



The Dock Office, Barry

Council Tax News

BUDGET UPDATE 2008



The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
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www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Since December 2006, a multi-part Cabinet has run the Vale Council. Therefore, next year will bring its challenges especially as we have to ensure that the overspending in Social Services are addressed, and ensure that plans for improving our Schools and Housing are not put in jeopardy by the significant financial pressures on the Council in providing services.

We have therefore produced a prudent and achievable budget, with a fair distribution of resources amongst all areas of our work, leading to our ultimate aim of achieving efficient and effective, value for money services. This budget puts the Council on a solid financial footing to achieve that goal in future years, but has set a challenging target for efficiency savings of £3.45m, or 2% of the budget, at the same time working to improve services.

Social Services expenditure is under particular pressure and, in order to bring in safe measures to reduce this overspend over a 3-year period, this year we have allowed a temporary uplift of £3.64m. Some urgent changes will be necessary to achieve this target, but without having a major impact on those in greatest need.

We continue to acknowledge the importance of education, by approving a 5.2% increase in the School's budgets. We are also investing more than £4m on schools buildings in 2007/08, confirming the long-term commitment to improving the condition of our educational buildings.

We are also investing £4.8m capital in improving Visible Services and £2m in the Penarth Central Renewal Area.

Therefore, the proposed level of Council Tax for this Council, which excludes police and community council precepts, is £792.81 for Band D properties, which is an increase over the current year of £37.71 or 5%.

Last year the Vale's Council tax was the fifth lowest in Wales and it is anticipated that, even with the proposed increase, the Vale's Council Tax for 2007/08 will still be well below the Welsh average.



Margaret Alexander

Councillor Margaret Alexander
Leader of the Council



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Text C1V then your message to 60066
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



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How is your Council Tax calculated?



The total Council Tax for each community area in Band D is found by adding to the Town/Community Council levy the charges from:

The Vale of Glamorgan Council	£828.45
South Wales Police Authority	£139.38
Total	£967.83

BAND D

Most dwellings are subject to Council Tax. There is one bill per dwelling, whether it is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette, mobile home, or house boat, and whether it is owned or rented.

Each dwelling has been allocated to one of nine bands according to its open market capital value at 1st April 2003. The Band your dwelling is in will determine the Council Tax you pay as follows:

For Example:

The total Band D Council Tax for the Barry Town area is £1011.94
 This is found by adding the Town/Community Council levy (**£44.11**) to the charges for the Vale of Glamorgan (**£828.45**) and the South Wales Police Authority (**£139.38**).

The National Assembly for Wales sets a **Standard Spending Assessment (SSA)** for each Council. This figure is used to distribute Revenue Support Grant to Councils.

This year our SSA is **£188,447,538** and our Net Budget is **£187,462,325** (including use of reserves). This represents a Band D equivalent for Council Tax of **£828.45** after all grants etc.

Your Council Tax Bill shows the band for your dwelling...

Valuation Band	Range of Values	Council Tax Payments
A	not exceeding £44,000	6/9 of Band D
B	Over £44,000 but not exceeding £65,000	7/9 of Band D
C	Over £65,000 but not exceeding £91,000	8/9 of Band D
D	Over £91,000 but not exceeding £123,000	9/9 of Band D
E	Over £123,000 but not exceeding £162,000	11/9 of Band D
F	Over £162,000 but not exceeding £223,000	13/9 of Band D
G	Over £223,000 but not exceeding £324,000	15/9 of Band D
H	Over £324,000 but not exceeding £424,000	18/9 of Band D
I	Over £424,000	21/9 of Band D

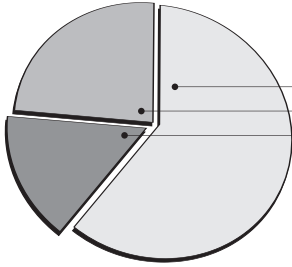
What will I pay?



