Emergency Services

Police
Most adults have to pay council tax to the Council every month. A large part of this money goes directly to the Police Authority. This money is spent on providing things like the 999 emergency service, and community policing to keep us safe in our homes and communities.

Fire and Rescue Service
Most adults have to pay council tax to the Council every month. A large part of this money goes directly to the Fire and Rescue Service, and they also get money from Central Government. This money is spent on 999 emergency services, education and prevention work, making sure we are safe in our communities.

Armed Services
The Central Government pays for the Armed Services – the war memorial in Pride Place Park is to remember local heroes, so it’s paid for by the Council from council tax.

The Health Services

Income Tax is taken out of people’s wages by the Central Government in London. Some of this money pays for the health centre, hospitals, doctors and nurses.

Retirement Home
Most adults have to pay council tax to the Council every month. Some of this money is used to provide support for adults, people with disabilities, children and young people who need extra help; this is usually called Social Care. For example Money from the council tax helps to pay for some retirement homes. Some homes are private, but the old people receive money from the Council to help to pay for them to live there.

Retirement homes are for old people who are frail and struggle to look after themselves. The council tax also pays for homes for people with a disability, or children and young people.
Public Spaces

☐ The School
Most adults have to pay council tax every month to the Council. A large amount of this money is given to schools to spend on all the things children and young people need to receive a good education.

☐ The Library/Information Centre
Most adults have to pay council tax every month to the Council. Some of this money is spent on library buildings and resources, like books. The Council makes sure everybody has access to a public library or information centre. For example money from the council tax pays for mobile libraries for people who find it difficult to get to a local library.

☐ The Community Centre
Most adults have to pay council tax to the Council every month. Some of this money pays for youth clubs, community and leisure centres, which provide a range of activities, such as art and sport opportunities for people of all ages in their local community.

☐ Parks
Most adults have to pay council tax to the Council every month. Some of this money is used to look after and keep safe all country parks. Council tax also pays for public footpaths to be looked after and signposted, so that people can enjoy walking in their community.

☐ The Job Centre
Income tax is taken out of people’s wages by the Central Government in London. Some of this money pays for the job centre. Job centres help people who are unemployed to find a job and provides them with training too. Job centres also deal with benefit claims, providing people who are unemployed with some money to help them to live, depending on their circumstances.

☐ The War Memorial / Armed Forces
Most adults have to pay council tax to the Council every month. Some of this money is used to look after things like the war memorial, making sure it is safe, well looked after and doesn’t have any graffiti on it, to show respect for the people who died fighting for our Country. Central Government pays for the Armed Forces, from income tax taken from people’s wages.
Public Spaces

☐ Cemetery
Most adults have to pay council tax to the Council every month. Some of this money is used to employ people to make sure cemeteries are looked after and kept clean and safe.

☐ Railway Station
Central government own the station buildings and tracks and keep them in working order. A private company rent them off the government.

☐ Buses/public transport
Most adults have to pay council tax every month to the Council. Some of this money pays for public transport. It is important that everyone can travel to places in their community. If more people use public transport, it means there will be fewer cars on the roads, so there will be less pollution.

The Street

☐ Roads
Most adults have to pay council tax to the Council every month. This money helps to pay for things like road repairs and traffic lights and making sure roads are safe for drivers to use. Big roads such as motorways are paid for and looked after by Central Government. This money comes from Income Tax, which is deducted directly from people’s wages.

☐ Streetlights
Most adults have to pay council tax to the Council every month. Some of this money is spent on providing street lighting, and repairs to faulty lights. Street lighting is important to ensure we are safe to walk outside when it is dark.

☐ Refuse collection / rubbish bins / recycling
Most adults have to pay council tax every month to the Council. Some of this money is used to pay for bins and lorries, to make sure all our rubbish is taken away and recycled if possible. Some council tax money pays for recycling centres, where rubbish that is too big to fit in the dustbin goes. Also, things like old clothes, shoes, glass and even babies nappies are recycled by the Council.
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.