wear County.

#### **Additional Information - Council Tax Demand Note**

Equivalent Band 'D' Charge per dwelling £95.11 Equivalent charge on other bands

A	В	C	D	E	F	G	H
£63.41	£73.97	£84.54	£95.11	£116.25	£137.38	£158.52	£190.22
					£000		
Loans Outs	•		31/03/20		9,932		
	₋oans Outsta		31/03/20		9,518		
Forecast C	apital Expen	diture	2024-202	25	10,890		
Estimated (	General Fund	d Balances	31/03/20		4,072		
Maniatian			31/03/20	25	4,072		
Variation					0		
Council Tax	k Requireme	nt	2023-20	)24	27,505		
Council Tax	x Requireme	nt (equivalen	t) 2024-20	025	28,720		
Increase in	Council Tax	Requiremen	t		<u>1,215</u>		
Numbers of	f staff - FTE's	3	2023-20	)24	878		
			2024-20	25	875		

In 2024-2025 Council Tax represents 40.6% of gross revenue expenditure (2023-2024 43.3%)

Amount per head based on total projected population of 1,127,200	£
Budget Requirement	56.22
Revenue Support Grant	(11.95)
Top Up Grant	(11.95) (11.28)
Business Rate Local Share	(3.29)
Business Rates Under-Indexation Grant	(2.85)
Service Delivery Grant	(0.10)
Funding Guarantee Grant	(0.61)
Collection Fund Net (Surplus)/Deficit	(0.66)

# COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT 25.48

Gateshead	Newcastle	North Tyneside	South Tyneside	Sunderland	
54,041	69,713	64,471	39,257	74,484	301,966

# Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

2023-2024 2024-2025

_	<b></b>	-				-
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
59,305	5,757	53,548	Fire Service	69,175	6,119	63,056
4,266	0	4,266	Contingency - Provision	1,528	0	1,528
0	613	(613)	Interest on Balances	0	1,211	(1,211)
63,571	6,370	57,200	Budget Requirement	70,703	7,330	63,373
0	12,162	(12,162)	Revenue Support Grant	0	13,471	(13,471)
0	10,203	(10,203)	Top Up Grant	0	12,713	(12,713)
0	3,415	(3,415)	Business Rate Local Share	0	3,711	(3,711)
0	2,747	(2,747)	Business Rates Under-Indexation Grant	0	3,217	(3,217)
0	629	(629)	Service Delivery Grant	0	109	(109)
0	0	0	Funding Guarantee Grant	0	689	(689)
0	385	(385)	Council Tax Collection Fund Net Surplus	0	528	(528)
0	155	(155)	Business Rates Collection Fund Net Surplus	0	216	(216)
63,571	36,066	27,505	Council Tax Requirement	70,703	41,983	28,720

#### **Environment Agency North East Region**

The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2011.

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 1642 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Northumbria 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:

Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	<b>2023-2024</b> £000	<b>2024-2025</b> £000
Gross Expenditure	23,895	35,667
Levies Raised	2,619	2,750
Total Council Tax Base	759	<b>769</b>

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 local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy. A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by this committee has increased by 5.0%

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £2,619,185 in 2023-2024 to £2,750,144 for 2024-2025.

#### Message from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

In considering the right precept proposal for 2024/25 I was mindful that Northumbria Police has the lowest precept in the country and is as a result very reliant upon central government funding, over which I have no control. Northumbria Police is committed to fighting crime but does so against a backdrop of increasing financial pressures. As Police and Crime Commissioner it is my job to set the budget for the force on behalf of our communities and ensure police officers and staff have what they need to keep us safe. I firmly believe Government should step-up and fully fund our police force. The Home Office has repeatedly turned down these requests and wants the cost of policing passed to local residents. People in the North East repeatedly tell me they want more police officers out on the streets and over the last four years I have delivered on that. I want to continue to invest in frontline policing and have plans for more investigators, expanding our specialist motorbike ASB units, and following trials I'd like to review all stations and look to reopen some of those that were closed under Government austerity.

To deliver this, we need more funding. To address the challenges facing Northumbria Police I have approved an increase of 108p per month for a Band D property. For the majority of households in Northumbria, those in a Band A property, the increase is 72p per month. The increase in the precept will provide over £5m in extra funds for 2024/25 which will help deliver on those further investment plans for frontline policing and provide essential funding to deliver the Police and Crime Plan.