Level Of Town/Community Council Precept and Total Council Tax For Band D 2008/2009

Town/Community Council Precept 2007/2008 £	Council Tax In Respect Of	Town/Community Council Precept 2008/2009 £	Town/Community Council Levy Band D 2008/2009 £	Total Tax Levy Band D 2008/2009 £
780,000	Barry	815,000	44.11	1011.94
2,800	Colwinston	2,800	10.00	977.83
120,166	Cowbridge with Llanblethian	124,624	50.11	1017.94
78,690	Dinas Powys	81,838	22.92	990.75
9,775	Ewenny	9,913	23.00	990.83
4,000	Llancarfan	4,500	10.09	977.92
30,443	Llandough	29,635	32.46	1000.29
3,600	Llandow	3,600	8.41	976.24
3,085	Llanfair	3,085	8.38	976.21
7,360	Llangan	7,440	20.00	987.83
4,427	Llan-Maes	4,427	18.92	986.75
181,745	Llantwit Major	181,698	45.63	1013.46
4,928	Michaelston	5,076	23.18	991.01
454,699	Penarth	473,270	44.38	1012.21
3,500	Pendoylan	4,000	17.02	984.85
6,800	Penllyn	7,000	7.27	975.10
5,400	Peterston-S-Ely	5,400	9.78	977.61
0	Rhoose	0	0.00	967.83
15,960	St Athan	17,329	13.00	980.83
8,000	St Brides Major	8,000	7.16	974.99
374	St Donats	380	2.00	969.83
3,000	St Georges & St Brides-S-Ely	3,150	13.46	981.29
4,752	St Nicholas & Bonvilston	4,725	9.00	976.83
79,826	Sully	81,861	34.29	1002.12
4,000	Welsh St Donats	4,400	14.62	982.45
24,500	Wenvoe	25,250	23.71	991.54
2,500	Wick	2,872	7.72	975.55
1,844,330	Total Precept	1,911,273		

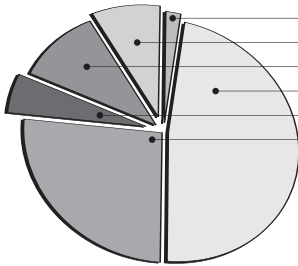
Where the Council's money comes from...



Revenue Support Grant - 59%
 Council Tax - 24%
 National Non-Domestic Rate Pool - 17%



What the Council spends your money on...



Housing & Council Tax Benefits - 2%
 Public Protection & Policy - 11%
 Building & Visible Services - 10%
 Education (including Libraries) - 48%
 Planning, Transport, Economic Devt. & Leisure - 5%
 Social Services - 24%

£1 Billion lost nationally every year due to Housing Benefit fraud now...
 the Council's money is YOUR money

...don't let the

Cheats get away with it...

If you know of someone
 who's cheating the Council

PHONE the
FRAUD
0800

24 hour
HOTLINE
7312525

or email

BeataCheat@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

It's FREE & CONFIDENTIAL

Alternatively write to: **Freepost, Beat a Cheat**

How is Your Money Spent?



Estimated Expenditure and Income

2007/2008			2008/2009			
Gross Exp. £'000	Income £'000	Net Exp. £'000	Vale Council Services	Gross Exp. £'000	Income £'000	Net Exp. £'000
17,979	14,697	3,282	Housing	18,628	15,215	3,413
32,094	31,075	1,019	Housing & Council Tax Benefits	35,014	34,126	888
102,375	14,284	88,091	Education (including Libraries)	107,210	15,571	91,639
52,255	7,318	44,937	Social Services	53,434	8,258	45,126
5,994	2,870	3,124	Planning & Transportation	6,384	3,207	3,177
10,073	4,063	6,010	Economic Development & Leisure	10,412	4,132	6,280
21,885	2,279	19,606	Building & Visible Services	22,665	3,088	19,577
3,490	786	2,704	Public Protection & Registrars	3,592	769	2,823
18,251	4,708	13,543	Policy	23,428	5,142	18,286
5,701		5,701	Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue	4,359		4,359
270,097	82,080	188,017		285,126	89,508	195,618
1,844		1,844	Town & Community Council Precepts	1,911		1,911
896	9,751	(8,855)	Transfer to/from General & Specific Reserves	757	8,912	(8,155)
272,837	91,831	181,006	TOTAL (*Budget Requirement)	287,794	98,420	*189,374
	(150)	150	Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Reliefs		(150)	150
	106,868	(106,868)	Revenue Support Grant		110,226	(110,226)
	29,117	(29,117)	National Non-Domestic Rate Pool		31,929	(31,929)
	45,171	(45,171)	Council Tax		47,369	(47,369)
Included in the total are the following levies and payments to outside bodies:						
	£'000			£'000		
	5,892		South Wales Fire Authority	6,048		
	12		Cardiff Port Health Authority	13		
	3		Swansea Port Health Authority	3		
	36		South Wales Sea Fisheries	39		
	94		Glamorgan Record Office	97		
	6,037			6,200		
	31/3/2008		Estimated Financial Reserves as at:	31/3/2009		
	£'000			£'000		
	3,421		General Fund	3,421		
	4,735		Housing Revenue Account	5,035		
	26,269		Reserves for Specific Purposes	18,082		

