

Make Your Vote Count on 5 May 2011

This year's election is one of the most important for local government and for the country so please use your vote. For local government, this is your chance to vote for the councillors who will make the right decisions at a time of financial pressure.

Vote on Democracy

Thursday 5 May will bring the first national referendum in over 30 years. This will be a crucial vote on how we elect candidates to Parliament. **Alternative Vote (AV):** Voters rank the candidates. If no candidate has 50% of first preferences then second preferences are counted and so on until someone has a majority. **First-past-the-post (FPTP):** The current system gives people a single vote for who they want to represent their constituency and whichever candidate gets the most votes wins.

Don't forget that the **2011 Census** will take place on **Sunday 27 March**. For more information go to www.census.gov.uk

Would you stand for it?

Anyone can stand for election provided they are over 18 and live or work in the area. There is no need for special qualifications. Councillors are elected from all walks of life to direct the council's affairs the way that suits communities best. Being a councillor is one of the best ways to serve your community. If you are interested in becoming a district councillor, contact the Electoral Services Team at EHDC (details below). For information about standing as a parish or town councillor contact Hampshire Association of Local Councils on 023 8026 3438 or visit www.hampshire-alc.gov.uk

How do I vote?

Provided you are registered you can vote:

- in person at your polling station
- by post – anyone can opt for a postal vote
- by proxy – this is when you appoint a person to vote on your behalf

There are also arrangements for overseas and service voters. Please make sure you are registered before **Thursday 14 April 2011** and use your vote. Contact the **Electoral Services Team** on **01730 234 350** or email electoral.services@easthants.gov.uk or www.easthants.gov.uk/democracy

To find out more about anything in this leaflet, please contact: **East Hampshire District Council, Penns Place, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4EX**. Tel: **01730 266 551**. Email: info@easthants.gov.uk Web: www.easthants.gov.uk



Would you stand for it?
Stand as a local councillor and make a difference in your community (see back page)

For Council Tax enquiries or to request this leaflet in large print call Customer Services on 01730 234 400

How do you decide how much my household pays?

Almost every home has to pay Council Tax, whether it is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette or a mobile home and whether it is owned or rented. Each home is in one of eight valuation bands, according to how much it was worth on 1st April 1991. Your Council Tax bill shows the band your home is in. You can also check this online at www.voa.gov.uk. If you think your home should be in a different band, please write to the Listing Officer (not to us) at the Valuation Office Agency, 2nd Floor Overline House, Central Station, Blechynden Terrace, Southampton, SO15 1GW. Telephone: 03000 504300

Value as at 1st April 1991	
Band A	up to £40,000
Band B	over £40,000 up to £52,000
Band C	over £52,000 up to £68,000
Band D	over £68,000 up to £88,000
Band E	over £88,000 up to £120,000
Band F	over £120,000 up to £160,000
Band G	over £160,000 up to £320,000
Band H	over £320,000

Is my property exempt?

Some homes, known as exempt properties, do not have to pay Council Tax. These include properties lived in only by students or people with severe mental impairment and, in some cases, empty properties. If you think your property could be exempt, please contact us. Further information available at: www.easthants.gov.uk/exemptions

Am I entitled to a discount or council tax benefit?

Your Council Tax bill assumes that there are two adults living in your home. If only one adult lives there (as their main home), we will reduce the bill by a quarter (25%). If your property is no-one's main home, such as an empty property or a second home you may be able to get a discount on your Council Tax. If we give you a discount, you must tell us about any change in your circumstances, which could affect your entitlement. If you don't you may have to pay a fine.

Council Tax Benefit means that people who get Income Support do not normally pay Council Tax and that other people on low incomes may pay less. There is also a scheme called Second Adult Rebate which may apply if you share your home with other adults who are on low incomes. If you think you qualify for a reduction, please phone 01730 234175.

How your bill is calculated

We take great care in calculating your bill correctly with the information that you have given us. If you believe that the bill is incorrect, please write to us first. If you disagree with our decision and then wish to appeal, we will give you full details on how to make an appeal. Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment. If an appeal is successful, you will be entitled to a refund if you have paid too much.

Does someone in your household have a disability?

We can reduce your Council Tax if anyone in your household (including children) has a disability and your property has an extra bathroom, kitchen or room to meet the needs of the disabled person. The reduction is also available if they use a wheelchair indoors. There are discounts and exemptions available to people who are severely mentally impaired. Please contact us for further details.

Data Sharing

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 bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes. For further information, see www.easthants.gov.uk/counciltax. The information provided by you may be shared with our partner local authority Havant Borough Council.

Our Service

We aim to work to certain standards, which are detailed in our Customer Charter. We also consult with our customers every year to find out their views on how we deal with your enquiries. Last year, 92.3% of customers were satisfied. Copies of the Charter and survey results are available upon request or can be obtained from our website.

