

# Hull experienced 'a large surge in energy costs' in past year

## HULL PAID ONE OF THE HIGHEST COUNCIL ELECTRICITY AND GAS RATES IN THE COUNTRY

By **IVAN MORRIS POXTON**

Local Democracy Reporter  
ivan.morrispoxton@reachplc.com

HULL City Council is in the top 30 council and other public sector bodies for paying the highest gas and electricity rates for their energy.

An investigation by not-for-profit energy consultancy, Box Power CIC using freedom of information laws and accounts analysis has found notable variation in the prices local authorities pay for their energy. Hull ranked 26th overall out of 404 council and other public sector bodies for the highest price rates for gas and electricity, between April 2023 and March 2024.

A council spokesperson said Hull has been very successful in reducing its energy consumption. Despite this, it experienced "a large surge in energy costs" in the last year against a backdrop of big increases in energy costs and market volatility, the spokesperson said. It was realising savings now, though.

Hull paid 42.2p per kilowatt hour (kwh) on electricity, working out to a cost of £10.6m for the 2023/24 year. For gas, it paid 14p per kwh, causing £4.9m

to be spent by the council on its gas supplies. East Riding Council ranked 232nd. It had a 32.4p per kwh electricity rate, paying £7.4m. For gas, it paid 9.3p per kwh working out to £2.7m.

North East Lincolnshire Council had almost the lowest energy rates in the country last year, while North Lincolnshire Council ranked slightly above Hull. You can see below the energy rates paid by councils across the country.

A Hull City Council spokesperson said: "Hull City Council has been very successful in reducing its energy consumption through the implementation of a number of energy efficiency initiatives, including the installation of LED streetlights and LED lighting in buildings, and is committed to becoming carbon neutral as a city.

"Despite these efforts, against the backdrop of the huge increases in energy costs and market volatility, reflecting the impacts of global political instability, like every other council, business and private user in the country, Hull City Council experienced a large surge in energy costs during the time period the data covered.

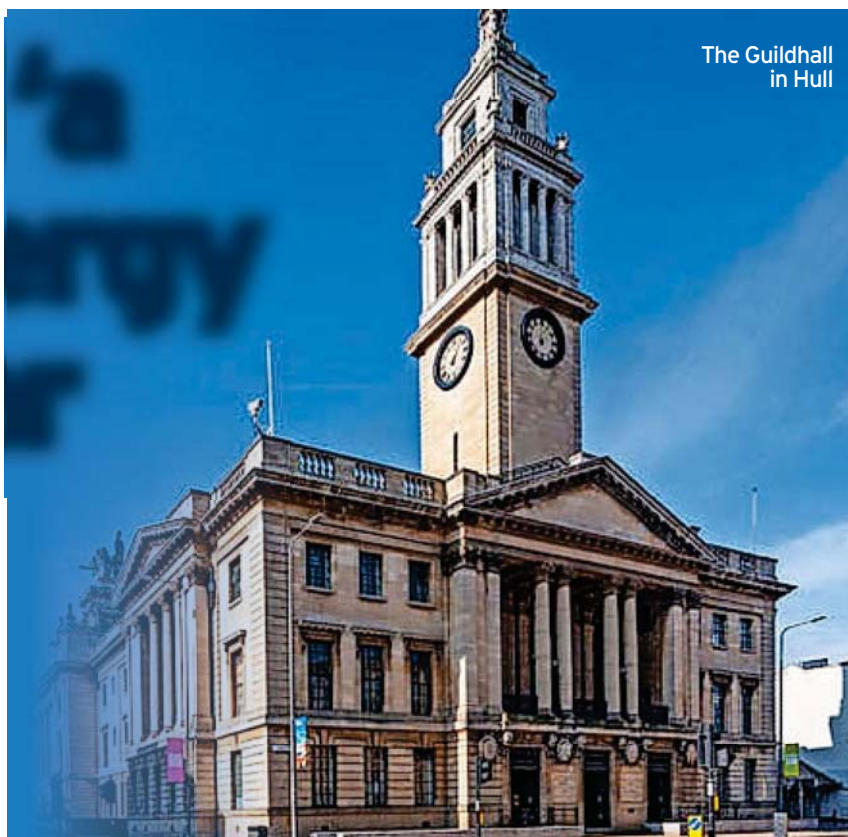
"From April 1, 2024, significant cost savings are now being realised, in line with wholesale marked price reductions. Hull City Council's energy spend for both gas and electricity is in line with the regional average.

"Together with other councils, we purchase energy through bulk purchase arrangements through framework agreements, in order to take advantage of collective buying power and to secure the best rates. However, it needs to be recognised that there will still be differences in the rates paid by different organisations because of the continuing volatility in energy markets, meaning prices fluctuate significantly and vary on a daily basis, so unit costs are dependent on exactly when the energy is procured."

"Box Power CIC are putting these results in the public domain because we want to bring more transparency and value into the sector when it comes to energy buying," said Corin Dalby, Box Power's CEO.

"When you consider that some local authorities also buy energy for the schools, leisure centres and more in their area who trust them to deliver the best value for money, the hugely different amounts paid raise some important and difficult questions."





The Guildhall  
in Hull