Capital Programme 2008/2009



Programme	£'000	How Financed	£'000
Housing - Council Properties	5,781	Loans	6,151
Housing - Grants and Loans	2,000	Capital Receipts	4,979
Education (including Libraries)	7,538	Grants	12,045
Social Services	618	Revenue Contribution,	
Economic Development and Leisure	5,055	Renewal etc.	2,493
Building and Visible Services	4,052		
Policy	624		
	25,668		25,668

Should you be paying less?

**Are you entitled to Housing and/or Council Tax Benefits?
Find out if you can cut your Council Tax and rent liability.**

Are you on a low income (with savings of less than £16,000, unless you are on Guarantee Pension Credit), having difficulty paying some of your bills and using your capital to support your living standards? Council Tax Benefit could help pay towards your Council Tax bill and Housing Benefit could help towards your rent. The Council would like to assist our residents to apply for help - why not apply today? To find out if you qualify, we need to take into account your circumstances, including income, savings, age and how many people live with you.

Some examples are shown below (Housing Benefit does not cover gas, electricity, water rates or other amenity charges):

A single pensioner over 65 whose rent is £75 a week with Council Tax of £886 per year (£17 per week) and a weekly income of £158 per week. Council Tax Benefit could be about £738 (£14 per week) and Housing Benefit about £66 per week.

A couple with two children aged under 16, rent of £110 per week, Council Tax of £1,095 per year (£21 per week) and a total weekly household income of £283 per week. Council Tax Benefit could be £406 (£8 per week) and Housing Benefit about £67 per week.

Don't delay, apply today, as in most cases benefit can only be paid from the Monday following the receipt of a valid application form. If you claim Pension Credit, Income Support or Job Seekers' Allowance, you should have received a form to claim Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit in with your application.

**For Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, telephone 01446 709244.
E-mail: benefits@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Recycling and Refuse 2008/09



Are you recycling?

Did you know that up to 85% of the rubbish in your bin doesn't have to be there! Many items can be recycled or composted.

The council is working hard to improve recycling services in the Vale. We have to significantly reduce the amount of rubbish that ends up buried in the ground in order to comply with Welsh Assembly targets. Failure to meet these targets could result in the council being fined.

Kerbside Recycling Service

Use our free kerbside recycling service. We collect paper, glass and cans one week, followed by clean plastic and cardboard the next, recycling doesn't get much easier than this!

Plastic Bag Free Vale

Support our greener Vale campaign from April we will be one step towards becoming plastic bag free reusable bags will be on sale for £1.50 in the Council offices in Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major. Please use these bags for shopping to reduce the amount of carrier bags sent to landfill.

Garden Waste Collection Service

The kerbside collection for garden waste will commence from the 17th March until the end of November. Reusable bags cost £1 or disposable bags 3 for a £1, available from Council offices.

Residents can also dispose of garden waste for free in the garden waste skips at Sully and Llandow Household Recycling Centres. If you have a trailer we can issue a permit to use these sites to dispose of large amounts of garden waste over the summer period.

Why not compost your garden waste at home? Pensioners and those on benefits can collect a free compost bin from the Alps Depot, Wenvoe, (while stocks last), call in on a Tuesday and Thursday between 09:00 and 16:00. You need to show proof of eligibility and proof of residence in the Vale (name and address). Discounted compost bins are available to all other Vale residents priced from just £10. Please call 01884 841 515 to order.

For further information on any of the above please call Visible Services on 029 2067 3000, e-mail visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

We will be collecting refuse and recycling on all bank holidays during 2008/09 except for the following:

Normal Collection Date		Revised Collection Date	
Wednesday	24 December	NO CHANGE	
Thursday	25 December	Saturday	27 December
Friday	26 December	Sunday	28 December
Monday	29 December	NO CHANGE	
Tuesday	30 December	NO CHANGE	
Wednesday	31 December	NO CHANGE	
Thursday	1 January	Friday	2 January
Friday	2 January	Saturday	3 January