

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council COUNCIL TAX GUIDE 2024 - 25



Oadby & Wigston
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Tax Guide

This guide explains how your council tax is collected and distributed to the organisations that provide public services in the district.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is responsible for collecting all the council tax, which is then distributed to the different authorities:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Leicestershire Fire Authority
- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Please read on to find out about the different ways to pay your council tax and apply for discounts and exemptions, and support schemes.

Your council tax explained

Council tax is a local tax used to fund local services. Council, police and fire services are paid for with income from the tax, together with income from Government grants and other charges.

Owner occupiers usually have to pay their council tax bill. Where homes are rented, the tenants will have to pay. In the case of empty homes, it is normally the owner who has to pay. The owners of the following properties also pay council tax:

- Residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels
- Those occupied by:
 - a) A minister of religion or a religious community
 - b) More than one household
 - c) Resident staff or asylum seekers.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is the local authority responsible for collecting the council tax in this area. We keep less than 12% of this and pay the rest over to the county council, the police and crime commissioner and the fire authority.

Financial information

Below is a table showing the amount of council tax due for the year commencing April 2024 when compared to the previous year.

Valuation Band	Property value as at 1 April 1991	Council Tax Amount Payable April 2023	Council Tax Amount Payable April 2024
A	up to £40,000	£1,416.42	£1,482.34
B	£40,001 to £52,000	£1,652.50	£1,729.39
C	£52,001 to £68,000	£1,888.57	£1,976.46
D	£68,001 to £88,000	£2,124.64	£2,223.50
E	£88,001 to £120,000	£2,596.78	£2,717.63
F	£120,001 to £160,000	£3,068.93	£3,211.72
G	£160,001 to £320,000	£3,541.07	£3,705.85
H	over £320,000	£4,249.28	£4,447.02

Where your money goes

Below are the percentages that each authority will receive for the council tax paid:



www.leicestershire.gov.uk/counciltax



POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER
for Leicestershire
Your voice in Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

www.leics.pcc.police.uk/counciltax



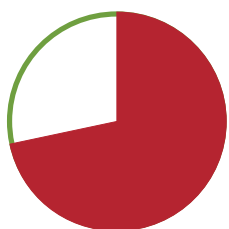
Oadby & Wigston
BOROUGH COUNCIL

www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/counciltax

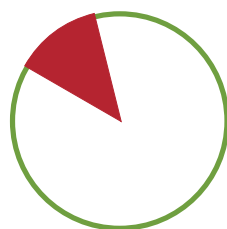
LEICESTERSHIRE
FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

www.leicestershire-fire.gov.uk

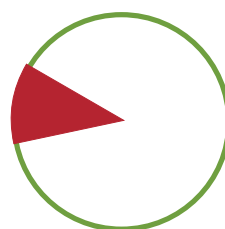
72.03%



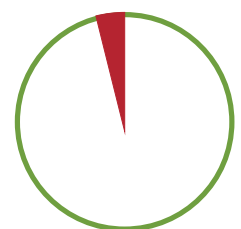
12.87%



11.43%



3.67%



Council tax valuation bands

The Valuation Office Agency (not your local council) has put every property into one of eight valuation bands. Further details are available on the Valuation Office Agency website at www.voa.gov.uk.



Band	Range of values at 1 April 1991	Proportion of Band D tax payable
A	Up to and including £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9/9
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9
H	More than £320,000	18/9

Council tax appeals

If you do not agree with the band for your home and wish to make an appeal, please contact the Valuation Office on 03000 501501 or go to the Valuation Office website: www.voa.gov.uk

Other appeals

If you wish to appeal against any other matter regarding your council tax, please do so in writing to the Revenues Team. You can email the team at revenues@oadby-wigston.gov.uk or write to us at:

F.A.O. Revenues Team, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicestershire, LE2 5JJ.

You should continue to pay your original council tax demand notice whilst your appeal is outstanding. In the event of an overpayment, the credit will be offset against any outstanding balance and the remainder refunded to you.

Council Tax Support Scheme

With effect from April 2013, 'Council Tax Benefit' was replaced by a local Council Tax Support Scheme. The Government reduced the amount of money local councils received to provide full discounts on Council Tax for working age people.

Everyone under state pension age must pay some council tax.

Working age people (in receipt of maximum Council Tax Support) have to pay 15% of their council tax charge.

It is important that you contact us as soon as you receive your council tax demand notice if you need help and advice on how to pay your charge.

People of pensionable age who were in receipt of council tax benefit are protected from these changes. You will continue to receive the same level of support that you would have done under the council tax benefit rules.

Important note:

If your circumstances change you should report this to the council within a month of the change occurring. Failure to do this will be dealt with as an act of fraud. You can ring us on **0116 288 8961** option 4, email: benefits@oadby-wigston.gov.uk or write to us at F.A.O. Benefits Team, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicestershire, LE2 5JJ.

How to pay

Paying council tax over 12 months

Council tax instalments can now be spread over 12 months instead of 10. Following your request, the number of payments will be dependent on the number of months remaining in the financial year. Your written request for 12 monthly instalments will automatically apply to the next financial year. If you would prefer to revert back to paying over 10 months, please notify us in writing and we will amend our records.

