

NORTH YORKSHIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

COUNCIL TAX CONSULTATION 2012/2013

At its meeting on 8th February 2012, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (The Authority) will be considering a detailed report setting out a proposed budget for 2012/2013.

The Authority will be considering a range of options from a freeze on Council Tax to an increase of 4.0%. The table below shows how those options would affect your household.

COUNCIL TAX INCREASE BY VALUATION BAND				
Valuation Band	Current Council Tax £s per year	Council Tax Increase £s Per Year		
		2%	3%	4.0%
A To £40,000	41.40	0.83	1.24	1.66
B £40,001 to £52,000	48.30	0.97	1.45	1.93
C £52,001 to £68,000	55.20	1.10	1.66	2.22
D £68,001 to £88,000	62.10	1.24	1.86	2.48
E £88,001 to £120,000	75.90	1.52	2.28	3.04
F £120,001 to £160,000	89.70	1.79	2.69	3.56
G £160,001 to £320,000	103.50	2.07	3.11	4.14
H Over £320,000	124.20	2.48	3.73	4.97

The Authority is considering these options in light of only a slight increase in Central Government Grant (0.7%) and the Government's view that Council Tax increases in 2012/2013 in Fire Authorities greater than 4% would be excessive. A freeze is the Government's preferred option and it is offering extra grant equivalent to a 3% increase in Council Tax to those Authorities which freeze Council Tax in 2012/2013. If the Authority were to choose that option, because of the continuing reductions in other Grants in future years, the increase in Council Tax for the year after next (2013/2014) would need to be in the order of 10% or savings of over £1.7m identified. A combination of the two would be the likely outcome if the freeze option were to be chosen for 2012/2013.

A Council Tax increase of over 2% and up to 4.0% would meet the Authority's own increase in net expenditure and add monies to Financial Reserves to meet in part the significant reductions in Grant in the two years after 2012/2013. However, the Authority is aware that it is operating in a difficult financial climate for the Country generally and the aim of this consultation is to ask members of the public what level of council tax increase in 2012/2013, if any, they would be prepared to support. **The Authority must stress that it is not proposing any reductions in front line emergency services in 2012/2013 whatever council tax level is agreed.**

A full copy of the Budget report is available on our website at:

<http://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/financial-information/accounts>

Because the Authority next meets on 8th February 2012, it would therefore like your views **by no later than Friday 27th January 2012**, by completing the questionnaire below to show which level of increase, if any, you would support. Please click on "Submit" when you have finished completing the questionnaire - this will take you back to the Authority's Homepage.

[Council Tax 2012/2013 Consultation Questionnaire](#)