Council Tax Performance

We feel it's important to let you know how we are doing on collecting Council Tax and Business Rates and how quickly we deal with your enquiries. The tables below show the amount we collect each year and how quickly we have dealt with your enquiries.

Council Tax collection	2008/09	2009/10
Average Shire Districts	98.0%	98.1%
East Hampshire	99.1%	98.9%

Business Rates collection	2008/09	2009/10
Average Shire Districts	98.2%	98.2%
East Hampshire	98.6%	98.5%

	Letters/enquiries received	% answered within 7 working days
2008/9	39,494	99.85%
2009/10 (ten months to January 11)	25,098	99.86%
	18,945	99.80%

Feedback

Was this leaflet useful? Could we do better? - Please tell us!
Telephone Daniel Lucking - Billing - on 01730 234143 if you have any suggestions or comments concerning this leaflet.

Your Council Tax - 2011/2012

The table below shows the 2011/2012 set Council Tax for each property band. The charges shown below assume at least TWO non-exempt adult residents. If only ONE resident, a 25% discount applies.

Council Tax Per Valuation Band Parish/Town	2011/2012								Band D Amount of Precept			
	AR*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	2010/2011	2011/2012	2011/12
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alton	801.29	961.55	1,121.81	1,282.07	1,442.33	1,602.60	1,762.86	1,923.13	2,083.36	440,000.00	442,000.00	65.49
Beech	786.59	943.91	1,101.23	1,258.55	1,415.87	1,576.14	1,736.41	1,896.68	2,056.99	12,000.00	12,000.00	39.03
Bentley	797.00	956.40	1,115.80	1,275.20	1,434.60	1,593.40	1,752.20	1,911.00	2,069.80	28,500.00	28,000.00	57.76
Bentworth	785.12	942.15	1,099.17	1,256.20	1,413.22	1,570.25	1,727.27	1,884.30	2,041.32	£4,200.00	10,000.00	36.38
Binsted	799.16	958.99	1,118.82	1,278.65	1,438.49	1,598.32	1,758.15	1,917.98	2,077.81	56,884.00	56,551.00	61.65
Bramshott & Liphook	794.59	953.51	1,112.43	1,271.35	1,430.27	1,589.10	1,748.02	1,906.85	2,065.68	200,104.00	202,737.00	53.43
Buriton	790.88	949.06	1,107.23	1,265.41	1,423.59	1,582.76	1,741.93	1,901.10	2,060.27	17,500.00	17,500.00	46.75
Chawton	784.02	940.83	1,097.63	1,254.43	1,411.24	1,568.04	1,724.85	1,881.65	2,038.46	7,604.42	7,604.42	34.40
Clanfield	790.53	948.63	1,106.74	1,264.84	1,422.95	1,581.05	1,739.16	1,897.26	2,055.37	86,000.00	86,000.00	46.11
Colemore & Priors Dean	764.91	917.89	1,070.88	1,223.86	1,376.84	1,529.82	1,682.80	1,835.78	1,988.77	£0.00	0.00	0.00
East Meon	785.42	942.50	1,099.58	1,256.67	1,413.75	1,570.84	1,727.92	1,885.01	2,042.10	18,450.00	21,185.04	36.91
East Tisted	785.74	942.89	1,100.04	1,257.19	1,414.34	1,570.64	1,727.94	1,884.24	2,041.93	4,000.00	4,000.00	37.50
Farrington	776.91	932.29	1,087.67	1,243.05	1,398.43	1,553.81	1,709.19	1,864.57	2,019.96	7,000.00	7,500.00	21.59
Four Marks	778.85	934.62	1,090.39	1,246.16	1,401.93	1,557.31	1,712.68	1,868.06	2,023.44	45,000.00	46,000.00	25.09
Froxfield	780.95	937.14	1,093.33	1,249.52	1,405.71	1,561.89	1,718.07	1,874.25	2,030.47	11,500.00	14,000.00	28.87
Froyle	795.51	954.61	1,113.71	1,272.81	1,431.92	1,592.02	1,752.12	1,912.22	2,072.32	16,000.00	16,500.00	55.08
Grayshott	792.52	951.02	1,109.52	1,268.02	1,426.53	1,585.03	1,743.53	1,902.03	2,060.54	59,530.00	59,530.00	49.69
Greatham	781.92	938.30	1,094.69	1,251.07	1,407.45	1,563.83	1,720.22	1,876.60	2,033.99	12,000.00	10,000.00	30.61
Hawley	781.62	937.94	1,094.26	1,250.59	1,406.91	1,563.29	1,720.67	1,877.05	2,034.43	8,000.00	8,000.00	30.07
Headley	783.22	939.87	1,096.51	1,253.16	1,409.80	1,566.20	1,723.09	1,880.58	2,038.97	89,000.00	89,000.00	32.96
Horndean	803.77	964.52	1,125.28	1,286.03	1,446.78	1,607.53	1,768.28	1,929.03	2,089.78	341,500.00	352,000.00	69.94
Kingsley	784.80	941.76	1,098.72	1,255.68	1,416.64	1,573.60	1,734.56	1,895.52	2,056.48	10,250.00	10,250.00	35.80
Langrish	775.69	930.83	1,085.96	1,241.10	1,396.24	1,551.38	1,706.52	1,861.66	2,016.79	2,725.00	2,730.00	19.40
Lasham	771.94	926.33	1,080.72	1,235.11	1,389.50	1,543.89	1,698.27	1,852.66	2,007.05	1,200.00	1,200.00	12.66
Lindford	784.80	941.76	1,098.72	1,255.69	1,416.65	1,573.61	1,734.57	1,895.53	2,056.49	39,100.00	39,100.00	35.81
Liss	795.61	954.73	1,113.86	1,272.98	1,432.10	1,591.22	1,750.34	1,909.46	2,068.59	142,147.00	143,553.00	55.26
Medstead	778.87	934.65	1,090.42	1,246.20	1,401.97	1,557.35	1,712.72	1,868.09	2,023.46	26,000.00	26,500.00	25.13
Newton Valence	768.59	922.31	1,076.03	1,229.74	1,383.46	1,537.19	1,690.90	1,844.63	1,998.33	750.00	750.00	6.62
Petersfield	809.37	971.24	1,133.12	1,294.99	1,456.87	1,618.74	1,780.61	1,942.48	2,104.36	476,520.00	495,819.00	80.03
Ropley	785.73	942.88	1,100.03	1,257.17	1,414.32	1,570.46	1,726.60	1,882.74	2,038.88	30,000.00	30,000.00	37.48
Rowlands Castle	791.74	950.09	1,108.44	1,266.78	1,425.13	1,581.47	1,737.81	1,894.15	2,050.49	62,215.03	63,925.16	48.29
Selborne	789.87	947.84	1,105.82	1,263.79	1,421.77	1,577.71	1,733.65	1,889.59	2,045.53	29,233.50	29,233.50	44.93
Shalden	776.96	932.35	1,087.74	1,243.14	1,398.53	1,553.92	1,709.31	1,864.70	2,020.09	3,500.00	5,000.00	21.69
Steep	774.77	929.72	1,084.68	1,239.63	1,394.59	1,549.54	1,704.49	1,859.44	2,014.40	6,000.00	9,000.00	17.75
Stroud	788.89	946.67	1,104.45	1,262.23	1,420.00	1,577.77	1,735.54	1,893.31	2,051.08	4,725.00	6,500.00	43.16
West Tisted	764.91	917.89	1,070.88	1,223.86	1,376.84	1,529.82	1,682.80	1,835.78	1,988.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whitehill	806.20	967.45	1,128.69	1,289.93	1,451.17	1,612.41	1,773.65	1,934.89	2,096.13	321,712.00	332,275.00	74.03
Wield	780.12	936.15	1,092.17	1,248.19	1,404.22	1,560.25	1,716.27	1,872.30	2,028.31	3,500.00	3,500.00	27.38
Worldham	789.07	946.88	1,104.70	1,262.51	1,420.33	1,576.14	1,731.96	1,887.77	2,043.59	8,250.00	8,250.00	43.49