The Band D council tax precept for Northumbria will increase from £168.84 to £181.84 for the year. This remains, by far, the lowest precept of any Police and Crime Commissioner in England and Wales. You can find more information on the OPCC website- www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

2023 - 2024		4		202	24 - 202	5
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	E	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000	Service	£000	£000	£000
388,145	40,617	347,528	Northumbria Police	420,562	42,643	377,919
		347,528	Budget Requirement LESS			377,919
		266,147	Formula Grant			281,983
		3,423	Special Pension Grant			11,168
		6,867	Council Tax Support Grant			6,867
		1,301	Legacy Council Tax Freeze Grant	ts		1,301
		905	Constituent Authorities' Net Surplu	us/Deficit		1,290
		68,885	Council Tax Requirement			75,310
		£11,594m	Charge on Newcastle			£12,677m
		£168.84	Band "D" Equivalent Charge			£181.84
•		•	ent between years is attributable budget pressures and other bu		tments	<b>£000s</b> 38,879
Budget re	eductions	s and efficiencie	es ·			(8,488)
Increase Increase	in gover in Specia	nment Formula al Pension Grar cil Tax Net Surp	Grant nt			(15,836) (7,745) (385)

#### **North East Combined Authority - NECA**

On 2 November 2018, the boundaries of NECA were changed by the Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2018. As a result of these governance changes the boundaries of NECA now cover the Local Authorities of Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland. NECA and the Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority will work together on a number of areas to support the region, including Transport. The North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) has been established to exercise the functions of the two Transport Authorities, including the setting of levies and budgets for transport activity.

	2023-24 JTC	2024-25 JTC
	Transport Budget	Transport Budget
Gross Transport Expenditure	£000	£000
Tyne Tunnel	36,553	39,183
Transport co-ordination and former ITA Nexus (Grant from JTC*, & External	4,504	8,206
Grants - net of commercial income)	106,206	102,545
Durham (Grant from JTC*)	16,902	16,895
Northumberland (Grant from JTC*)	6,448	6,552
Income	170,613	173,381
Tyne Tunnels	<u>(36,141)</u>	<u>(39,183)</u>
	(36,141)	<u>(39,183)</u>
Net Transport Expenditure:	134,472	134,198
Contribution from Tyne Tunnel Reserves	(412)	(0)
Contribution from Tyne and Wear Transport Reserves	(1,108)	(1,322)
Contribution from Nexus Reserves	(7,992)	(4,820)
Expenditure Requirement Funded by:	<u>124,960</u>	<u>128,056</u>
Tyne and Wear Transport Levy Durham	(67,800)	(70,300)
Transport Levy Northumberland Transport	(16,912)	(16,905)
Levy	(6,458)	(6,562)
Rail Grants and Miscellaneous Grants	(33,790)	(34,289)
Funding agreed by Authority	(124,960)	(128,056)

<sup>\*</sup> The JTC agrees an annual grant to the Tyne & Wear Integrated Transport Executive (Nexus), Durham County Council and Northumberland County Council in respect of revenue support and concessionary travel.

A comparison with previous NECA Transport budget:	£000
Inflation and other cost pressures	2,768
Increased income	(3,042)
Budget Restriction	(0)
Movement on contribution from reserves	3,370
	3,096

Please note: the Tyne Tunnels expenditure requirement is met fully from Tunnels reserves and tolls income, with no levy funding.

#### **Non-Domestic Rates - Explanatory Notes**

Non-Domestic Rates- Non-Domestic Rates, or business rates, collected by local authorities are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Under the business rates retention arrangements introduced from 1st April 2013, authorities keep a proportion of the business rates paid locally. The money, together with revenue from council tax payers, locally generated income and grants from central government, is used to pay for the services provided by local authorities in your area. Further information about the business rates system, may be obtained at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/">www.gov.uk/</a> introduction-to-business-rates and at the website of Newcastle City Council which is normally shown on your rates bill, or by contacting your local authority

**Business Rates Instalments-** Payment of business rate bills is automatically set on a 10-monthly cycle. However, the Government has put in place regulations that allow ratepayers to require their local authority to enable payments to be made through 12 monthly instalments. If you wish to take up this offer, you should contact Newcastle City Council as soon as possible.

National Non-Domestic Rating Multiplier- The local authority works out the business rates bill for a property by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate non-domestic multiplier. There are two multipliers: the standard non-domestic rating multiplier and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier. Because of its special circumstances, notably its very small resident population, the Common Council of the City of London can set its own rate, or multiplier, and retain part of the proceeds to help pay for the services it provides. It may set this rate, subject to certain constraints, at a higher or lower level than the rate which applies outside the City of London. The City sets the multipliers for each financial year according to formulae set by legislation.

