General Information

Council tax is money paid by most adults over the age of 18 years, which goes to local government (also called the Council) to pay for local services. The amount you pay depends on the type of house you live in. For example, if you live in a small flat you will pay less than someone who lives in a large detached house.

Local Government is also called your local council and is run in your local town or county in a place usually called council offices. It collects a tax called council tax – this pays for local things that look after local people.

We are also expected to do our bit, keeping things tidy and clean and there are laws to help us like picking up dog poo and not dumping rubbish – if we don’t do our bit then our council tax will need to be more so someone else can be paid to do this – NOTHING is free.

Income tax is an amount of money that is deducted from your wages. It is calculated as a percentage of what you earn. This money goes to Central Government to pay for Public Services such as Education, Health and Social Security

Central Government is run in London in the Houses of Parliament. It uses income tax (and other taxes) to pay for things that all people use everywhere or things that are not fair to ask local governments to pay for because they are used by everyone or it’s not in their control – like unemployment or the army.