

Council freezes council tax, garden waste licences and car parking charges yet again!



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Members of Cotswold District Council have today agreed a freeze on the authority's share of local residents' council tax payments for 2018/19, following a freeze for 2017/18 and 2016/17, a 5% cut in 2015/16, a 3% cut in 2014/15 and a 5% reduction in 2013/14. This means that the average band D charge for District services will remain at £126.40.

Taking into account the freeze for 2018/19, the actual amount being charged for a Band D council tax payer – without cutting frontline services – has been reduced by £17.98 per year (12%) over a period stretching back to 2010/11. Even more significantly, the £126.40 charge is on a par with what residents were paying back in 2005 and, taking the average annual inflation rate into account, represents a real terms reduction of about 45%, saving tax payers about £50 per year.

This is the 21st lowest District Council charge in the country and represents a rise from 63rd in the ratings just a few years ago.

The Council also agreed the following:

- Continuation of the freeze on parking charges at all CDC-owned car parks.
- Continuation of the freeze on the cost of garden waste licences.
- Extension of the 'free after 3 pm' parking scheme until the end of March 2019 at selected car parks across the District, including in Bourton-on-the-Water, Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Tetbury.
- An initial allocation of up to £300,000 to extend the network of Electronic Vehicle Charging Points in the Cotswolds.
- Each Ward Member will receive an allocation of £1,000 to help fund local youth activities.
- No cuts to frontline services.

CDC Deputy Leader Cllr Nick Parsons commented:

“Nearly all the local authorities in the UK are increasing their share of the council tax bill, but I am delighted to say that we can maintain our price freeze in the Cotswolds. I am sure that residents will be very pleased to hear this news.

“Those working on behalf of the Council are always mindful of the need to keep our costs down, and I am extremely grateful for the efforts of the CDC staff as they continue to innovate and find savings without any detriment to our services. Working with partner councils, we are on target to share in collective savings of £5.6 million per year by 2020 – these savings are vital to ensure that we can continue to provide excellent value for money.”

ENDS

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