

LISBURN CITY COUNCIL STRIKES LOWEST DISTRICT RATES INCREASE FOR 10 YEARS

The district rate for the incoming year is the lowest percentage increase by Lisburn City Council in the past 10 years and the lowest increase by any Council for this period.

This year Lisburn City Council had the lowest increase of any local authority. It also has the lowest rates for any City Council area in Northern Ireland and is now ranked at number 20 in the District Rates League Table.

Over the past 10 years the Council has steadily and progressively reduced its position in the Rates League Table at a time when the Council embarked upon its biggest capital development programme in its history.

SO WHAT DO YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY?

The Council must look at income and expenditure likely to be incurred in the forthcoming year and its district rate reflects this.

As well as services like waste collection, (which is currently being revamped, see our article on page 15) and Registration Services (births, deaths and marriages;) other

mainstream services include the popular Lagan Valley LeisurePlex and Activity Centres, Wallace Park regeneration, playground provision and community sports development.

Economic Development activities assist in business development and new business start-ups. Environmental Health manages a diverse range of services such as dog fouling, advising businesses on health and safety and monitoring noise pollution.

Cultural facilities like the Island Arts Centre offer a host of activities right across the community.

The Council also views City positioning as vital in order to help keep Lisburn a progressive City, continuing to attract new business development like the John Lewis all-Ireland store proposed for Sprucefield; of which a decision by the Planning Service is eagerly awaited by the Council.

Capital development projects in the City include the Castle Gardens Restoration, which the Council has committed to. Much of the cost involved in this project has been off-set by grant aid or funding, and Lisburn City Council's long-term view is for a better Lisburn for all.

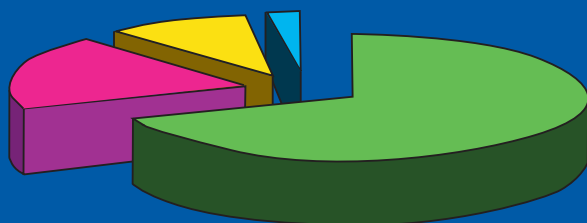
Monies too are committed for Equality matters and support services.

Work in the Council is people-driven so employee costs account for a significant part of Council expenditure.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT AS WELL AS THE DISTRICT RATE SET BY THE COUNCIL, YOUR RATES BILL IS ALSO MADE UP FROM THE REGIONAL RATE SET BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

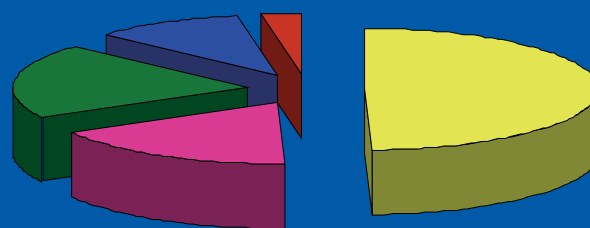
WHERE THE MONEY WILL COME FROM

IN SUMMARY THE TOTAL GROSS BUDGET 2005/06 IS £26,377,300.



Ratepayers	£19,252,318
Income	£ 4,998,400
General Grant	£ 1,751,582
Internal Funds	£ 375,000

DEPARTMENTAL NET EXPENDITURE



Environmental Services	£10,546,500
Leisure services	£ 3,790,000
Corporate Services	£ 4,265,800
Loan Charges	£ 2,195,500
Chief Executive's Office	£ 581,100