If you would like to pay your council tax over 12 months, please email your request detailing your name, full address and council tax reference number (shown on your notice) to revenues@oadby-wigston.gov.uk or write to us at F.A.O. Revenues Team, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicestershire, LE2 5JJ. Alternatively, please call Customer Services on **0116 288 8961**.

Pay your council tax or business rates by Direct Debit

It's simple, convenient and secure.

You only need to set up a direct debit for council tax or business rates once. There is no need to cancel it at the end of the financial year.

Your payments will be automatically collected from your bank account on the dates shown on your demand notice.

We offer the following direct debit dates 1st, 15th or 25th of the month.

After your final 2023/24 instalment has been collected, no further payments will be taken until the 2024/25 financial year starts and the first instalment becomes due in April 2024.

Set up a Direct Debit by going to www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/directdebit

Alternatively, simply call us on **0116 288 8961** option 3. Please have your bank account details and reference number to hand to allow us to set this up over the telephone.

Are you struggling financially? We are here to help

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are having difficulty paying your council tax or business rates instalments.

We can help you by:

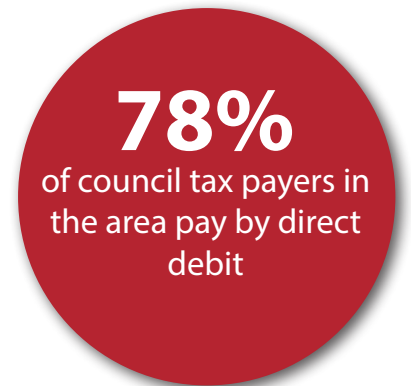
- Referring you to our Financial Inclusion Officer
- Agreeing an alternative payment arrangement with you
- Giving you advice about discounts, exemptions and reliefs.

Don't wait until you have lost your right to pay by instalments. We will be able to help if you contact us at an early stage, before any recovery action is taken.

You can call us on 0116 288 8961 option 3, option 3, or email recovery@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Protected by the direct debit guarantee



Discounts and exemptions

Discounts

Council tax assumes there are at least two adults living in the home. If you live on your own, you are entitled to 25% discount.

If an adult within the household falls into one of the following categories then a discount may apply:

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices, youth training trainees and foreign language assistants
- 18/19 year olds who are at or have just left school or college and for whom child benefit is payable
- Patients permanently resident in hospital or being looked after permanently in care homes
- Severely mentally impaired people
- People in hostels or night shelters
- People caring for a person with a disability who is not a partner or child under 18 years old
- Members of religious communities such as monks or nuns
- People in detention (except for non-payment of council tax or a fine)
- Members of visiting forces, certain international and defence organisations.
- Most care leavers have a 100% exemption from Council Tax until the age of 25.
- Temporary absences owing to holiday or work will not normally result in discount entitlement.

Local discounts

The council tax discount for empty properties was discontinued on 1 April 2019

The council tax discount for empty properties undergoing renovation was discontinued on 1 April 2019

Long term empty properties – Unoccupied and unfurnished

If a property has been empty and unfurnished for more than 12 months a 100% premium will be added to the charge, which will mean that you will pay 200% in council tax. This period is counted from the point the property becomes empty and unfurnished, and is not affected by a change of owner. If a property has been empty and unfurnished for a period exceeding 5 years, the additional premium rates in the table apply:

Empty period	Additional premium rate charged	Total charge as a percentage including standard bill
1-5 years	100%	200%
5-10 years	200%	300%
+ 10 years	300%	400%

Disabled people

A property band reduction in the charge may be applicable if you, or someone who lives with you, is disabled and uses a wheelchair within the property or requires a room to meet their needs, or requires an extra bathroom / kitchen. Please contact the Council Tax Team if you wish to apply.

Exemptions

Some properties may be exempt from council tax and the following is a broad description.

Class	Unoccupied properties	Entitlement
B	Owned by a charity	Up to 6 months
D	Left empty by someone who has gone to prison	No charge
E	Previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care	No charge
F	Waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted	Up to 6 months after probate is granted
G	Empty because occupation is forbidden by law	No charge
H	Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion	No charge
I	Left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness	No charge
J	Left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person	No charge
K	Owned by a student and last occupied by a student	No charge
L	Subject to a Repossession Order	No charge
Q	The responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee	No charge
R	A site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring	No charge
T	Granny annexes or similar type of property	No charge

Class	Unoccupied properties
M/N	All the residents are students
O	Used for UK armed forces accommodation
P	At least one liable person is a member of a visiting force
S	All residents are less than 18 years old
U	All residents are severely mentally impaired
V	At least one liable person is a foreign diplomat
W	It is annexed to a family home and occupied by that family's elderly or disabled relatives

If you think you may be entitled to a discount or may be exempt, please contact the Council Tax Team by emailing revenues@oadby-wigston.gov.uk or calling on **0116 288 8961** option 3. If you receive a discount / exemption then you must tell the Council Tax Team within 21 days of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement. Failure to do so may lead to a penalty charge. If the property remains unoccupied and unfurnished after any exemption expires then it will attract a 100% council tax charge.

Contact us



Visit us at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Call us on 0116 288 8961



Tweet us @Oadby_Wigston



Email us revenues@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Write to us at Council Offices,
Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicestershire, LE2 5JJ