Ratepayers who occupy a property with a rateable value which does not exceed £50,999 will have their bills calculated using the lower small business non-domestic rating multiplier, rather than the standard non-domestic rating multiplier.

The current multipliers are shown on the front of your bill.

**Rateable Value-** Business rates are based on your property's rateable value, The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) maintains the Non-Domestic Rating List. This includes setting the rateable values of business properties. To understand why your property has a certain rateable value, please go to **GOV.UK and search: 'How business rates are calculated'.** 

The rateable value of your property is shown on the front of your bill. This broadly represents the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market on a particular date specified in legislation. For the current rating list, this date was set as 1st April 2021.

The VOA may alter the valuation if circumstances change. The ratepayer (and certain others who have an interest in the property) can also check and challenge the valuation shown in the list if they believe it is wrong.

Further information about the grounds on which challenges may be made and the process for doing so can be obtained by contacting the VOA, or by consulting the VOA website: www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-check-your-rateable-value-is-correct

**Revaluations-** All non-domestic property rateable values are reassessed at revaluations. The most recent revaluation took effect from 1st April 2023. Revaluations ensure that business rates bills are up-to-date, more accurately reflect current rental values and relative changes in rents. Frequent revaluations ensure the system continues to be responsive to changing economic conditions.

**Transitional Rate Relief-** At a revaluation, some ratepayers will see reductions or no change in their bill whereas some ratepayers will see increases.

Transitional relief schemes are introduced at each revaluation to help those facing increases. Transitional relief is applied automatically to bills. Further information about transitional arrangements and other reliefs may be obtained from Newcastle City Council or the website **www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates**.

**Business Rate Reliefs-** Depending on individual circumstances, a ratepayer may be eligible for a rate relief (i.e. a reduction in your business rates bill). There are a range of available reliefs. Further details are provided below and at **www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates**, at the website of Newcastle City Council at **www.newcastle.gov.uk/businessrates** or **https://newcastle.gov.uk** or by contacting Newcastle City Council.

**Temporary Reliefs-** Some of the permanent reliefs are set out below but temporary reliefs are often introduced by the Government at a fiscal event. Further detail on current temporary reliefs is available at **www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief.** You should contact your local authority for details on the latest availability of business rates reliefs and advice on whether you may qualify.

**Small Business Rate Relief-** If a ratepayer's sole or main property has a rateable value which does not exceed a set threshold, the ratepayer may receive a percentage reduction in their rates bill for the property of up to a maximum of 100%. The level of reduction will depend on the rateable value of the property. For example eligible properties with a rateable value below a specified lower threshold will receive 100% relief. Eligible properties between that threshold and a specified upper threshold will receive partial tapered relief. The relevant thresholds for relief are set by the Government by order and can be obtained from the council or at **www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.** 

Generally, these percentage reductions (reliefs) are only available to ratepayers who occupy either—(a)one property, or

(b)one main property and other additional properties providing those additional properties each have a rateable value which does not exceed the limit set by order.

The aggregate rateable value of all the properties mentioned in (b), must also not exceed an amount set by order. For those businesses that take on an additional property which would normally have meant the loss of small business rate relief, they will be allowed to keep that relief for a fixed additional period. Full details on the relevant limits in relation to second properties and the current period for which a ratepayer may continue to receive relief after taking on an additional property can be obtained from your local authority or at www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.

Certain changes in circumstances will need to be notified to the local authority by the ratepayer who is in receipt of relief (other changes will be picked up by the local authority). The changes which should be notified are—

- (a)the property falling vacant,
- (b)the ratepayer taking up occupation of an additional property, or
- (c)an increase in the rateable value of a property occupied by the ratepayer in an area other than the area of the local authority which granted the relief.

Charity and Community Amateur Sports Club Relief- Charities and registered Community Amateur Sports clubs are entitled to 80% relief where the property is occupied by the charity or the club and is wholly or mainly used for the charitable purposes of the charity (or of that and other charities), or for the purposes of the club (or of that and other clubs).

The local authority has discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

**Unoccupied Property Rating-** Business rates are generally payable in respect of unoccupied non-domestic property. However, they are generally not payable for the first three months that a property is empty. This is extended to six months in the case of certain industrial premises, whilst certain other properties such as vacant listed buildings are not liable for business rates until they are reoccupied. Full details on exemptions can be obtained from the council or from gov.uk at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief">https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief</a>.