*AR - If you qualify for Disabled Persons Relief and live in an 'A' Band property, your Council Tax will be charged at the AR level.

Town and Parish Councils

	Gross Expd £'000	2010/2011 Income £'000	Net Expd £'000	Gross Expd £'000	2011/2012 Income £'000	Net Expd £'000
Alton Town Council						
Highways	5	1	4	5	1	4
Recreation & Tourism	297	117	180	340	127	213
Public Halls	91	45	46	79	49	30
CTV	10	0	10	17	0	17
Grants to Local Organisations	29	0	29	25	0	25
Other Services	246	85	161	259	101	158
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	0	0	10	0	5	-5
	678	248	440	725	283	442
Bramshott & Liphook Parish Council						
Recreation & Tourism	96	38	58	109	41	68
Environment Health	5	8	-3	5	8	-3
Other Services	222	77	145	217	80	137
	323	123	200	331	129	202
Horndean Parish Council						
Recreation & Tourism	20	0	20	29	2	27
Other Services	403	51	352	407	112	295
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	0	30	-30	0	-30	30
	423	81	342	436	84	352
Liss Parish Council						
Highways	2	0	2	1	0	1
Recreation & Tourism	5	0	5	4	0	4
Other Services	135	0	135	139	1	138
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
	142	0	142	144	1	143
Petersfield Town Council						
Social Services	13	0	13	13	0	13
Highways	1	0	1	1	0	1
Planning & Economic Development	3	0	3	4	0	4