**Local Discounts and Hardship Relief-** Local authorities have a general power to grant discretionary local discounts and to give hardship relief in specific circumstances. Full details can be obtained from Newcastle City Council.

**Subsidy Control-** The new UK subsidy control regime commenced from 4 January 2023. The new regime enables public authorities, including devolved administrations and local authorities, to deliver subsidies that are tailored for local needs. Public authorities giving subsidies must comply with the UK's international subsidy control commitments. The subsidy control legislation provides the framework for a new, UK-wide subsidy control regime. Further information about subsidy control can be found on the gov.uk website at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/subsidy-control-regime.

**Rating Advisers-** Ratepayers do not have to be represented in discussions about their rateable value or their rates bill. However, ratepayers who do wish to be represented should be aware that members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS - website www.rics.org) and the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV - website www.irrv.org.uk) are qualified and are regulated by rules of professional conduct designed to protect the public from misconduct.

Before you employ a rating adviser or company you should check that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise, as well as appropriate indemnity insurance. Take great care and, if necessary, seek further advice before entering into any contract.

Information Supplied with Demand Notices- Information relating to the relevant and previous financial years in regard to the gross expenditure of Newcastle City Council is available at www.newcastle.gov.uk/businessratesbooklet

A hard copy is available on request by writing to the council at Revenues and Benefits, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH.

#### How to get in touch about your business rates

#### Online

The Council's website is www.newcastle.gov.uk

#### **Email**

Send us an email to business.rates@newcastle.gov.uk

#### By letter to

Business Rates Civic Centre Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8QH

City Emergency Helpline - phone 0191 278 7878 and ask for Envirocall. Use this number to get information about an emergency in Newcastle such as flooding, a major industrial accident or other large scale disruption.

#### How to pay

#### **Direct Debit**

Is the easiest way to pay business rates.

#### By Debit Card or Credit Card

- Online at www.newcastle.gov.uk/brdirectdebit
- By phoning the automated payment centre on 0191 278 7878 24 hours, seven days a week, and ask for payments.

#### By automatic transfer

Your bank may arrange for you to pay by this method but they may charge for this service.

#### By Bacs

Payment remittance advice notes should be sent either by fax to 0191 277 4762 or email to business.rates@newcastle.gov.uk

You must instruct your bank 10 days before payment is due.

For all of the above please use the following bank information.

Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc
Branch: Newcastle upon Tyne

Account: Newcastle City Council Account

Sort Code: 30-93-71 Account Number: 63352060

Please ensure your bank quotes your reference number.

#### Please pay on time

If you don't pay your business rates when due we will take court action against you to recover the full years charge.

- If you miss a payment a reminder will be sent.
- If you ignore this a final notice will be sent.
- If you ignore this we will apply to the Magistrate's Court for a summons.
- If payment is not made the court will issue a liability order allowing us to enforce collection.

# Additional costs will be incurred for a summons and liability order and you will required to pay them.

After a liability order is issued the following methods may be used to collect the business rates debt.

These will incur further costs and you will be required to pay them.

- Instructing an enforcement agent.
- Issuing a bankruptcy petition.
- Issuing a winding-up petition.

If you fall behind with your business rates don't ignore it, please contact us so that we can help you

email business.rates@newcastle.gov.uk

#### **Data Protection**

The information held on your account by the council's Revenues and Benefits Service will be used for administering and collecting council tax, business rates and for processing housing benefit claims. Revenues and Benefits may share your information with other Newcastle City Council departments to make sure you are receiving all the reductions, discounts, reliefs and exemptions to which you are entitled. If you are a Your Homes Newcastle tenant we also obtain information collected by them and provide both council tax and benefit information to them.

For further information on Data Protection please phone 0191 211 6500 or email dataprotection@newcastle.gov.uk

#### Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act came into force on 1 January 2005. This gives you the right to see any information that we hold about the council's business, subject to certain exemptions. For further information on Freedom of Information please phone 0191 211 6500 or email

freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk

#### **Reporting Fraud**

"Fraud costs all taxpayers, if you suspect someone of fraud you can report it (anonymously if you prefer)to the council at www.newcastle.gov.uk/fraud"

"Council tax fraud could be, lying about who lives in a property and/or their circumstances in order to get discounts or reductions, for example, a single person discount, a student exemption or a claim for the Council Tax Support Scheme".

#### **National Fraud Initiative**

This authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers and to this end may use the information you have provided for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other external bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.